

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Friday 17 June 2022 | 16 Zil Qaddah | 1443 Hijri | Srinagar | Vol:25 | Issue: 139 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹ 3

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Quote!

No one can crave what truly harms him

-Franz Kafka

NEWS DIGEST

Anti-Tank Mine Defused Near IB In Samba

Jammu: An anti-tank mine was detected during some construction work near the International Border in Ramgarh sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said on Thursday. The mine, which was found buried by the Border Security Force (BSF), was later safely defused by experts of the bomb disposal squad, the officials said. They said BSF was carrying out some construction work in Tanggur **More on P6**

Chandra Takes Oath As JKPSA Chairman

Srinagar: At a ceremony held today at Raj Bhawan, Satish Chandra was sworn in as the Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission. He took and subscribed to the oath of office before Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, an official spokesperson said. Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor conducted the proceedings of the Oath Ceremony. Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner, **More on P6**

J&K Logs 22 New Corona Cases

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 22 new Covid-19 even as there was no death due to the pathogen, officials said. They said that 17 cases were reported from Jammu, three from Kupwara and one each from Srinagar and Udhampur districts respectively, taking the overall tally to 454420—166594 in Jammu division and 287826 in Kashmir. There was also no death due to the pathogen reported in the last 24 hours, they said. So far 4752 persons have succumbed to the virus—2328 in Jammu and 2424 in Kashmir. Besides, they said, nine **More on P6**

8 CRPF Men, Civilian Injured In Road Accident

Srinagar: At least eight paramilitary CRPF personnel and a civilian were injured when two vehicles turned turtle after collision at Nehama area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Thursday, officials said. News agency KNO quoting an official reported that CRPF vehicle bearing registration (HR55AE-2071) collided with an auto bearing registration number (JK18C-8341), resulting in injuries to eight CRPF personnel and an auto driver. He identified the injured CRPF personnel as Surinder Singh, K Satya, K Maha, **More on P6**

4 Militants Killed In South Kashmir Gunfights

School Teacher Rajni Bala's Killer Among Those Dead: Police



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Four Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) militants, including the killer of a woman school teacher from Samba district, were shot dead by government forces in two separate encounters in the twin districts of Kulgam and Anantnag in south Kashmir, police said Thursday.

Two Hizb militants, one of them identified as Zubair Sofi

were killed in an encounter with a joint team of police and army that has started in Mishpora village of Kulgam on Tuesday, a police spokesperson said. Sofi, he said, was involved in killing of school teacher Rajni Bala on May 31, last month.

The spokesperson said that the identification of second slain militants was being ascertained, even as the operation is still in progress. Giving details **More on P6**

IED Defused In Pulwama, Two Held: Police

The government forces on Thursday averted a major tragedy with timely detection of an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by militants in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Two associates of militants have been arrested in connection with the recovery of the IED, a senior police official said. Police and other security forces averted a major tragedy by recovering an IED, weighing around 15 kilograms, planted by terrorists in village Armullah in Litter area of Pulwama," he said. The official said a case has been registered in this regard.

JAMA'AT FUNDING CASE

NIA Searches 6 Locations In Kashmir

Agencies

Srinagar: National Investigation Agency (NIA) with assistance of Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF raided multiple locations on Thursday in Kashmir valley in connection with a case registered against banned politico-religious organisation Jamaat e Islami, Kashmir.

Official sources said that multiple locations were raided by the probing agency NIA backed by Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF in connection with a case registered against Jamaat.

They said the case was registered by the probing agency NIA in pursuance to an order from Ministry of Home Affairs

relating to "separatist and secessionist activities of Jel, an unlawful association under the UA (P) Act, even after its proscription on 28.02.2019."

NIA in its statement had said "The members of the organisation have been collecting funds domestically and abroad through donations particularly in the form of Zakat, Mowda and Bait-ul-Mal purportedly to further charity and other welfare activities but these funds are instead being used for violent and secessionist activities," NIA claimed, adding, "The funds raised by Jel are also being channelised to militants such as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), **More on P6**

Significant Decline In Militant Activities In J&K, Says Rajnath Singh

'Pakistan Trying To Bleed India With Thousand Cuts'

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said Pakistan is continuously trying to disturb peace in Jammu and Kashmir through its approach of bleed India with a thousand cuts, but warned that a befitting reply will be given if attempt is made to hurt the unity and integrity of the nation.

Our neighbour has always resorted to anti-India activities. The state also witnessed militant activities in the past. Pakistan continuously tries to disturb peace in the country through its approach of bleed India with a thousand cuts, Singh said while addressing security forces in Baramulla district.

The defence minister arrived here on a two-day visit



to review the security situation in the Union territory.

Singh, however, assured the nation that if an attempt is ever made to hurt the unity and integrity of the country, the armed forces will give a befitting reply.

Lauding the security forces, he said there has been a significant decline in the number of militant activities in J&K recently due to the relentless efforts of the personnel of armed forces, BSF, CRPF and J&K Police. **More on P6**

Pays Tributes To 'Heroes Of Galwan'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday paid tributes to the Army personnel killed in the Galwan Valley clashes two years back that marked the most serious military conflict between India and China in decades. "Remembering the heroes of Galwan who fought valiantly for the honour of the country and laid down their lives on June 15-16, 2020. Their courage, bravery and supreme sacrifice will never be forgotten. I pay homage to those **More on P6**

Curfew Relaxed For 3 Hours In Bhandarwah

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Curfew was relaxed for three hours on Thursday morning in Bhandarwah town of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district as situation remained relatively peaceful with no untoward incident, officials said.

Shops and business establishments reopened around 9 am, immediately after authorities announced the relaxation in the curfew that was imposed on June 9 following communal tension triggered by the derogatory remarks on Prophet Mohammad (Pbuh) by BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, who was later suspended, and social media posts by some local right wing activists in her support.

The curfew had earlier been relaxed for two hours from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm on Wednesday, for the first time in a week.

Deputy Commissioner, Doda, Vikas **More on P6**

Fuel 'Crisis' Triggers Chaos In Srinagar

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A day after officials' rubbished reports of petrol and diesel shortage in the Valley, chaotic scenes were witnessed in Srinagar and elsewhere on Thursday as hundreds of people lined up their vehicles at the refilling stations to fill up their tanks.

Long queues of vehicles were seen at almost all fuel stations, waiting for their turn to be refilled, leading to traffic jams in some parts of the city and elsewhere in the valley as well, the reports said.

Police and traffic officials were seen regulating the movement of vehicles at some fuel stations where some motorists turned unruly while waiting for their turn.

Amir Rasheed, a motorist, had come to Safa Filling Station at Baghe Ali Mardan Khan to get petrol for his two wheeler. However, much to his disappointment, he found the filling station shut.

"I came all the way from Hawal to get petrol, I was not expecting this filling station to be shut" he said.

He questioned the government's



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

UNNECESSARY RUMOR MONGERING LED TO THE CRISIS but in Kashmir it is a norm. If a vehicle had a fuel capacity of 5 litres, he purchased 10 which resulted in the crisis" --Director Food and Supplies Department, Abdul Salam

claims that there was no fuel crisis in the Kashmir Valley.

"This is a full blown crisis, if not then why are the petrol pumps shut?" he questioned.

The rush for refilling the cars and vehicles began after rumours started circulating on social media that the country is

facing shortage of fuel.

A senior marketing official at the Indian Oil Corporation Limited took to Twitter to allay the fears of the people but to no avail.

"Dear esteemed customers, we reiterate that there is sufficient product availability and supplies to retail **More on P6**

EDUCATION DEPT RIDER ON FOREIGN TRIPS

File Applications 3 Months In Advance, Officials Told

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department has asked its officials to submit applications and documents to their controlling officers three months prior to a visit abroad on private affairs.

According to reports, the department in a circular issued earlier has said, "All the officers or the officials of School Education Department who intends to visit abroad on private affairs shall submit their application along-with requisite documents to their controlling officers well before three months in advance."

"Director School Education of Jammu and Kashmir regions and all Chief Education Officers shall adhere to the instructions issued by the Finance Department, General Administration Department on the subject matter

and recommend the permission cases to visit abroad on private affairs to the Administrative Department well before two months in advance along-with all requisite documents including vigilance clearance of the officials," it reads.

The department said that in 2019, an advisory has been issued by the finance department that the applications for grant of station leave permission to visit outside the Country on Private Affairs shall be decided by the concerned administrative department.

It also said that in 2021, the General Administration Department in a circular has also issued necessary instructions for granting permission to visit outside the country in favour of government employees.

"In spite of these instructions, it has been **More on P6**

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When Will I Be Able To Upload My Brain To A Computer?

The Conversation

We often imagine that human consciousness is as simple as input and output of electrical signals within a network of processing units therefore comparable to a computer. Reality, however, is much more complicated. For starters, we don't actually know how much information the human brain can hold.

Two years ago, a team at the Allen Institute for Brain Science in Seattle, US, mapped the 3D structure of all the neurons (brain cells) comprised in one cubic millimetre of the brain of a mouse a milestone considered extraordinary.

Within this minuscule cube of brain tissue, the size of a grain of sand, the researchers counted more than 100,000 neurons and more than a billion connections between them. They managed to record the corresponding information on computers, including the shape and configuration of each neuron and connection, which required two petabytes, or two million gigabytes of storage. And to do this, their automated microscopes had to collect 100 million images of 25,000 slices of the minuscule sample continuously over several months.

Now if this is what it takes to store the full physical information of neurons and their connections in one cubic millimetre of mouse brain, you can perhaps imagine that the collection of this information from the human brain is not going to be a walk in the park.

Data extraction and storage, however, is not the only challenge. For a computer to resemble the brain's mode of operation, it would need to access any and all the stored information in a very short amount of time: the information would need to be stored in its random access memory (RAM), rather than on traditional hard disks. But if we tried to store the amount of data the researchers gathered in a computer's RAM, it would occupy 12.5 times the capacity of the largest single-memory computer (a computer that is built around memory, rather than processing) ever built.

The human brain contains about 100 billion neurons (as many stars as could be counted in the Milky way) one million times those

contained in our cubic millimetre of mouse brain. And the estimated number of connections is a staggering ten to the power of 15. That is ten followed by 15 zeroes a number comparable to the individual grains contained in a two meter thick layer of sand on a 1km-long beach.

A question of space

If we don't even know how much information storage a human brain can hold, you can imagine how hard it would be to transfer it into a computer. You'd have to first translate the information into a code that the computer can read and use once it is stored. Any error in doing so would probably prove fatal. A simple rule of information storage is that you need to make sure you have enough space to store all the information you need to transfer before you start. If not, you would have to know exactly the order of importance of the information you are storing and how it is organised, which is far from being the case for brain data.

If you don't know how much information you need to store when you start, you may run out of space before the transfer is complete, which could mean that the information string may be corrupt or impossible for a computer to use. Also, all data would have to be stored in at least two (if not three) copies, to prevent the disastrous consequences of potential data loss.

This is only one problem. If you were paying attention when I described the extraordinary achievement of researchers who managed to fully store the 3D structure of the network of neurons in a tiny bit of mouse brain, you will know that this was done from 25,000 (extremely thin) slices of tissue.

The same technique would have to be applied to your brain, because only very coarse information can be retrieved from brain scans. Information in the brain is stored in every detail of its physical structure of the connections between neurons: their size and shape, as well as the number and location of connections between them. But would you consent to your brain being sliced in that way?

Even if would agree that we slice your brain into extremely thin slices, it is highly unlikely

that the full volume of your brain could ever be cut with enough precision and be correctly reassembled. The brain of a man has a volume of about 1.26 million cubic millimetres.

If I haven't already dissuaded you from trying the procedure, consider what happens when taking time into account.

A question of time

After we die, our brains quickly undergo major changes that are both chemical and structural. When neurons die they soon lose their ability to communicate, and their structural and functional properties are quickly modified meaning that they no longer display the properties that they exhibit when we are alive. But even more problematic is the fact that our brain ages.

From the age of 20, we lose 85,000 neurons a day. But don't worry (too much), we mostly lose neurons that have not found their use, they have not been solicited to get involved in any information processing. This triggers a programme to self-destruction (called apoptosis). In other words, several tens of thousands of our neurons kill themselves every day. Other neurons die because of exhaustion or infection.

This isn't too much of an issue, though, because we have almost 100 billion neurons at the age of 20, and with such an attrition rate, we have merely lost 2-3% of our neurons by the age of 80. And provided we don't contract a neurodegenerative disease, our brains can still represent our lifelong thinking style at that age. But what would be the right age to stop, scan and store?

Would you rather store an 80-year-old mind or a 20-year-old one? Attempting the storage of your mind too early would miss a lot of memories and experiences that would have defined you later. But then, attempting the transfer to a computer too late would run the risk of storing a mind with dementia, one that doesn't quite work as well. So, given that we don't know how much storage is required, that we cannot hope to find enough time and resources to entirely map the 3D structure of a whole human brain, that we would need to cut you into zillions of minuscule cubes and slices, and

that it is essentially impossible to decide when to undertake the transfer, I hope that you are now convinced that it is probably not going to be possible for a good while, if ever. And if it were, you probably would not want to venture in that direction. But in case you're still tempted, I'll continue.

A question of how

Perhaps the biggest problem we have is that even if we could realise the impossible and jump the many hurdles discussed, we still know very little about underlying mechanisms. Imagine that we have managed to reconstruct the complete structure of the hundred billion neurons in Richard Dixon's brain along with every one of the connections between them, and have been able to store and transfer this astronomical quantity of data into a computer in three copies. Even if we could access this information on demand and instantaneously, we would still face a great unknown: how does it work?

After the what question (what information is there?), and the when question (when would be the right time to transfer?), the toughest is the how question. Let's not be too radical. We do know some things. We know that neurons communicate with one another based on local electrical changes, which travel down their main extensions (dendrites and axons). These can transfer from one neuron to another directly or via exchange surfaces called synapses.

At the synapse, electrical signals are converted to chemical signals, which can activate or deactivate the next neuron in line, depending on the kind of molecule (called neuromediators) involved. We understand a great deal of the principles governing such transfers of information, but we can't decipher it from looking at the structure of neurons and their connections.

To know which types of connection apply between two neurons, we need to apply molecular techniques and genetic tests. This means again fixating and cutting the tissue in thin slices. It also often involves dying techniques, and the cutting needs to be compatible with those. But this is not necessarily compatible with the cutting needed to reconstruct the 3D structure.

آہ! عبدالرحمن شیخ نہ رہے

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ عبدالرحمان شیخ ولد مرحوم غلام احمد

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the front Regd. No plate (HSRP) of my Vehicle (SWIFT DZIRE) Bearing Regd No: JK18-4056. While travelling from Seer Hamdan to Mattan. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO KULGAM within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

ASHRAF AHMAD WANI S/O:- ALI MOHD WANI
R/O:- KELAM MIRBAZAR

ma

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

Attention Please

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost his/her qualification certificate/s as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 11061

Class: 10th

Year & Session; 1980 (Oct-Nov)

Registration No: 1364-HSE-M-79

Name : Gh Ahmad Hakim

Father's Name : Gh Mohd Hakim

Mother's Name : ----

Date of Birth:- 01-04-1963

Residence:- Sopore



According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification Certificate, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification Certificate bearing S. No: 2698" be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/B/KD/2022

Dated 16-06-2022

Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.

msk

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian Notice

Whereas joint applicant has been received from Manzoor AHMAD BHAT S/O. D/o. W/o.

GHULAM MOHAMMAD BHAT r/o. TULRAN

Shopian (Transferee) AB Rashid Mir

S/O.W/O. AB GANI MIR R/o. Khanmoh

Sgr. (Transferee) for TRUCK Owning ve-

hicle No JK22-9494

Now therefore it is notified for general information that objections if any to the proposed transfer as well as cancellation of.....

nil of the said vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian within a period of 7 (Seven) days .from .the publication of this notice in the daily news paper

No.ARTO/Spn./2022/256

Dated.16/06/22

Assistant Regional
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— (Transferee) Mehraj ud Din Dar S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar R/O

BAGHI SUNDER BLA CHATTBAL ..

(Transferee) for TRUCK- Owning vehicle No JK22-9210

Now therefore it is notified for general information that objections if any to the proposed transfer as well as cancellation of nill of the said vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian within a period of 7 (Seven) days from the publication of this notice in the daily news paper

No/ ARTO/Spn/2022/ 258

Dated 16-06-22

Assistant Regional Transport Officer,
Shopian

fko

از نیابت کوثرنگ با اجلاس انجمن سیرت دیوال

درخواست ختانب - قیصر احمد روجی جان، نادیہ جان عابد شرف بٹ اولاد محمد شرف بٹ

ساکنان پانچگام کوثرنگ بخش حصول: RBA رتقیہ

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5 عابد شرف بٹ ولد محمد شرف بٹ 20 سال تربطیم

6 قیصر احمد بٹ ولد محمد شرف بٹ 23 سال تربطیم

7 سنا اللہ بٹ ولد عبد الغنی بٹ 65 سال مزدوری

8 رافیہ جان زوجہ قیصر احمد بٹ 21 سال کھریلو کام

9 حذیفہ بٹ قیصر احمد شرف بٹ 18 ماہ شیرخوار

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Admin Undertakes Anti-Encroachment Drive In Various City Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: District Administration Srinagar on Thursday undertook a massive anti-encroachment drive across the district and retrieved over 20 Kanals of State, Kahcharai land at prime locations worth several crores.

The anti-encroachment teams of Revenue and Police Officers, Officials headed by respective Tehsildars of Srinagar District conducted an anti-encroachment drive in Tehsil Eidgah, Pantha Chowk, South Srinagar, Shalteng, Khanyar and North Tehsil of the district.

Giving details about the encroached land retrieved, an official from the administration said that 2 kanals of land was retrieved in Sonwar area in Tehsil South of the district, 3 Kanals at Khonmoh area in Pantha chowk Tehsil and 5 kanals in Zoonimar area of Eidgah Tehsil.

Similarly, in Tehsil North of the District over 7 kanals of land were retrieved in Saidpora area under Harwan Nayabat and about 2 kanals of land have been retrieved at Zainakote and Mujgund areas under Shalteng Tehsil of the district.

JLNM Hospital Receives Quality Certification Under Laqshya Program

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has accorded National Certification under Laqshya program to JLNM Hospital, Srinagar in recognition of the high standards of quality and ensuring Respectful Maternity Care in the Labour Room and Maternity OTs.

The Hospital was assessed by a team of highly qualified and empanelled assessors from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in the month of May, 2022 and both the hospitals have been rated as Quality Certified under LaQshya program of National Health Mission. The National Certification will be valid for a period of three years subject to annual verification of the scores by the State Quality Assurance Committee.

After this certification, the hospital shall receive an additional annual grant of Rs six lakh for next three years under National Health Mission, following which there will be re-inspection.



Fuel Stations witnessed massive queues as people scrambled to fill up the tanks in wake of rumors about the shortage of fuel. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

Red Algae Defaces Beauty Of Dal Lake

Agencies

Srinagar: A vast stretch of Dal Lake has turned brick red due to the presence of rampant red algae. The blooming of red algae speaks volumes about the ineffective de-weeding mechanism and strategy of the Lakes and Conservation Management Authority (LCMA).

The blooming of red algae has defaced the beauty of this lake. LCMA blames people for the presence of red algae as it says that they (Dal dwellers)

use extensive fertilizers and pesticides that pollute the lake, however, locals say LCMA has never shown interest in cleaning Dal Lake.

“All the events and programs organized in the name of Dal Lake are only photo ops and nothing else. De-weeding processes either manually or through machines have become a formality for the LCMA. It never makes contractors and laborers accountable.”

Red algae bloom is an indicator of heavy pollution in

the water body. A Dal dweller Muhammad Sultan said that LCMA instead of taking measures to keep the lake crystal clean always pins blame on the people.

Experts believe that rapid urbanization, agricultural activities and the presence of municipal sewage has badly hit Dal Lake. “The more nutrition you will provide to the red algae in the form of pesticides and fertilizers, the more it will bloom. The day is not far when the whole Dal will

turn brick red.”

LCMA is the custodian of this picturesque Dal Lake and if people are accused of polluting this lake then one can say safely that Lakes and Conservation Management Authority too has failed in its phony endeavor.

Incumbent Vice-Chairman Bashir Ahmed Bhat who is an IRS officer didn't respond to the phone calls, however, a middle-rung official said that red algae will disappear as they will start a de-weeding process in the affected stretch. (KNT)

KU VC Urges Officials To Gear Up For 2024 NAAC Re-Accreditation

Agencies

Srinagar: Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to get a first-hand appraisal of the varsity's progression with regard to its re-accreditation by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) which is due in 2024.

The Vice-Chancellor asserted that all stakeholders in the university system will have to immediately gear up and devise ways and means to address the grey areas and improve on key indicators so that the varsity fares better in the NAAC assessment.

Calling for sustained focus of departmental heads on all important indicators like quality

initiatives, quality sustenance and quality enhancement for better specific and programme outcomes in accordance with the NAAC parameters, Prof Nilofer said the University shall explore potential areas where more patents can be filed and also encourage more external tie-ups in key areas.

The Vice-Chancellor said the University shall work to-

wards creating more linkages with the Industry and corporate houses for student exchange, placements, curriculum design, faculty exchange and joint research programmes, even as she remarked that efforts would be made to hold workshops on outcome-based education to develop and adopt the Learning Outcome Curriculum Framework.

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HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
17- Zil- Qaddah
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 34
ZUHR	12:31
ASR	5:31
Magrib	7:46
ISHA	9: 28

This Day In History

- 656 Ali ibn Abu Talib (RA) elected the 4th Caliph of the Rashidun Caliphate
- 1631 - Mumtaz Mahal dies during childbirth. Her husband, Mughal emperor Shah Jahan I, then spends more than 20 years building her tomb, the Taj Mahal
- 1861 - Battle of Boonville, MI-Brigadier General Lyon defeats Confederate forces
- 1863 - Battle at Middleburg, Virginia
- 1863 - Battle of Aldie, Confederates fail to drive back Union in Virginia
- 1877 - Indian Wars: Battle of White Bird Canyon - the Nez Perce defeat the US Cavalry at White Bird Canyon in the Idaho Territory
- 1885 - Statue of Liberty arrives in NYC aboard French ship 'Isere'
- 1896 - Polar explorers Fridtjof Nansen and Frederick Jackson meet by chance in Franz Josef Land, the Arctic
- 1916 - US troops under General Pershing march into Mexico
- 1938 - Japan declares war on China.
- 1940 - USSR occupies Estonia
- 1940 - World War II: sinking of the RMS Lancastria by the Luftwaffe near Saint-Nazaire, France
- 1947 - 1st round-the-world civil air service leaves NYC
- 1950 - Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia & Syria sign security pact
- 1953 - Riots in East Germany for reunification
- 1970 - Edwin Land patents the Polaroid camera
- 1976 - Indonesia annexes Portuguese East-Timor
- 1982 - President Galtieri resigns after leading Argentina to defeat in the Falkland Islands
- 1984 - John Turner succeeds Pierre Trudeau as Prime Minister of Canada
- 1988 - Microsoft releases MS DOS 4.0
- 1988 - Soyuz TM-5 launches
- 1991 - The body of the 12th US President, Zachary Taylor, is exhumed to test how he died; rumors had persisted since his death in 1850 of arsenic poisoning - no evidence of this was found

From KO Archives

Kargil War Could Have Led To Nuke Attack: Book

Washington - During the Kargil war, the Pakistan military had prepared their nuclear-tipped missile to fight back a possible Indian attack, and former US president Bill Clinton had informed about the military's move to the then Pakistani premier Nawaz Sharif. Bruce Riedel, a close aide of Clinton, has been quoted as saying this in a forthcoming book "Pakistan between Mosque and Mili-tary" written by a Pakistani writer Husain Haqqani.

On learning about the military's plans, Sharif was taken aback and said that India was probably doing the same, writes Haqqani, a former Pakistani diplomat, journalist and senior adviser to Pakistan's government. Presently, he is a scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

According to the Dawn, Riedel further says: "Clinton asked Sharif if he knew how advanced the threat of nuclear war really was? Did Sharif know his military was preparing their nuclear-tipped missiles? Was that what Sharif panted. Clinton asked? Did Sharif order Pakistani nuclear missile force to prepare for action? Did he realize how crazy that was? You have put me in the huddle today, set the US to fail and I won't let it happen. Pakistan is messing with nuclear war."

Riedel, a special assistant to Clinton and a senior director of Near East and South Asian affairs at the National Security Council in the Clinton era, says that he was present in the July 4, 1999, meeting between Clinton and Nawaz.

During the meeting, Clinton also raised the issue of Pakistan's reluctance to help the US catch Osama bin Laden and other al Qaeda leaders. "The president was getting angry. He told Sharif that he had asked repeatedly for Pakistani help to bring Osama bin Laden to justice from Afghanistan. Sharif had promised often to do so but had done nothing. Instead the ISI worked with bin Laden and the Taliban to foment terrorism," Riedel adds.

The former US official recalls that Clinton's draft statement on the Kargil crisis also mentioned Pakistan's role in supporting terrorists in Afghanistan and India.

Apparently hinting that Sharif had withdrawn troops under US pressure, Riedel says that at the end of that meeting, Sharif agreed to announce Pakistani withdrawal from Kargil and restoration or the sanctity of the Line of Control in return for Clinton taking a personal interest in resumption of the India-Pakistan dialogue

(Kashmir Observer, 17 June, 2005)

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Subject:- Appointment of Compassionate grounds under SRO-43 of 1994.

NOTIFICATION

It is notified for information of all concerned that the Compassionate appointment case of below named candidates is under process in this Corporation. Therefore any person having any sought of objection in this behalf shall submit the same in the office of Secretary SMC, within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notification in press. After the expiry of the stipulated period no claim what so ever will be entertained.

S. No.	District	Name of the candidate with parentage /residence	Name of the deceased official with designation /place of posting
01.	Budgam	Mehraj Ud Din Sheikh S/O Bashir Ahmad Sheikh R/O Hamdania Colony Sector-4 A Bemina	Bashir Ahmad Sheikh S/O. Mohd Shabn Sheikh Sanitation Worker Ward No. 20 Srinagar Municipal Corporation
02.	Budgam	Yawar Abbas Bhat S/O Gh. Mohammad Bhat R/O Bemina Khumani Chowk Hamam Pora	W/O Gh. Mohammad Bhat Sanitation Worker Ward No. 24 Srinagar Municipal Corporation.
03.	Srinagar	Mohammad Anwar Sheikh S/O Mohammad Maqbool Sheikh R/O. Lacmanpora Batmaloo	S/O. Khazir Sheikh Sanitation Worker Ward No. 30 Srinagar Municipal Corporation

DIPK-NB-1686/22

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Dated:-14/06/2022

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Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Budgam.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
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K O V I E W

Presidential Election

Leaders of several Opposition parties on Wednesday agreed to field a common candidate against the NDA in the forthcoming Presidential elections scheduled to be held on July 18. West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee is at the forefront of the opposition bid to field an alternative presidential candidate. Interestingly, among the candidates suggested by Banerjee for the president are Gopalkrishna Gandhi and Dr Farooq Abdullah. Earlier, the joint opposition had urged the NCP supremo Sharad Pawar to be their presidential candidate. He, however, declined the offer. Not all opposition parties are on board. The parties like TRS, BJD, AAP and SAD skipped the joint meeting, dealing a blow not only to opposition unity but also to the chances of fielding a joint candidate with a credible chance to win. The BJP, meanwhile, is on a firm footing. It seems to have the numbers, so could easily get its candidate elected.

However, the opposition's bid to field an alternative candidate has its own symbolic value. And this is not necessarily about who gets to be the new president of India. The very act of the opposition putting up an alternative candidate sets up an ideological clash with the BJP. This is something the opposition desperately needs, considering the BJP's idea of India has now been completely mainstreamed. Against this, the opposition including the Congress party lack both, an ideology as well as a political narrative.

The deft blend of ideology, welfarism and PM Modi's overarching leadership is expected to help the BJP triumph in 2024. The party could even get a stronger majority than it did in 2019. While the opposition is struggling to form a common front, the BJP is busy strengthening its base by single-mindedly pursuing its ideological agenda. And considering its electoral machinery has become all-encompassing, it is likely to get a political foothold in the important Southern states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Reasonable success in the South after the political dominance in the North will make the BJP invincible for decades to come.

Also compared to the BJP, the opposition has no discourse. The opposition in India has only, what the Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar once said, "a reactive narrative". The BJP, on the other hand, can always bank upon its strong ideological moorings. This has enabled the party to forge a monolithic Hindu vote bank. The strategy has been a factor in the rise of BJP as a national party, up from two seats in 1984 polls to 85 in 1989. Things can still turn around for the opposition if the different parties unite. A coalition at the national level might halt the BJP's march, though there is no such guarantee given the PM Modi's spell on the masses. That said, the opposition's deft handling of the presidential election will certainly give it a chance to become a little more conspicuous in the current political scene, an achievement in itself considering the BJP's complete dominance.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Still short

But 70 years of life expectancy for a 75-year-old nation looks modest when set against the global average of 72.6 years, or when compared with neighbouring Bangladesh at 72.1 years. Even within India, there are huge variations across states as well as between urban and rural areas. Urban women in Himachal Pradesh had the highest life expectancy at birth of 82.3 years, while rural men in Chhattisgarh had the lowest at just 62.8 years. In Assam, the gap in life expectancy between rural and urban areas is almost eight years. Data suggest that high infant mortality rates could be the reason India finds it difficult to raise life expectancy at birth faster. Iniquitous access to medicine, skilled healthcare providers, clean water and nutritious food affect life expectancy in general, but taken together they can dramatically impact IMR. The latter is also directly proportional to India's large pool of malnourished children, who are at higher risk of death from common childhood illnesses like diarrhoea, pneumonia, and malaria. This burden of malnourishment is, in turn, intricately tied to maternal nutrition and the status of women in society. The latest National Family Health Survey shows that 52 per cent of pregnant women between the ages of 15 and 49 in the country are anaemic — they are likely to give birth to underweight children who will then succumb to malnutrition.

But there is more to life expectancy than health challenges. For instance, research also reveals that Dalits, Muslims and adivasis have shorter lifespans on an average than upper-caste Hindus. This is reflective of embedded prejudices that have been an impediment to welfare measures to improve life expectancy. The deteriorating environment poses an additional challenge: air pollution is likely to reduce the life expectancy of about 40 per cent of Indians by more than nine years. Additionally, there is the challenge of climate change that is expected to worsen food security besides enhancing the risk of newer contagions. Innovative and holistic thinking needs to go into designing effective social protection policies for at-risk populations for India to further improve longevity at birth given the nature of future challenges.

Telegraph India

PRASANNA MOHANTY

Two bad news hit this month. First, the World Bank projected a sharp decline in global output growth in the current fiscal — from 5.7% in 2021 to 2.9% in 2022. In January, before the Russia-Ukraine war broke out, it had projected a 4.1% growth. The impact is very sharp and given that there is no sign of an early end to the Russia-Ukraine war, there could be a further dip.

For India, it brought down the growth projection for FY23 (April 2022-March 2023) to 7.5% — from 8.7% projected in January 2022. The RBI too has lowered India's growth projection from 7.5% in April to 7.2% in May and June. The further dip is likely for both internal and external factors.

The war's adverse effects on global commodity markets, supply chains, inflation and financial conditions are now very clear. But the bank report says, there are other risks. It warns of 1970s-type stagflation, which could eventually lead to a sharp tightening of monetary policy (higher interest rates) in advanced economies and possibly culminate in financial stress in some emerging and developing economies.

For India, it marks several distressing signs: Omicron and war slowing down growth in the first half of 2022, headwinds from rising inflation, labour force participation rate (LFPR) below the pre-pandemic levels and shifting of workers to lower-paying and precarious jobs.

The second bad news is the fear that the U.S. economy might go into a recession — adversely impacting other economies.

This fear emerges after it was noticed that the U.S. treasury "yield curve" inverted on March 29, for the first time since 2019. In simpler terms, the yields on two-year treasury notes were found to be higher than the 10-year treasury notes — which should be the other way round as longer duration treasury notes yield more. Such inversion in the yield curve is considered a sure sign of impending recession. This had happened in the US each time since 1955, with the recession following in the next 6 to 24 months.

Raghuram Rajan, now back to academia in the U.S., says the U.S. "can still come out of this with no recession but the base case has to be a mild recession sometime next year". Europe too is going through economic turmoil because of the war and the post-pandemic pangs. Fortunately, there is no sign of inversion in the treasury yield curve in India.

The RBI's last two statements show the yields from various treasury bills — 91-day, 182-day, 364-day and 10-year — are all in the right order. That is, treasury bills of higher durations are fetching higher yields in each case in May and June (up to June 10).

Nevertheless, there are many distressing signs that India's growth may be far worse than the projected 7.2%.

Multiple distressing signals

Now that the four quarters of data for FY22 are available, it shows the GDP and PFCE (private consumption) are 1.5% and 1.4% higher than the respective levels of FY20 but the per capita GDP and per capita PFCE are below the FY20 level — by -0.5% and -0.6%, respectively. This means while the national income and private consumption have crossed the pre-pandemic level when adjusted against the population, they have not. Further, since GDP and PFCE include non-households, the households' financial health would be much worse.

The long-term trends confirm this. The growth in per capita GDP and PFCE has been falling sharply since FY17. In the case of the first, growth fell from 6.9% in FY17 to 2.7% in FY20 (pre-pandemic) and for the second, growth fell from 6.8% to 4.1% during the same period. The growth rates in FY21 and FY22 are identical but inverse — that is, the rise in FY22 matches the fall in FY21 (per capita GDP at -7.6% in FY21 and 7.6% in FY22; per capita PFCE at -7% in FY21 and 6.9% in FY22). The prospects for FY23 are turning bleak due to high inflation and worsening other internal and external conditions.

The headline CPI inflation has crossed 6% consistently from January 2022 onwards, breaching 7% in April 2022 — which is higher than the RBI's upper tolerance band. The RBI woke up to the inflation threat in May to make off-cycle revisions in key policy rates (CRR by 50 points and repo by 40 points). In June, it

Is India Too Headed
Towards Recession?

raised the repo rate by another 50 points and indicated a further rise in policy rate/rates in the latter part of the year as it expects the headline inflation to remain above the upper tolerance limit of 6% for the entire FY23 — at 6.7%. WPI inflation has remained elevated, at 12.9% in FY22, touching 14.6% in March and is unlikely to change given the rising commodity prices.

Then there is a chronic job crisis with little sign of improvement. The open unemployment rate, which touched a four-decade high of 6.1% in 2017-18, as per the PLFS report, remains elevated. The CMIE data shows the rate ranges from 6.6% to 9.2% every month from June 2021 to May 2022. Poverty, hunger and income inequality were going up even before the pandemic hit. The prolonged pandemic has worsened these conditions — which will only be known accurately when household consumption expenditure and loss of jobs and businesses are known.

When all these indicators are taken together, the financial health of households has deteriorated considerably. In such a situation, it would be naïve to think the economic fundamentals are still strong and poised for rapid growth.

A business daily's estimate says India falls in the bottom half of 20 major economies (12th position) in the measurement of the "misery index" — which takes into account inflation, unemployment, interest rate and growth in per capita income — even as at 8.7% growth in FY22 India is the fastest-growing major economy.

Declining savings and investments

India's future growth prospects are dim, too, because of declining trends in other economic indicators.

For example, gross domestic savings and household savings have been steadily declining and so is capital formation (GCF) or in-

India may not end up in a recession, as many fear for the U.S. now, but the slowdown of the economy is evident. If at all, it will be a 'technical recession' involving two-quarters of a shrinking economy (the global definition of recession)

vestment in the economy. In the past 15 years, the National Accounts Statistics show gross domestic savings have fallen from a high of 37.8% of the GDP in FY08 to 31.4% in FY20 and household savings have fallen from a high of 25.2% of the GDP in FY09 to 19.6 in FY20.

This indicates falling income (less saving) and impoverishment of households — a clear indication of progressively slowing down of the economy that began in the UPA-II. Capital formation (GCF), too, has fallen from a high 42% in FY08 to 27.3% in FY21 — another indicator of a slowing economy as an investment provides growth impetus.

Further, the FIIs have pulled out \$21.3 billion in the first five months of 2022 (January to May), the highest ever. The only positive sign is FDI inflows, which have increased by a mere 2% in FY22 over FY21 — from \$81.8 billion to \$83.6 billion — as per the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

These are bad signs for good growth.

GDP growth to slip much below 7.2%

7.2% GDP growth for FY23 is more likely an overestimation. Here is why.

The RBI's FY23 growth projection is based on quarterly GDP numbers of FY22 and several assumptions. The quarterly GDP numbers (the fourth quarter's numbers were released on May 31) are based on formal sector indicators and a small part of the informal sector (like, crop production). The actual GDP size for FY22 (8.7%) is likely much less as the informal sector (nearly half the GDP) has been hit harder by the pandemic than the formal sector. Using formal sector data for the informal sector is surely an exaggeration in GDP estimation for FY22.

As for the RBI's assumptions in GDP projections, one has already gone wrong by miles. It projected CPI inflation of 5.7% for FY23 in its April monetary policy statement (which had taken into account the war fallout and rising crude prices for months by then). Now it has revised inflation to 6.7% — one percentage point higher. At the same time, its GDP growth projection has fallen by just 0.3 percentage points — from 7.5% in April to 7.2%

in June. It should have fallen far more.

Why the RBI should have reduced FY23 growth will be clear from the National Accounts Statistics for FY22. While the CPI inflation for FY22 was 5.5%, the GDP deflator (adjustment for inflation) was much higher at 10.8% — "nominal" GDP growth was 19.5% against "real" GDP growth of 8.7%, the difference accounting for inflation. This shows, that the GDP inflation (deflator) is much higher than the CPI inflation and so the change in the CPI would hit the GDP harder.

Then, the RBI is tightening the money supply, which will slow down growth. The repo rate has already been raised by 90 points and CRR by 50 points in May and June. The repo is expected to go further up later in the year, if not CRR. A higher interest rate slows down growth by directly choking credit-driven economic activities, which is aimed at cutting down demand. This is a global phenomenon.

With global growth projected to go down drastically — from 5.7% to 2.9% — India's imports and exports would also be adversely impacted. How long the war would continue is not known but many expect it to linger on to 2023. A prolonged war would progressively damage global and India's growth prospects.

A fall in GDP growth will adversely impact revenue resources.

The revenue receipt of 22 lakh crore budgeted for FY23 is 6% more than that of the revised estimates for FY22, while GDP growth for FY23 is 11.1% (nominal) in the 2022 budget. This is unusual (inversion) as revenue collections tend to grow at a faster rate than GDP. A lower revenue collection would then choke government expenditure by that extent.

Further, states' finances would be under severe stress with the discontinuation of GST Compensation.

The 15th Finance Commission estimated a shortfall in state GST (SGST) at "about 7.1

lakh crore" between July 2017 and June 2022. It was this shortfall that was bridged through the GST Compensation. There is no reason to assume that the shortfall will stop from FY23, but there would be no compensation. How will states meet the shortfall? With both central and state short of revenues, fiscal expenditures would come down, and so would the growth.

All these factors would then combine to make a deadly cocktail to hurt growth in FY23.

India may not end up in a recession, as many fear for the U.S. now, but the slowdown of the economy is evident. If at all, it will be a 'technical recession' involving two-quarters of a shrinking economy (the global definition of recession). Yet, India's GDP growth would still be among the highest in the world. The GDP growth is falling from 8.7% in FY22 to a projected 7.2% in FY23. All indicators, presented earlier, point to a sharper fall than a 7.2% growth. The only engine to put a break is government spending (GFCE) but it is too small for that, at 10.7% of the GDP in FY22 — down from 11.3% in FY21. Remember, the economy was on a prolonged slowdown. The GDP growth in the pre-pandemic FY20 was just 3.7% — rapidly sliding from 8.3% in FY17.

Even by assuming that India has fully recovered from the pandemic hit, the growth would still be somewhere closer to the 4% mark rather than to the 7-8% mark. That is because for the past two years, India, like any other country, is fighting to recover from the pandemic setback. The RBI's assessment says, it would take India 13 years (up to FY35) to recover the pandemic loss, if the 'real' GDP grows at 7.5% annually, beginning with FY23.[x] India is already missing that target in FY23 by miles.

In the meanwhile, nothing dramatic has happened during the pandemic to assume that the GDP growth would jump to 6-8% witnessed during FY15-FY19. Hoping for that in FY23 and further would be a shot into the dark.

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



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Horn Please!

Traffic Jams have become a new reality of life in Srinagar. Day in and day out, hundreds of vehicles are stuck in jams and lurch forward to reach their destinations. Unfortunately, it takes hours before these jams are cleared and even essential service(s) vehicles, such as Ambulances, navigate with great difficulty through them. Therefore, steps must be taken to reduce the occurrence of

jams in the city.

Before taking any steps, the authorities need to identify the potential causes of traffic jams in the city. It needs to be acknowledged that the number of vehicles entering the city is increasing as more and more people are purchasing them. However, the roads have not been widened or reconstructed to withhold such a volume of traffic. At several crossings, traffic lights are not functional,

which leads to great chaos. In the city centre, Lal Chowk, there are very few parking slots. On a busy day, people who are unable to find parking slots park their cars on roads running through Lal Chowk, thus, leading to jams. Nevertheless, the public should also be held accountable for these jams. People often drive vehicles on the wrong side of the road, overtake in a rush, which leads to traffic jams in the city.

To reduce traffic jams, both the authorities and the public have a role to play. The authorities need to take into account the causes of jams, devise a plan and accordingly implement it. On the other hand, the public needs to understand that certain rules are necessary to follow while driving, and if they follow them, there may be fewer jams in the city.

Suhail Ahmad Khan
skhan737662@gmail.com

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

Parenting Bullied and Bullies

Understanding bullying and actions parents can take to prevent it

Wasim Kakroo

It's painful to see your child suffer from the physical and emotional pain of bullying or cyberbullying.

Some parents aren't sure where to start when it comes to helping their children avoid bullying and violence. Others may be unaware of whether or not their children are victims, bystanders, or even perpetrators of such harmful behaviors. Here are a few important things we need to know.

What exactly is bullying?

Bullying is usually identified by the three traits of intent, repetition, and power. A bully repeatedly causes suffering to others, whether via physical harm or cruel words or behaviour. Physical bullying is more common among boys, whilst psychological bullying is more common among girls.

Bullying is more of a pattern of behaviour than a single occurrence. Bullying is more common among children with a perceived higher social standing or position of authority, such as those who are bigger, stronger, or more popular.

Bullying is more likely to affect the most vulnerable children. Children from marginalised communities, poor families, children with alternative gender identities, children with impairments, and migrant and refugee children are frequently among them.

Bullying can take place in person or over the internet. Cyberbullying can take place on social media, via text or instant message, via email, or on any other online platform where children connect. It can be tough to recognise whether and when your child is affected because parents may not always monitor what their children do on these platforms.

WHAT WARNING SIGNS SHOULD I BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR?

Take a close look. Observe the emotional state of the children, as some children may not be able to communicate their concerns vocally. The following are some warning signs to keep an eye out for:

1. Unusual bruises, scrapes, shattered bones, and healing wounds are examples of physical marks.
2. Fear of coming to school or participating in school activities
3. Anxiety, nervousness, or a high level of vigilance
4. Having a small circle of friends at school or outside of it
5. Suddenly losing friends or avoiding social situations
6. Loss or destruction of clothing, gadgets, or other personal belongings
7. Frequently requesting financial assistance
8. Academic performance is poor.
9. Frequent school absenteeism.
10. Trying to remain in the company of adults
11. Not getting enough sleep and perhaps having nightmares
12. Headaches, stomachaches, or other physical ailments

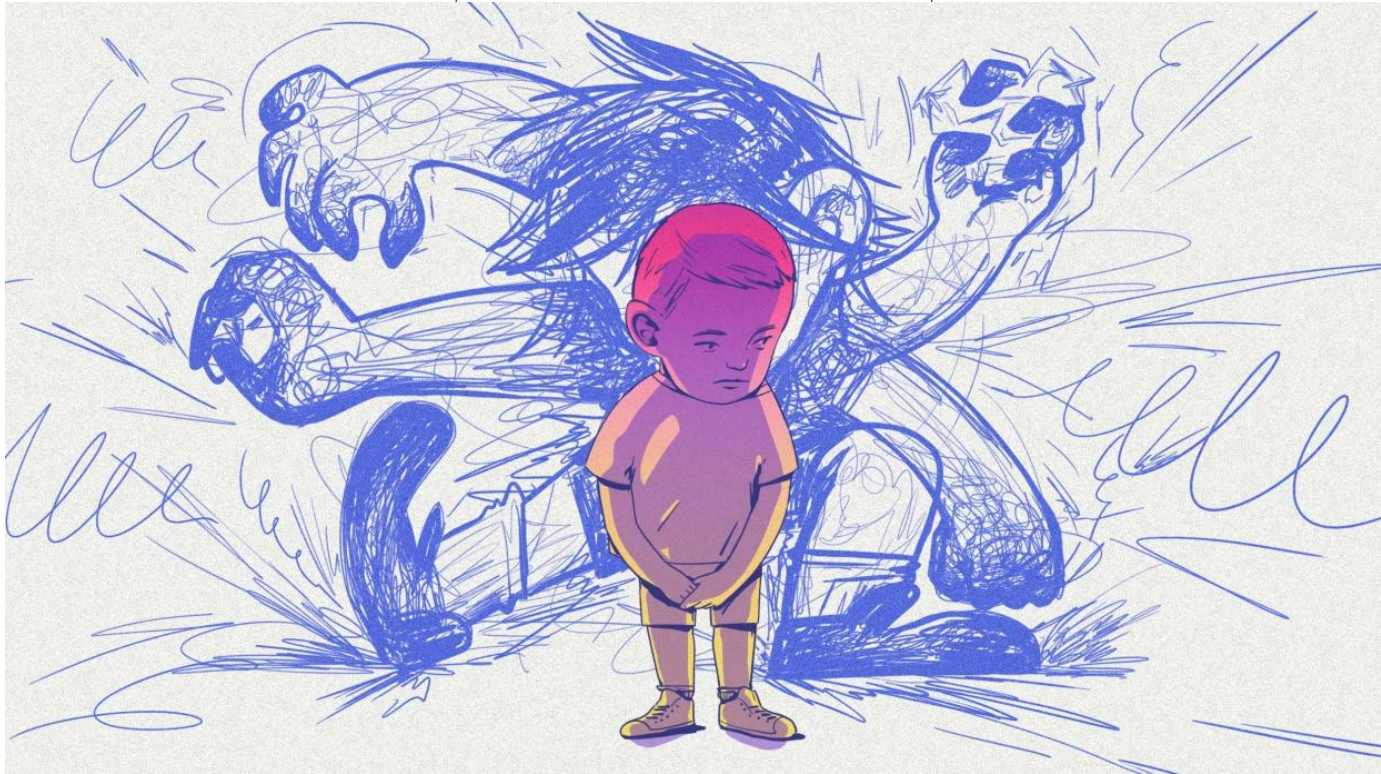


Illustration Credits: Gilbeaux / for NBC News

6 Bullying is more of a pattern of behaviour than a single occurrence. Bullying is more common among children with a perceived higher social standing or position of authority, such as those who are bigger, stronger, or more popular

13. Distressed after spending time online or on their phone on a regular basis (without a reasonable explanation)
14. Becomes unusually secretive, especially when it comes to online activities
15. Aggressive behaviour or angry outbursts

Allow yourself to speak freely. Talk to your kids about what they consider to be acceptable and unacceptable behaviour at school, in the neighbourhood, and online. It's critical to have open lines of communication so that your children feel comfortable informing you about what is happening in their lives.

WHY SHOULD I FEEL CONCERNED AND INTERFERE IF MY CHILD IS BEING BULLIED?

Bullying can have long-term negative implications for children. Aside from the physical consequences of bullying, children may suffer from emotional and mental health issues such as depression and anxiety, which can lead to substance abuse and poor academic performance. Cyberbullying, unlike in-person bullying, can reach a victim at any time and from anywhere. It has the potential to cause significant harm because it can swiftly reach a large audience and leave a permanent internet footprint for all those involved.

Your child has the right to attend school in a safe, caring setting that honors their dignity. Every kid has the right to an edu-

cation as well as protection from all sorts of physical and mental aggression, harm, and abuse. Bullying is no different.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY CHILD'S SCHOOL PREVENT BULLYING?

Making sure your child is aware of the issue is the first step in keeping them safe, whether in person or online.

1. Educate your children on the subject of bullying. Your children will be able to recognise bullying more quickly once they understand what it is, whether it is happening to them or to someone else.
2. Talk to your children frequently and frankly. The more you talk to your kids about bullying, the more likely they are to speak and inform you if they witness or experience it. Check in with your children every day and inquire about their school days and online activities, not only about their lessons and activities but also about their feelings.
3. Assist your child in being a good role model. Bullying involves three parties: the victim, the perpetrator, and the bystander. Children can prevent bullying by being inclusive, courteous, and kind to their peers, even if they are not bullied themselves. They can defend the victim, offer assistance, and/or question bullying behaviour if they witness it.
4. Assist your child in developing self-confidence. Encourage your child to

participate in community activities that they enjoy. This will also aid in the development of confidence and a network of friends with similar interests. Be a role model for others. Show your child how to treat other children and adults with love and respect by treating everyone around you with the same respect and kindness, including speaking up when others are mistreated. Children look to their parents for guidance on how to act in various situations, including what to publish online.

6. Participate in their online activities. Familiarize yourself with the platforms your child uses, explain how the online and offline worlds are linked, and warn them about the various risks they will encounter online.

IF MY CHILD IS BEING BULLIED OR THREATENED, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you suspect your child is being bullied, you can take the following steps to assist them:

1. Openly and gently listen to your child. Instead of attempting to figure out what's causing the bullying or how to remedy the situation, focus on making them feel listened and supported. Ascertain that they are aware that it is not their fault.
2. Tell the child that you believe in them, that you're glad they informed you, that it's not their fault, and that you'll do everything you can to assist

them.

3. Speak with teacher or school authorities if you feel it is happening at school of your child.
4. Be a pillar of support for others. Having a supportive parent is critical for your child in dealing with the repercussions of bullying. Assure them that they can reach out to you at any time and that things will get better.

WHAT CAN I DO IF MY CHILD BULLIES OTHER CHILDREN?

If you suspect or know that your child is bullying other children, keep in mind that they are not necessarily horrible people, but may be acting out for a variety of reasons. Bullying is often motivated by a desire to fit in, a need for attention, or a need to learn how to cope with difficult emotions. Bullies are sometimes victims or observers of violence in their own homes or communities. To assist your child in avoiding bullying, you should take the following steps:

1. Communicate. You'll be better able to help your child if you understand why they're behaving out. Do they have any feelings of insecurity at school? Do they have a quarrel with a sibling or a friend? If they are having problems explaining their actions, you may want to seek the advice of a child-focused counsellor, social worker, or mental health expert.
2. Work on finding healthy coping mechanisms. Inquire about a situation that has irritated your youngster and provide helpful solutions. Use this exercise to come up with non-harmful reactions to future circumstances. Encourage your youngster to "put themselves in their shoes" by picturing what the person being bullied is going through. Remind your child that remarks expressed online might have real-world consequences.
3. Take a look at yourself. Bullying children typically imitate what they see at home. Do you or another caregiver engage in physically or emotionally abusive behaviour toward them? Look in the mirror and consider how you show yourself to your child.

Allow for repercussions and opportunities to make amends. It's critical to provide appropriate, nonviolent repercussions if you discover your child has been bullying. This may limit their activities, particularly those that promote bullying (social gatherings, screen/social media use). Encourage your child to apologise to their classmates and to think about how to be more inclusive in the future.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

Mental Health: Which Is Better – Team Sports Or Solo Exercise?

Laura Healy

Exercise is not only good for your physical health, it's good for your mental health, too. Indeed, many people even take up exercise as a way of boosting their mental well-being. But is all exercise equally beneficial – and does it matter whether you do it alone or in a group?

One notable study examined how the setting people exercised in related to mental health. The study looked at students aged between 16 and 24 years old, comparing those who took part in team sports, informal fitness groups (such as yoga classes or running groups), and those who exercised alone at least once a week. They followed up six months later to measure their mental health.

The study found that the students who did group physical activity (either in team sports or informal fitness groups) had better mental health than those who exercised alone. Students exercising in groups were also more physically active, doing nearly twice as much activity as those who exercised alone. They also reported feeling more connected to people around them.

The researchers suggest the reason students exercising in groups had better mental health may be because of the social support network they developed during group physical activities.

My own research also explored how informal football programmes helped with mental health recovery. My col-

leagues and I conducted two studies, one looking at community football initiatives and the other at football programmes within NHS mental health services. We interviewed people who played football at the sessions, where players, coaches and healthcare staff all took part in the activities together.

We found that participants valued group activities, as they were able to connect with people who shared similar interests and experiences. Participants also said that being able to choose to play a sport they enjoyed contributed to mental health. These programmes can support mental health recovery, allowing participants to live a hopeful and satisfying life despite any limitations caused by mental illness.

However, our research suggests that physical activity alone may not be as important as the reason why a person exercises.

The reasons we exercise

The motivations behind why a person exercises also affect mental health outcomes. The relationship between motivation and mental health can be explained by self-determination theory, which proposes that our personal experiences, alongside cultural and social factors, influence why we choose to participate in certain types of physical activity.

We're more likely to experience mental health benefits from exercise if the environment makes us feel that we have more choice and control, we feel



more capable or likely to succeed, and when we have stronger connections to others. If these aspects are perceived in an environment, we tend to take part in activities because they are enjoyable or personally important to us. This is known as "autonomous motivation". Studies show that when people do activities for these reasons, they feel happier and have more energy.

On the other hand, feeling that we have less choice or control, or that we're not good at what we're doing,

can have a negative effect on well-being. When we feel this way, we tend to do activities to avoid feeling guilty or being punished – or to receive praise or attention from others. This is known as "controlled motivation".

While these reasons can be powerful ways to get us started with exercise, we're much less likely to continue being active over the long term because we're not doing things for our own enjoyment. Crucially, this type of motivation has been shown to have a

negative impact on mental health.

For example, if I choose to jog on my own because it's important to me, this is likely to be better for my mental health than if I played a team sport where the only reason I participate is because I worry about letting my teammates or coach down. This would be because I'm not choosing to take part in the sport for my own reasons, but for the sake of other people.

Research looking at the reasons people participate in team sports and

their mental health in the UK and Ireland shows how important the right type of motivation is in relation to mental health.

Team members who were able to make choices about their training, felt connected to those around them and that they were performing well in their sport experienced better mental health. But if these aspects were missing, athletes' mental health was poorer, showing how important creating the right environment is, regardless of the activity.

Finding ways to give individuals more choice and helping them to develop relationships with others might be important for coaches, exercise instructors and even gym buddies, so that people can better improve their mental health through the exercise they're doing. The activity itself might not predict the mental health benefits – but the way people feel while doing it does.

So is it better to exercise alone, or in a group? In practice, there is some evidence that group-based activities might be more beneficial for mental health. But the reason a person is exercising, and the environment they're exercising in, are just as important. Put simply, choosing an activity you love – whether it's because you feel good at it, or it allows you to be part of a community – will bring the best mental health boost.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Protests Erupt In UP Against 'Agnipath', Stones Pelted At Buses In Agra, Aligarh

Agenceis

Agra/Bulandshahr (UP): Protests over the Agnipath scheme erupted in at least six districts of Uttar Pradesh on Thursday, with slogan-shouting young men blocking roads and pelting stones.

According to a bulletin issued by the North Eastern Railway, due to the sit-in demonstration against the scheme, operation of 21 trains on Gorakhpur-Chhapra, Chhapra-Ballia, Siwan-Thawe, Chhapra-Masrakh-Thawe, Varanasi-Ghazipur-and Varanasi-Prayagraj rail sections of Varanasi division was affected.

The trains had to be halted at various stations because of the protest.

The protesters hurled stones at buses in Aligarh and Agra. Protests also broke out in Bulandshahr, Mathura, Firozabad and Ballia districts over the new scheme that envisages a short four-year term for soldiers in the three armed forces entailing no gratuity or pension upon retirement.

Authorities stopped trains at Ballia and the neighbouring districts as a precautionary measure.

The aspirants took to the streets opposing the Agnipath

scheme which the Centre announced on Tuesday to recruit jawans into the army, the navy and the air force for a four-year-period followed by compulsory retirement for most without gratuity and pension benefits.

It also drew sharp criticism from rival party leaders, including former Uttar Pradesh chief ministers Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati.

In Aligarh, the youths pelted stones at a passenger bus on the highway connecting the district to Ghaziabad. While some window panes of the bus were broken, no passenger was injured in the incident, officials said.

Vehicular traffic in Aligarh was affected for over two hours. Senior police officers persuaded the protesters to vacate the highway and assured them that their demands would be conveyed to the authorities concerned.

Superintendent of Police (City) Kuldeep Singh later told the media that the protesters had been dispersed and normal road traffic restored on the national highway. In Agra, the aspirants not only pelted stones at a government bus in Bah, but they also blocked NH-2, the Agra-Jaipur highway and MG Road, sources said.

However, none was injured in the protests, they added. A similar protest was reported from a

village under Mahua Khara police station limits.

"This scheme will affect the future of those candidates who want to serve the nation for 10 years and not just for four years," a protester requesting anonymity said.

Another student Satyaprakash demanded that the written exam for vacancies announced last year be conducted.

Agra Senior Superintendent of Police Sudhir Kumar Singh told reporters that the SP (City) and other police personnel reached the spot and the situation is under control. The aspirants have been asked to place their demands peacefully, he said.

In Mathura, protesters blocked the Agra-Delhi route, paralysing traffic between Agra and Mathura and Mathura and Gwalior link road for over two hours. The traffic was cleared following persuasion by police officials.

In Firozabad district, a group of youths staged a protest against the scheme in Shikohabad area.

Protests were held in Bulandshahr, Firozabad and Ballia, too, but the candidates dispersed after the district administration and police officers spoke to them and assured that their demands will be conveyed to the authorities concerned.

In Ballia and neighbouring districts, movement of some trains was affected due to the protests, an official said.

Some passenger trains were affected due to the protest, an official said. Train 12562 Swatantrata Sainani Express chugging from Delhi to Jai Nagar on the Varanasi-Chhapra rail section was halted at Ballia Railway Station at 10.47 am, North Eastern Railways' Public Relations Officer Ashok Kumar said.

Train 14006 Lichchavi Express was halted at Bhatni railway station at 10.25 am and train 15054 Lucknow Chhapra Express at Ghazipur railway station at 11.25 am. This was done as a precautionary measure in the wake of protests in Ballia and some districts of Bihar neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, he said.

Attaching a video of the protesters demanding the withdrawal of the scheme, Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Akhilesh Yadav slammed the "misuse of force" on the "future armed forces of the country" alleging that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was "betraying the country and patriotic youth by contractualising the armed forces".

"The proclamation of Bharat Mata must not be a false pretence but a symbol of true patriotism," he tweeted.

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati termed the scheme "unfair towards rural youth".

In a series of tweets, she said the scheme will "add to the woes" of the people already beset with inflation and poverty.

The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) has announced protests at all district headquarters in Uttar Pradesh against the Agnipath scheme on Saturday.

The RLD on Thursday also announced a campaign named "Yuva Panchayat" in support of the youth in western Uttar Pradesh in the coming days to pressure the government to withdraw the new initiative for temporary recruitments in the armed forces. The announcement was made by RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary on social media.

"Maafi Veer Adarsh, Jumla Veer Pracharak, Bhashan Veer Neta - Do not make the Indian Armed Forces 'Agnivir'," Chaudhary said in a cryptic tweet in Hindi.

The "Yuva Panchayat" will kick-off on June 28 from Shamli and similar youth congregations will be held in Mathura, Muzaffarnagar, Bijnor, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Moradabad, Aligarh, Agra, Ghaziabad and will be culminated in Baghpat on July 16, according to the party's schedule.

Motivational Session By Aakash+BYJU'S



Srinagar: Aakash BYJU'S, the national leader in test preparatory services conducted a Motivational Session titled "Aspire-Act-Achieve" at Srinagar Garhwal.

The session started with the warm and affectionate felicitation of Alumni students of Aakash who are currently studying in different medical & engineering colleges. More than 100 students attended the session.

The Speaker of this program was Mr Nitish Rehan, who gave an encouraging and inspiring message to the students on how these last 30 days of preparation

for NEET/JEE will change their dreams into reality. He also discussed how committed the student should be towards their preparation and how constructive changes can make one brighter and more successful. This program helped students to be motivated by a positive mind and improve the intensity in chasing their dreams of aspiring their careers in the Medical/Engineering field.

The session concluded with the pledge for sticking to goals and indulging themselves in achieving their dreams.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

4 Militants Killed

of the encounter that entered third day on Thursday, he said, police and army's IRR had launched a cordon and search operation in Mishipora village on the basis of specific information about the presence of militants.

As the joint party proceeded towards the suspected spot, the spokesperson said, the hiding militants fired indiscriminately upon the search party which was retaliated effectively by the joint forces.

"However, the hiding terrorists managed to shift their base consistently in the village after the initial exchange of fire and tried to breach the cordon but the cordon remained firmly intact and search was going on from the past 02 days to nab them," he said.

Today, he said, the contact was re-established with the hiding militants and the encounter resumed in which two militants have been killed so far.

Meanwhile, two more Hizb militants were killed in a separate encounter in Hangalgund area of the neighbouring Anantnag district, police said.

The anti-militancy operation, he said, was launched on Thursday afternoon by CRPF, Army's 19 RR and the personnel of PCRF 164 Battalion.

"AnantnagEncounterUpdate: 01 more #terrorist killed (total 02). Search going on. Further details shall follow," Kashmir Zone Police posted on its official Twitter handle.

"#AnantnagEncounterUpdate: Killed #terrorists identified as Junaid Bhat & Basit Wani of HM #terror outfit. #Terrorist Basit Wani was involved in killing of BJP's Sarpanch Gh Rasool Dar & his wife, a Panch on 9/8/21 in #Anantnag: IGP Kashmir," police wrote in another Tweet.

Significant Decline

Our security forces are such a protective shield for this country that whoever tries to break it, bleeds himself. The nation has immense faith in our forces who are always ready to deal with any situation, Singh added.

The defence minister also visited the forward areas and took stock of the security situation along the border.

Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GoC-in-C) Northern Command Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, GoC 15 Corps Lt Gen AS Aujla and GoC 19 Infantry Division Maj Gen Ajay Chandpuria accompanied the minister and briefed him about the operational preparedness of the armed forces, an official spokesman said.

Singh commended the security forces for fulfilling their responsibilities efficiently even in challenging situations, describing their valour and zeal as remarkable.

He lauded the security personnel for serving the country with indomitable courage and dedication and instilling the sense of national pride in the people, especially the youth.

Reiterating that India is a peace-loving country which has given the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the whole world is one family) to the world, Singh asserted that we have never tried to hurt any country in any way, nor have we tried to capture even an inch of anyone's land.

He exuded confidence that the armed forces will face the future challenges with full strength and their valour and dedication to build a golden future of the country.

The defence minister is scheduled to visit the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports at Pahalgam in south Kashmir on Friday. He is likely to be briefed about the counter-terrorism operations in south Kashmir belt as well during his visit.

Pays Tributes

bravehearts," the defence minister tweeted. Singh is currently on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff

escalated significantly following the Galwan Valley clashes in which 20 Indian Army personnel laid down their lives.

In February last year, China officially acknowledged that five Chinese military officers and soldiers were killed in the clashes though it is widely believed that the death toll on the Chinese side was much higher.

Colonel Bikumalla Santosh Babu, the commanding officer of the 16 Bihar regiment, had led from the front against the Chinese aggression near Patrolling Point 14 in Galwan Valley.

In November last year, he was posthumously awarded Mahavir Chakra, the second-highest military award for acts of gallantry in the presence of the enemy.

Months after the deadly confrontation, the Army built a memorial for the 'Gallants of Galwan' at Post 120 in eastern Ladakh.

The memorial mentioned their heroics under operation 'Snow Leopard' and the way they evicted the PLA troops from the area while inflicting "heavy casualties" on them.

The names of the 20 Army personnel were also inscribed on the National War Memorial in Delhi in January last year.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between India and China began in early May of 2020.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Cogra area.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the sensitive sector.

Bilawal Pitches

Islamophobic remarks of officials create an environment in which engagement is very difficult for Pakistan, if not impossible, the minister said, referring to re-engaging with India.

Bilawal asked those present at the think tank event whether cutting ties with India was serving Pakistan's interests, be it on Kashmir, be it on the rising Islamophobia or the emphasis on Hindutva narrative in India.

"That I, as foreign minister of Pakistan, as the representative of my country, not only don't speak to the Indian government but I also don't speak to the Indian people. Is that the best way to communicate or achieve Pakistan's objective? the minister explained.

India has repeatedly told Pakistan that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of the country.

India has said it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

The minister added that the country was at its crossroads and the current government has inherited a country "wherever you look there is a crisis."

He blamed the previous Imran Khan-led government's flawed policies because of which Pakistan "is internationally isolated and internationally disengaged."

Turning to the issue of bilateral trade with India, Bilawal said: "We don't have a trading relationship with the east (India) and many will argue absolutely we should not. The environment is not as such, given these outrageous assaults on our principles it would be inappropriate for Pakistan to take such a step."

Bilawal referred to the first term of his mother and former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in 1988, arguing that it was the time when Pakistan could have created the kind of economic engagement with India that might have compelled both sides not to resort to extreme measures.

NIA Searches 6

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and others through well organised networks of Jel cadres. Jel has also been motivating impressionable youth of Kashmir and recruiting new members (Rukuns) in J&K to participate in disruptive secessionist activities."

Local news agency KDC reported that a raid was conducted in the residential house of Feroq Ahmad Bhat alias Khaki, a resident of Chinar Bagh Pahroo in Srinagar outskirts. Bhat is said to be Qaiyum Ziliah of Jel Budgam.

In Budgam raids were conducted in the residential house of Khursheed Sanai (Jel member) a resident of Falchil Khansahib and Bilal Ahmad Mir (Jel member), a resident of Hanjura area of the district.

Similarly, in north Kashmir raids were conducted at the residences of Hafizullah Ganie, a resident of Chandkoot Kreeri and Shoab Mohammad Choir, a resident of Sangri Colony Baramulla.

"During the searches on Thursday, various incriminating documents and electronic devices were seized from the premises of the suspects", official sources said adding that further investigation of the case was on.

In February 2019, the Centre had banned the Jel for five years under anti-terror laws on grounds that it was "in close touch" with militant outfits and was expected to "escalate secessionist movement" in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

A notification banning the group under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs after a high-level meeting on security chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Hundreds of Jel activists were arrested in a major crackdown across Jammu and Kashmir following the ban, which came just months ahead of the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, and its bifurcation into two union territories in August 2019.

Curfew Relaxed

Sharma, who along with SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom is camping at Bhadarwah for the last seven days to monitor the situation, appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony and assured them all restriction will be lifted soon.

"The curfew was imposed as a precautionary measure to avoid any untoward incident but I am glad residents of this beautiful valley behaved in a mature manner.

I hope they will not fell prey to nefarious designs of a handful of miscreants and will maintain age-old communal harmony and mutual brotherhood for their better future," Sharma said.

"We have already lifted the restrictions in Doda, Thathri, and Gandoh towns and I assure if people here behave well, the remaining restriction will be eased soon as during this peak season of Tourism, we want to see visitors not the security forces," he added.

With the news of the relaxation, people in considerable number rushed to the markets in elation.

They demanded complete withdrawal of restrictions from the town and restoration of the broadband and mobile internet services, which remained suspended in the entire Doda and Kishtwar districts for the eighth day.

We are supplying Milk and milk products to the people living in the town but in past seven days, we have not been able to earn a single penny, Shoukat Ali, a resident of Jai Meadow in the outskirts of Bhaderwah town, told PTI.

He said over 200 nomadic families earn their livelihood supplying Milk to the people in the town and they have suffered huge losses since the clampdown.

Manzoor Ahmad, a labourer from Marwah, said he has been unable to earn a living since the curfew began.

Bhaderwah Municipal Committee councillor Puneet Mehta expressed his incredulity at the long curfew in the town, ruining the setback to tourism.

There is no justification for the prolonged restrictions. There was no clash or damage to public or private property. Instead of taking stern action against a few people involved in vitiating the peaceful atmosphere, the whole

town was held hostage by imposing strict restrictions, he said.

He demanded immediate lifting of the curfew that allows normal activities necessary for the revival of tourism after a gap of three years.

Social activist Muzamil Yazdan advocated for restoration of internet services for the benefit of the students and job aspirants.

The NEET examination is scheduled for June 23 and the last date to file an application for the post of accounts assistant (panchayats) is also June 23.

We demand for early restoration of at least the fixed line internet services, he said, urging the government to facilitate students by opening special counters with internet connections till restoration of the service.

Fuel 'Crisis'

outlets are being met inline with demand. Request not to panic at all. We reassure our full commitment to serve you at all times without interruption," Director Marketing of the IOCL tweeted.

Director Food and Supplies Department, Abdul Salam blamed people for creating a crisis like situation.

"Unnecessary rumor mongering led to the crisis but in Kashmir it is a norm. If a vehicle had a fuel capacity of 5 litres, he purchased 10 which resulted in the crisis," Mir said.

He said some people rushed to the filling stations and stocked fuel in large quantities which led to the crisis.

Director F&S further said that a chain of tankers with fuel supply is arriving in the Valley on Friday and the crisis won't last for more than a day.

Meanwhile, the State Level Coordinator, Oil Industry, Jammu and Kashmir (OJJK) on Thursday assured that there was no shortage of petroleum products across the Union Territory.

"This is to confirm that there is no shortage of Petroleum Products like Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) in the entire Jammu & Kashmir," said a statement issued by Anjani Kumar, State Level Coordinator, Oil Industry Jammu and Kashmir.

It adds that, all the three Public Sector Oil Companies Viz M/s Indian Oil Corporation Limited , M/s Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and M/s Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited are having sufficient stocks at their respective depots to cater to the current routine demand of the J&K UT.

The statement also gave a detailed outline on the release of Supply of POL for the past four days of Zewan, Srinagar Depot of IOCL which is a testimony to the fact that higher supplies are being made from Srinagar depot.

It also informed that on 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th June, 348 Kls of petrol and 510 KL diesel, 325 Kls of petrol and 531 Kls of diesel, 499 Kls of petrol and 659 Kls of diesel and 493 Kls of petrol and 589 Kls of diesel were released from IOC, Zewan Depot of Srinagar respectively.

"It is being humbly requested in public interest that there is absolutely no need for panic buying and hoarding of product. Moreover, this will result in unnecessary crowding at the retail outlets and inconvenience to the needy buyers," the statement added.

GST Council To

race courses and online gaming. The GST Council, chaired by the Union Finance Minister and comprising state counterparts, is also expected to discuss certain simplifications in procedures.

Ahead of the Council meeting, the panel of state ministers on GST rate rationalisation is scheduled to meet on June 17 to discuss possible tweaking in tax rates, sources said.

The Group of Ministers (GoM) is likely to discuss possible changes in tax slabs, the sources said, adding that the final report of the panel would take some more time.

The Council had last year set up a seven-member panel of state ministers, headed by

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, to suggest ways to augment revenue by rationalising tax rates. The GoM had last met in November 2021.

The GoM has been mandated to review items under inverted duty structure to help minimise refund payout, and review the GST exempt list with an objective to expand the tax base and eliminate breaking of input tax credit (ITC) chain.

Under GST, a four-tier structure exempts or imposes a low tax rate of 5 per cent on essential items and levies the top rate of 28 per cent on cars and demerit goods. The other slabs of tax are 12 and 18 per cent.

Besides, a cess is imposed on the highest slab of 28 per cent on luxury, demerit and sin goods.

The Council will also consider a report of the panel of ministers on applicability of GST on casinos, race courses and online gaming.

The group of state ministers unanimously decided on hiking the tax rate on these services to 28 per cent, besides working out a method of valuing these services for the purpose of levying this tax. Currently, casinos, horse racing and online gaming services attract 18 per cent GST.

The Council may also consider some modification in summary return and monthly tax payment form GSTR-3B with a view to check fake input tax credit claims and expedite settlement of genuine ones.

According to sources, the modified form will provide clarity with regard to gross input tax credit due to taxpayer, the amount claimed in a particular month and the net amount left in the taxpayer's ledger.

LG Unveils Portal

Pahalgam to Pancharni Rs. 4,200. The annual yatra is scheduled to begin from June 30 and will conclude on August 11, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan. More than 10 lakh pilgrims are expected to perform the pilgrimage this year.

File Applications

observed that such permission cases to visit abroad on private affairs have been forwarded and recommended to the Administrative Department by the concerned Directorates at the fog end of the proceeding of the officials outside the country even without providing requisite documents Viz vigilance clearance, copy of passport or visa, non-involvement certificate in any criminal or disciplinary proceedings etcetera," it reads—(KNO)

Anti-Tank Mine

border outpost area when they noticed the anti-tank mine and immediately summoned its explosive experts who later defused the device.

Chandra Takes Oath

(Additional Chief Secretary) Agriculture Production Department; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, IGP Kashmir; members of JKPSC; Chairman JKSSB, besides senior officers; family members and friends of Satish Chandra were also present on the occasion at Raj Bhavan Auditorium.

J&K Logs 22 New

Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—seven from Jammu division and two from Kashmir. So far 449542 people have recovered, leaving the active case tally at 126—91 in Jammu and 35 in Kashmir.

8 CRPF Men,

Rakib-UI-Islam, Rajinder, C Rama Krishna, Mishram Arvind, A Rajni while civilian was identified as Mohammad Akbar.

All the injured were rushed to hospital for treatment where their condition is said to be stable, he said.

Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident and started investigation.

Cops Stop Congress March In Jammu, Many Detained

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Scores of Congress workers tried to take out a march to the Jammu and Kashmir Raj Bhavan here on Thursday in protest against the Enforcement Directorate's questioning of party leader Rahul Gandhi, but were stopped and detained by police.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president G A Mir and several leaders were among those detained.

Congress leaders and workers assembled outside the party office at Shaheedi Chowk and tried to take out the march towards the Raj Bhavan when police took them into preventive custody.

"We have come together to lodge our strong protest against the BJP-led central government which is trying to silence the voice of people by implicating Rahul Gandhi in a fake case, Mir told reporters.

He said they are also protesting against the police action against party activists in the national capital, where senior leaders, including Members of Parliament, were dragged out of the party headquarters.

"This is not democracy and people will not tolerate this," he said and accused the Narendra Modi government of destroying the democratic culture in the country and creating mistrust among the people.

He said the Congress would not be cowed down by such tactics and would fight back the repressive policies of the government and safeguard the democracy.

Among others who were detained by the police were JKPCC working president Raman Bhalla, vice president

Mula Ram and chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma.

Meanwhile, the party issued an advisory to caution all workers against any sort of indecency against the prime minister or any other leader and the authorities while expressing their anger against the highly objectionable and vindictive actions of the government against the party leadership.

"Since there is a lot of anger, for quite justified reasons, amongst the party men over the ongoing illegal and undemocratic actions against Rahul Gandhi and other top leadership, there is possibility of someone losing control over words or may be provoked by some vested interests to utter any irresponsible words.

"While we have every right and reason to strongly protest the actions of the Modi government, it is strictly advised to all party men to be very careful in choosing their words or slogans and not to indulge in any kind of indecency in their protests, the advisory stated, adding anyone not following it will be acted against by the party.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appeared before the ED on Wednesday for the third consecutive day of questioning in the National Herald money laundering case. He has been summoned for questioning for the fourth time on Friday.

The probe pertains to alleged financial irregularities involving Young Indian Private Limited, promoted by the Congress, that owns National Herald.

The newspaper is published by Associated Journals Limited (AJL) and owned by Young Indian.



Flash Floods, Hailstorm Damage Houses; Orchards In North Kashmir

Agencies

Srinagar: A massive hailstorm wreaked havoc to orchards and standing crops at several places in parts of north Kashmir districts on Thursday.

Also several residential houses suffered damage in the flash floods due to a cloudburst at Rafiabab in Baramulla district, reports and officials said.

Reports said that massive spells of hailstorm were witnessed at Haril, Mawar, Sanzipora, Qalamabad, Harvet, Ashpora Budbugh, Daribal Baala, Daribal Payeen, Shiekhpora, Terina, Audoora and several other adjacent villages in Kupwara district. The hailstorm coupled with torrential rains wrecked havoc to apple orchards and other standing crops.

Similar reports were received in neighboring Baramulla district where the weather fury caused widespread damage to orchards and vegetation. The villages which however faced the maximum brunt included Noorkhah Boniyar and Gulmarg.

In the meantime, many houses were damaged in the aftermath of flash floods caused by a cloudburst at Bakhipora village of Rafiabab. There were however no immediate reports of any injury or loss of life in the particular incident.

Reports of hailstorm were also received from several places, including Garooro and Chhatti Bandi, in Bandipora district.

A forest fire erupted in Lachipora's Compartment

MeT Department Predicts More Downpour Till June 22

Srinagar: Weatherman on Thursday forecast widespread but intermittent rain and thunderstorm accompanied by strong gusty wind at most places of Jammu and Kashmir till June 22.

"There's moisture supply from Arabian Sea, Western Disturbance and not Monsoon. We expect intermittent rain and not continuous rain," a meteorological department official here said.

He said that the weather system may generate flash flood especially in sloppy area.

"Avoid venturing outside during lighting as it may be life threatening, sometimes," he said and also urged orchardists to avoid spraying of orchards till June 22.

Meanwhile he said Srinagar recorded a low of 18.6°C against 16.1°C on the previous night. The temperature, he said, was 3.8°C above normal during this time of the year for the summer capital.

Qazigund recorded a low of 14.8°C against 13.4°C on the previous night. The

temperature was 14.8°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he told Global News Service.

Pahalgam recorded a minimum of 11.9°C against 8.6°C on the previous night. The temperature was 3.4°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir during this time of the season, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of 15.7°C against 14.9°C on the previous night. It was 2.6°C above normal for the place in south Kashmir during this time of the season, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 12.0°C against 10.0°C on the previous night, the official said. While 9.3°C is normal for the world famous skiing resort during this time of the season, the official said that the temperature was 2.7°C above normal for the famous place in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of 13.1°C against 12.6°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.1°C below normal for the district, the official said.

Number 46, after a lightning struck the forest area, damaging several deodar trees.

When contacted, BFO Sanzipora Bashir Ahmad Wani told GNS that a Fire and Emergency Department

was sent to extinguish the fire at the site. "Several trees have suffered damage in the fire so far", he said adding efforts are on to put it out as soon as possible to avoid the spread of flames.

Army Aspirants Protest Against Agnipath Recruitment Scheme In Jammu

Agencies

Jammu: Armed forces aspirants on Thursday joined countrywide protests against Agnipath Recruitment Scheme, which was roll down by union government to recruit jawans and lower rank soldiers in Army, navy and Air Force on a contractual basis for a four-year-period followed by compulsory retirement for most without gratuity and pension benefits.

A large number of armed forces aspirants, particularly candidates who have cleared their medical and physical tests for the recruitment in the army and air force last year and were awaiting the written examination, but it now stands cancelled assembled outside Jammu Press Club and holds a massive protest march.

They said that forms were submitted for the recruitment in the army in February 2020 but the process started a year later due to COVID-19 outbreak. The written test was initially scheduled for April 25 last year but was postponed several times.

The aspirants further said that the process for our recruitment stands cancelled and we have to re-apply in accordance with Agnipath. "It is a great injustice to us," they said.

They said that for selection in armed forces people have to work hard for couple of years but government in a blink of second dashed all such hopes.

Questioning the rationality behind the decision of barring pensioner benefits and retirement after four years, the aspirants said that pension bills of Member parliaments and Member Legislative Assembly are increasing but the government is not willing to provide pensions to aspiring soldiers.

They demanded that the new scheme be withdrawn and written examinations for the vacancies announced previously be held at the earliest.

Similar protests were held in bordering Arnia, R S Pura, Hiranagar in the outskirts of Jammu, where youth also aspiring to don uniforms.

They blocked the main road and also burnt tyres before being persuaded by the police to disperse—(KNO)

Dullo Chairs Meeting For Fodder Development In JK

Stresses On The Promotion Of Latest High Tech Technologies Among Farmers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo on Thursday chaired a meeting to discuss the roadmap for fodder development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting discussed status of fodder in J&K, common fodder crops grown, modern trends in fodder cultivation and processing. Interventions required for highland pasture development in J&K and the role of CSS-National Livestock Mission in mitigation of fodder scarcity in J&K was also highlighted.

At the outset, it was given out that J&K has a huge repository of livestock, there are 24.57 lakh cattle, 6.90 lakh buffaloes, 45 lakh sheep and goats and 72.3 lakh backyard poultry birds. Livestock sector is emerging as important growth leverage to J&K's economy. Agriculture & allied Sectors including Forestry / Livestock/Fisheries contributed 15% to State GSDP. It was further given out that agriculture and allied sectors sustain the livelihood of about 70 % of population of the UT.

While chairing the meet-

ing, Atal Dulloo stressed on breeder seed production of improved fodder varieties, seed multiplication and optimum SRR with a target to increase 20 to 30 % production in the area already available for fodder cultivation. He directed the officers to put in place various procedures and policy enablers so that farmers from Jammu and Kashmir are provided with the best available resources to further increase their income.

ACS stressed on the promotion of latest high tech technologies like hydroponic fodder making and use of chaff cutter as chaffed fodder becomes more palatable and is 100% consumed. He took inputs/ feedback for beneficiary-oriented Fodder Development Scheme for dairy development in UT of J&K.

Atal Dulloo further said that awareness of farmers regarding best feeding practices and fodder cultivation practices is a solution towards fodder development in J&K.

It was given out in the meeting that incentive to fodder growers and linking them to silage making entrepreneurs and establishment of fodder banks- can be established in government farm lands on pilot basis.

Govt Deploys ADC Shopian As Head Of ICCC Till Completion Of Amarnath Yatra

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday deployed Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Shopian as head of Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC) till the completion of Amarnath Yatra.

According to an order issued under number 708-JK(GAD) of 2022, dated 16-06-2022, Principal Secretary to the government, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, said, "In the interest of administration, the services of Mr. Mushtaq Ah-

mad, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian is hereby placed at the disposal of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir for his further deployment to Integrated Command Control centre (ICCC), HMT, Srinagar to head the Centre till completion of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2022. "

During the period of his deployment, Mr. Manzoor Hussain, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Shopian, shall hold the additional charge of the post of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, the order reads

K.C. Hyundai Unveils ‘New Hyundai Venue’ In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The "New Hyundai Venue" was unveiled at K.C.Hyundai, the first and leading Hyundai dealership of J&K, by Mr.Harsh Gautam of HMIL alongwith Raju Chowdhary –MD KC Group, and Sohail Khan-CEO K.C. Hyundai in presence of Mr. Ali Mohammad Dar, Mr.Asif Shah, Mr. Sheikh Ruhail, Mr.Shabeer Ahmad Barati, Mr. Asif Rashid, Mr.Aijaz Ashraf Mattoo, Mr.Tanveer Ahmad Mir and a huge gathering of respectable delegates from media fraternity, Bankers, dignitaries, esteemed customers and all staff members during an impressive launching ceremony here in Srinagar.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Harsh Gautam, TSM-NRO-1, Hyundai Motor India Ltd., said, "Hyundai VENUE has had a stellar success in India ever since its launch in 2019. Customers from across the country have been thrilled by its futuristic design, advanced technology and powerful performance.

With the new Hyundai VENUE, we will set the bar even higher. Driven by the aspirations of Gen MZ customers, the new



Hyundai VENUE is set to enthrall customers with many first in segment technologies that offer an unparalleled experience, for instance, customers can now control many car functions through Home to car (H2C) with Alexa & Google Voice Assistant; 60+ Blue-linkConnected features; and 2 Step Rear Reclining Seat. We are confident that the new Hyundai VENUE will build on the strong brand legacy and amplify the Hyundai SUV Life for unmatched customer delight."


The new Hyundai VENUE

will provide customers Enhanced Connectivity and enable them to control vehicle functions right from the comfort of their homes. Customers can control multiple functions while also being able to check vehicle status through Home to car (H2C) with Alexa & Google Voice Assistant. The features can be controlled with voice support for English and Hindi Language. With Home to car (H2C), customers will be able to use functions such as:

- Remote Climate Control
- Remote Door Lock/Unlock

- Remote Vehicle Status Check
- Find My Car
- Tire Pressure Information
- Fuel Level Information
- Speed Alert
- Time Fencing (Out-of-Time) Alert
- Idle Time Alert

The new Hyundai VENUE has also been equipped with Drive Mode Select for a versatile driving performance with the choice of Normal, Eco and Sport modes. With the choice of different drive modes customers can enjoy a dynamic, sporty yet comfortable and economical driving experience. Further enhancing the comfort quotient on the new Hyundai VENUE, the SUV offers rear seat passengers a superlative ride experience with features such as 1st in Segment 2 Step Rear Reclining Seat. With the flexibility of choosing their ideal seating posture, rear seat occupants can enjoy an even more comfortable journey in the new Hyundai VENUE. The new Hyundai VENUE will also boast of a soothing acoustic sound feature, with Sounds of Nature (1st in Segment)offering customers a serene driving experience, be it in city traffic or on open highways.



आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड/ IREL (India) Limited

(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम-परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग)

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1) स्नातक प्रशिक्षु (वित्त) / Graduate Trainee (Finance)

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3) डिप्लोमा प्रशिक्षु (तकनीकी) / Diploma Trainee (Technical)

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(Mining/Chemical/Mechanical/Electrical/Civil/Electronics and Instrumentation)

4) कनिष्ठ पर्यवेक्षक (राजभाषा) / Junior Supervisor (Rajbhasha)

5) निजी सचिव / Personal Secretary

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GGHSI Amira Kadal Organises 'Sports Day'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Govt Girls Higher Secondary Institute (GGHSI) Amira Kadal on Thursday organised a sports event titled 'Sports Day' to facilitate those students who have brought laurels to this institution and to the entire J&K by winning medals in International and National Sports events.

On the occasion, the Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Dr Tasaduq Hussain Mir who was chief guest at the event also inaugurated the Atal Tinkering Lab. Besides, CEO Srinagar Manzoor Kumar was guest of honour.

It was informed that the ethos and idea of establishment of Atal Tinkering Lab is to develop scientific temper in the students and to lay foundation for developing future budding scientists among these students. The whole day

was full of activities and participants were overwhelmingly enthusiastic and zealous.

The esteemed Principal of School, Afifa Qureshi played host for the entire event. The culture cultivated and nurtured students of school kept hustle and bustle alive till the last moment.

The limelight of the event was Scooty Salute given to the guests followed by 100 metre race, sack race, spoon race witnessing tough competition among the participants.

Other activities like Three Leg race, Martial arts demonstration, Karate and Judo demonstration and other activities kept guests spell bound and participants appreciated wholeheartedly each moment which included SMDC members and Parent association.

The DSEK appreciated organisers and school authorities in general.

India Face SA In Another Must-Win Game



Press Trust of India

RAJKOT: Under pressure India skipper Rishabh Pant will be hoping to tide over his struggles with the bat and help the hosts improve their middle overs play when they take on South Africa in the fourth T20 International here on Friday.

Save Pant's problems, India were able to plug the gaps in Vizag to open their account in the series with a comprehensive win. They will need another near perfect game to take the five-match series into the decider.

Such has been the brilliance of Pant that every time he has been written off across formats, he has found a way to bounce back.

The stage is set for him in another must-win game for India.

The hosts had got off to an electric start in the last game with Ruturaj Gaikwad finding some much-needed runs and complementing Ishan Kishan who has made a good case for being India's reserve opener in the long run, including in the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year.

The two will be looking to make the most of the remaining two games, followed by a couple in Ireland, before the regular openers walk back into the playing eleven.

India rely on their spinners in the middle overs and the biggest positive out of the last game was the performance of Yuzvendra

Chahal and Axar Patel.

While Axar kept it tidy, Chahal bore the fruits of bowling slower through the air. The turn and dip that deserted him in the earlier games was back and he looked at his threatening best.

In the pace department, the seasoned Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been remarkably consistent. Avesh Khan has not gone for a lot of runs but is yet to take a wicket in the series while Harshal Patel, who relies on his variations to be effective, found his rhythm in Vizag and ended up with a four-wicket haul.

The South Africans, on the other hand, would back themselves to win the next game and seal the series. They currently lead 2-1.

Anrich Nortje In Relentless Pursuit Of The 'Missing Ingredient'



Press Trust of India

RAJKOT: South African speedster Anrich Nortje says he remains a work in progress and is constantly trying to find the 'missing ingredient' in his bowling after coming back from a long injury lay-off.

Nortje was out of action for six months after the T20 World Cup last year. He had bowled exceptionally well in the 2020-2021 IPL season before being sidelined due to a stress fracture.

Alongside Kagiso Rabada, Nortje formed arguably the most potent fast bowling pairing in the IPL for Delhi Capitals

in IPL 2021.

Delhi Capitals chose to retain him ahead of Rabada but when he made a comeback to this year's IPL, Nortje was not the same bowler.

"I am still not there. I am still working on it, still trying to find one or two things. Body wise I am still not 100 percent, slowly building it up. I would probably rate myself from where I was at the end of IPL last year and start of T20 World Cup. Still trying to get there," said Nortje in Rajkot on Thursday, on eve of the fourth ODI.

Nortje was putting in the hard yards ahead of the fourth

T20 International against India. He bowled at the centre wicket for a while alongside Dwaine Pretorius and spinner Tabraiz Shamsi.

So, what exactly is missing from his bowling?

"If I knew exactly what it was, I would have done it (laughs). It is going to be a minor adjustment. I generally keep it simple. I am working on something at this stage and we will see how it goes.

"It is not like it is completely out of shape. It is about small margins for me and I would like to get back to where I was," said the 28-year-old.

Qatar Airways Posts Record \$1.5B Profits Ahead Of World Cup

Agencies

DUBAI: Qatar Airways, one of the Mideast's largest carriers known for on-board comfort and luxury, said Thursday its profits over the past fiscal year topped \$1.5 billion, marking the highest ever earnings for the state-owned carrier as it prepares to see a record surge in travellers for the upcoming FIFA World Cup soccer games.

Qatar Airways operates out of a gleaming new airport in the capital, Doha, on the eastern coastline of the Arabian Peninsula, where the World Cup will be held for the first time in the Middle East later this year.

The airline says revenue reached \$14.4 billion, up 78% compared to last year. It carried 18.5 million passengers during the 2021-22 fiscal year, a more than 200% jump from the previous year.

It's a sharp reversal for the airline, which suffered a staggering net loss of \$4.1 billion in the previous fiscal cycle due to the coronavirus pandemic and the grounding of its Airbus A380 and A330 wide-body jets.

The airline's fortunes also reflect a world in which many nations have rolled out successful vaccine campaigns, allowing



travel to pick back up.

Qatar Airways was buoyed during the pandemic's hardest months with a \$3 billion lifeline from the Qatari government that helped keep its operations afloat as it struggled with long-haul travel restrictions wrought on by the virus. Its main competitor, Dubai's flagship Emirates Airline, also received a multibillion-dollar payment by the Dubai government during the pandemic. The two airlines serve as key economic mainstays for their respective countries, which rely heavily on tourists and transit passengers.

The airline, however, says this year's "record earnings are the result of decisions made during the pandemic to expand the Qatar Airways' passenger and cargo networks", including a more accurate forecast of the global market recovery and strong cost control.

The 25-year-old airline flies to more than 140 destinations, including Atlanta's Hartsfield, where it competes with Delta for international travellers at the world's busiest airport for passenger traffic.

The airline's brand is already

familiar to European soccer fans, where it has partnerships with FC Bayern München and Paris Saint-Germain. In the United States, it has a brand partnership with the Brooklyn Nets.

PCB Wants Discussions On IPL's Window In ICC's Next FTP Calendar



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) wants discussion with other Boards on the proposed dedicated two and half month window for IPL in ICC's next FTP calendar as they feel it could have an adverse effect on various international series.

Pakistan board's reaction came a day after BCCI secretary Jay Shah's exclusive interview to the PTI, where he stated that the Indian board will be getting a "two and a half month window" for the IPL in ICC's next FTP cycle starting from 2024 till 2031.

"From the next FTP cycle, IPL will have an official two-and-a-half month window so that all the top international cricketers can participate. We have had discussions with various boards as well as the ICC," Shah said in an exclusive interview to PTI.

The PCB feels that the matter needs discussion.

"The ICC board meeting will be held during the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in July and this matter will probably be discussed there," a PCB source said.

The PCB official said that

while the PCB was happy to see the money coming into cricket, however, the BCCI's plans to totally book the top international players for the IPL every year could have an adverse effect on international bilateral series.

"Mr Jay Shah has said the BCCI is committed to international bilateral cricket but with so many leagues cropping up and the IPL planning expansion this has to be discussed among the cricket boards," the PCB official added.

Pakistani players have not been included in the IPL auctions after the first edition since the Mumbai terror attack in 2008.

While several Pakistani cricketers took part in the inaugural edition of the Indian Premier League, but since then, they have not been included to be part of the cash-rich league nor does the BCCI played any bilateral series with Pakistan due to the tense cross-border relationship.

Many cricket analysts and critics see the enormous money channelised into the IPL in the latest media rights as something that will eventually change the face of international cricket with the ongoing FTP calendar ending with the 2023 World Cup in India.

New Zealand's Conway Tests COVID Positive



Agencies

LONDON: After captain Kane Williamson and Michael Bracewell, New Zealand batter Devon Conway has also tested positive for COVID-19, New Zealand Cricket said on Thursday.

"Conway undertook a PCR test on arrival in London on Wednesday evening in preparation for a team activity," New Zealand Cricket said in a statement.

The rest of the touring party have returned negative results and will continue following the tour health protocols of symptom reporting and subsequent testing if required. No replacements player are being sorted at this stage.

Earlier on Wednesday, NZC also confirmed that all-rounder Michael Bracewell tested positive

for COVID-19 and is in isolation.

"He joins all-rounder Michael Bracewell and support staff personnel Vijay Vallabh (physio) and Chris Donaldson (strength & conditioning) as members of the tour party to have tested positive on Wednesday."

The three will travel separately from the team to Leeds on Sunday and providing they recover as expected will be able to join the team for training at Headingley on Tuesday, ahead of the third and final Test, which begins in Leeds on June 23.

There are speculations that Kiwi skipper Williamson will join the team for the Leeds Test as he has completed his isolation.

England have already sealed the three-match series 2-0 after winning the first two games in Lord's and Nottingham. (ANI)

ICC Retains Menon In Elite Panel

Set for maiden neutral umpire appearance in Sri Lanka

Press Trust of India

RAJKOT: India's Nitin Menon has retained his place in the ICC Elite Panel and is set to make his maiden appearance as a neutral umpire in Sri Lanka later this month.

A BCCI official told PTI that Menon has got a one-year extension from the International Cricket Council.

The 38-year-old from Indore remains the only Indian in the 11-member Elite Panel of Umpires.

The ICC recently gave a one-year extension to Menon who has been our leading umpire over the last three to four years. You will also see him making his debut as a neutral umpire later this month, the official told PTI. Menon was promoted to the Elite Panel at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, becoming the third Indian to enter the club after S Venkataraghavan and S Ravi.

However, Menon was limited to officiating international matches only within India with the ICC allowing local umpires due to the travel restrictions in place.

With COVID-19 on the wane, the governing body has resumed normal service with Australian Paul



Reiffel currently performing duties in England's home series against New Zealand.

After completing his duties in the ongoing five-match T20 series between India and South Africa, Menon is set to travel to Sri Lanka for the home team's two-Test series against Australia, beginning June 29 in Galle.

There is no change in the Elite Panel and besides Menon, it includes Aleem Dar from Pakistan, Chris Gaffaney from New Zealand, Kumara Dharmasena from Sri Lanka, Marais Erasmus from South Africa, Michael Gough, Richard Illingworth and Richard Kettleborough (all three from England), Paul Reiffel and Rod Tucker from Australia and Joel Wilson from the West Indies.

Dani Alves Leaves Barcelona For 2nd Time

Agencies

BARCELONA: Dani Alves is leaving Barcelona for a second time, five months after the veteran Brazil right back returned to the Spanish club he helped lead to 23 titles.

The 39-year-old Alves played for Barcelona from 2008-16, winning the Champions League three times and six Spanish leagues among other trophies. He started a second stint with Barcelona in January as a free agent on a contract that expired this summer.

Alves scored one goal in 17 appearances last season, which Barcelona ended without a title. He finished his Barcelona career with 408 appearances in total, the second most for a non-Spaniard behind Lionel Messi.

"I would like to thank all the coaching staff for the opportunity they gave me to give something back to this club and wear this marvellous shirt again," Alves wrote on Instagram. "I hope you don't miss my crazy-



ness and daily dose of happiness too much."

Alves has also played for Paris Saint-Germain, Juventus and Sevilla. He did not say what his future plans are. He has said he hopes to make Brazil's squad for the World Cup in Qatar. (AP)