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Quote!

Modest doubt is called the beacon of the wise

-Shakespeare

NEWS DIGEST

Train Crushes Man To Death

Jammu: A 40-year-old unidentified man was killed after being hit by a train on the outskirts of Jammu on Saturday, an official of the Government Railway Police said. The man was hit by Shalimar Express on the railway track near Channi around 8.30 am and he died on the spot, the official said. The body was shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) for post-mortem and identification.

J&K Reports 27 New Covid Cases

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported 27 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, taking the infection tally to 4,54,469, officials said. Of the total cases, 19 were reported from Jammu division and eight from Kashmir valley, they said. There are 141 active Covid cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,49,576, they said. The COVID-19 death toll stands at 4,752 in Jammu and Kashmir as no fresh fatality linked to the **More on P6**

Youth Allegedly Hangs Self To Death

Srinagar: A youth on Saturday evening allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in Arampora locality of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. An official said that a 27-year-old youth (name withheld) a resident of Arampora Sopore allegedly hanged himself inside his room in this evening. He said that his family members immediately rushed him to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Meanwhile, Sopore police have taken cognizance of the incident and registered a case while further investigations have also been taken up—(KNO)

Elderly Man Killed In Road Accident

Srinagar: A man, believed to be in his 60's, was killed after being hit by a car in Rafiabad area of Baramulla district, officials said on Saturday afternoon. They said that a car bearing registration number JK05E-3778 hit the individual at Watergam Rafiabad leading to his instant death. The body, whose identity couldn't be immediately ascertained, was lifted to PHC Dangiawacha for medico-legal formalities, they further said. Meanwhile a police official confirming the incident to a local news agency GNS said that soon after **More on P6**

Police Officer Shot Dead In Pulwama

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A police officer was shot dead by unidentified militants inside his paddy fields in Samboora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said Saturday.

Sub-Inspector Farooq Ahmad Mir, a resident of Samboora in Pampore, was shot dead by militants on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, a police spokesperson said. Mir was shot dead by militants inside his paddy fields, just a walking distance from his home.

"Dead body of Farooq Ah Mir of Samboora Si(M) posted in IRP 23 BN was found in paddy fields near his home. Preliminary investigation reveals that he had left his home for work in his paddy fields yesterday in the evening, where he was shot dead by #terrorists



using a pistol," Kashmir Zone Police tweeted.

The deceased police officer is survived by an aged father and three children, including two daughters. His eldest daughter is studying MBBS in Bangladesh and the younger one in class 12th. His son is a class 7th student.

Mir was appointed as constable in the police department in the **More on P6**

Bad Weather Forces Troops To Call Off Kulgam Ops After 5 Days

The security forces on Saturday called off the operation at Mishipora-Kujjar area of Yaripora hamlet of Kulgam after five days, officials said. The operation was called off due to bad weather conditions, they said. News agency KNO quoting an **More on P6**

IED Defused on Handwara Highway

Security forces on Saturday detected and defused an IED along Baramulla-Handwara highway in Ganapora area of Langate, officials said Saturday. Soon after the suspicious device was detected, police rushed to the spot and subsequently called a bomb disposal squad (BDS)," the officials said. "Later the BDS team of army's 30-RR blasted the suspicious object at about 9:23 am **More on P6**

Dr Farooq Pulls Out Of Presidential Race

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah Saturday withdrew his name as the potential joint opposition candidate for the upcoming presidential elections, saying he has a "lot more active politics" ahead of him, and that he wanted to contribute in navigating the Union Territory through the current "critical juncture".

The 84-year-old Abdullah is the second political person after Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar to have withdrawn their names as probable opposition nominee for the July elections.

Abdullah's statement comes ahead of a scheduled meeting of opposition parties in Mumbai to discuss their **More on P6**

Amarnath Yatra: Elaborate Security Check Conducted In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: With the annual Amarnath yatra less than a fortnight away, authorities Saturday checked the security and other arrangements along the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway for the pilgrims, officials said.

Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh led a convoy of 20 security vehicles this morning from Jammu to Banihal -- the gateway to Kashmir -- as part of what official described was a "trial run" for the yatra's security.

The officials said all arrangements including security made by the Jammu,



A milkman rides his bicycle in the backdrop of snow-capped mountains of the Pir Panjal range that received rare snowfall on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Rare June Snowfall Brings Respite From Heat Wave

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: After reeling under intense heat for over a week, Kashmir Valley was treated with a pleasant surprise on Saturday as the higher reaches received rare snowfall and the plains a bout of heavy rainfall.

The fresh spell of rain and snowfall in the upper regions, especially the famous tourist resort of Gulmarg and Ganderbal in Central Kashmir has also led to a drop in the temperature across the

Valley. Light snowfall was also reported from around the Amarnath cave including Panjtarni. The Amarnath cave area recorded 1 to 2 inches of

snow accumulation.

However, the officials from the weather department termed the fresh snowfall as a "rare" meteorological event

Rains Trigger Landslide, Block Banihal Highway

A fresh landslide, triggered by rains, Saturday blocked Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded, officials said. The landslide struck the 270-km highway, the only all weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, around 1.30 pm at Samroli, forcing suspension of the traffic from both sides, the officials said. They said the concerned road clearance agencies **More on P6**

but "not unusual".

Mukhtar Ahmed, Deputy Director of India Meteorological Department (IMD) office in Srinagar told Kashmir Observer that the rare snow was recorded in higher reaches of Gulmarg, Shopian, Pahalgam and Ganderbal.

"Snow in June in the upper parts of the valley is obviously a rare event but that doesn't mean it's unusual. It has happened in the past and quite certainly, will happen in future **More on P6**

Curfew Relaxed For 12 Hours In Bhandarwah

Educational Institutions Likely To Reopen On Monday

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Curfew was relaxed for 12 hours from 7 am in Jammu and Kashmir's Bhandarwah on Saturday as the overall situation in the town, which witnessed communal tension days ago, remained peaceful, officials said.

Curfew was imposed in Bhandarwah in Doda district on June 9 following communal tension in the wake of protests over derogatory remarks by now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma on Prophet Mohammad (Pbuh) and some social media posts by

local right-wing activists in her support.

Announcing the curfew relaxation from 7 am to 7 pm, the officials said all educational institutions will remain closed for the 10th day on Saturday as a precautionary measure and are likely to reopen on Monday.

Barring Bhandarwah, broadband and mobile internet services were restored in Doda after remaining suspended for nine days. The services are expected to be restored in Bhandarwah after a fresh review of the situation by senior civil and police officers later in the day, they said.

Broadband and mobile internet services were also restored in the nearby Kishtwar district, they added.

Police vehicles **More on P6**

How 'Marriages Made In Heaven' Are Struggling For Second Chance

Tabia Masoodi

Amid the chants and cries, Romaisha's husband was laid to rest leaving his bride of a few months all alone. While she was sitting numb and lost, her family wondered about her and the baby in her womb.

Romaisha's husband was killed in an encounter just within six months of their marriage. Widowed just at the age of 18, she couldn't comprehend the situation. All she wanted was the support of her family in particular and society in general.

But all she received was harsh judgments and cruel stares. After the birth of her child, her life became more miserable.

"It felt like I was an outcast in a place that I once called home," said Romaisha. "The friends were not my friends anymore.

Relatives were the first to leave all because I was a militant's widow. I was called names like I might have any association with anything. Our society is hypocritical, they say it is a collective cause but the pain is always personal. I would have married again and started my life again. I was just 18-year-old."

For the next 18 years, Romaisha raised her daughter all alone. The life that she could have started in her 20s, took 18 long years of loneliness, desolation and abandonment because society made it difficult for her.

While in Romaisha's case her second husband accepted his daughter with all the love, not all are lucky enough to have the same faith in their kids. Mostly, women have to think about whether their children will have a place after they re-marry. The



same concern made Afroza take a big decision.

She married the love of her life in her 20s and flew to Dubai with him to start a life she has been dreaming about for years.

But little did Afroza know the dream was short-lived. In just a few weeks of her marriage, she felt alone. She didn't fit anywhere in his lifestyle.

In the first few months, she

THE FRIENDS WERE NOT MY FRIENDS ANYMORE. RELATIVES WERE THE FIRST to leave all because I was a militant's widow. I was called names like I might have any association with anything. Our society is hypocritical, they say it is a collective cause but the pain is always personal. I would have married again and started my life again. I was just 18-year-old."

tried everything from going out of her way to fit in to talking to him and making him understand that married life is different from bachelor's life. "He turned a deaf ear to all that I was saying," said Afroza, disheartened. "I could have never imagined he would do this to me. It feels like I was blind all these years. How could I not comprehend this before?"

The situation never got mended, so Afroza decided to

move back to her parent's home in Kashmir. She had her little daughter with her and parted ways with her husband.

With that, the most brutal phase of her life started. People started mocking her for her divorce, especially because she had a love marriage. But it didn't just stop there.

When her parents started to find another match for her, the mocking and name-calling increased. Even **More on P6**

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Scientists Craft Sweaty, Self-Healing Living Human Skin For Robots

IAN5

Scientists from Japan have brought us one step closer to human-like robots by crafting living human skin on robots which gave their fingers skin-like texture, as well as water-repellent and self-healing functions.

While current silicone skin made for robots can mimic human appearance, it falls short when it comes to delicate textures like wrinkles and lacks skin-specific functions.

"The (new) finger looks slightly 'sweaty' straight out of the culture medium," said first author Shoji Takeuchi, Professor at the University of Tokyo, Japan.

"Since the finger is driven by an electric motor, it is also interesting to hear the clicking sounds of the motor in harmony with a finger that looks just like a real one," he added. In the paper, presented in the journal Matter, Takeuchi noted that to efficiently cover surfaces with skin cells, they established a tissue moulding method to directly mould skin tissue around the robot, which resulted in a seamless skin coverage on a robotic



finger.

To craft the skin, the team first submerged the robotic finger in a cylinder filled with a solution of collagen and human dermal fibroblasts, the two main components that make up the skin's connec-

tive tissues.

Takeuchi said the study's success lies within the natural shrinking tendency of this collagen and fibroblast mixture, which shrank and tightly conformed to the finger. Like paint primers, this layer

provided a uniform foundation for the next coat of cells -- human epidermal keratinocytes -- to stick to. These cells make up 90 per cent of the outermost layer of skin, giving the robot a skin-like texture and moisture-retain-

ing barrier properties.

The crafted skin had enough strength and elasticity to bear the dynamic movements as the robotic finger curled and stretched.

When wounded, the crafted skin could even self-heal like humans' with the help of a collagen bandage, which gradually morphed into the skin and withstood repeated joint movements.

"We are surprised by how well the skin tissue conforms to the robot's surface," said Takeuchi. "But this work is just the first step toward creating robots covered with living skin." However, the developed skin is much weaker than natural skin and can't survive long without constant nutrient supply and waste removal.

Next, Takeuchi and his team plan to address those issues and incorporate more sophisticated functional structures within the skin, such as sensory neurons, hair follicles, nails, and sweat glands.

"I think living skin is the ultimate solution to give robots the look and touch of living creatures since it is exactly the same material that covers animal bodies," said Takeuchi.

از غیابت اجت ناگ با اجلاس انگریزیکلیکے جسریت درجاول
مضمون درخواست غائب: امتیاز احمد وانی ولد غلام وانی ساکن نرمل بالا تحصیل و ضلع اجت ناگ
بغرض حصول: ڈیپنڈنسی سرٹیفیکٹ

احضار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ کی نسبت پٹاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے۔ جبکہ رو سے سال کا پاپ غلام وانی مورخہ
06/06/2022 کوٹ ہوا ہے۔ دستوں کے وارثان کا کوئی تفصیل بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	رشتہ برادر ہوتی	پیشہ	عمر
01	شریفہ بیگم بیوہ غلام وانی	بیوہ ہوتی	گھریلو کام	58 سال
02	امتیاز احمد وانی ولد غلام وانی	پسر ہوتی	سیلز مین	39 سال
03	شیرازہ اختر دختر غلام وانی	دختر ہوتی (شادی شدہ)	گھریلو کام	37 سال
04	تسلیمہ اختر دختر غلام وانی	دختر ہوتی (شادی شدہ)	گھریلو کام	35 سال

اسطورہ توف کے صرف چار وارثان پر مشتمل ہیں۔ ان کے علاوہ ہوتی کا کوئی وارثان موجود نہیں ہے۔ اسطور
سال لیکل ہیر سرٹیفیکٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ دفتر پڑائیں
سات دن کے اندر اندر رجسٹر کریں۔ بعد از معیار ملنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
(تحریر الصدا انگریزیکلیکے جسریت درجاول)

از غیابت اجت ناگ با اجلاس انگریزیکلیکے جسریت درجاول
مضمون درخواست غائب: امتیاز احمد وانی ولد غلام وانی ساکن نرمل بالا تحصیل و ضلع اجت ناگ
بغرض حصول: ڈیپنڈنسی سرٹیفیکٹ

احضار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ کی نسبت پٹاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے۔ جبکہ رو سے سال کا پاپ غلام وانی مورخہ
06/06/2022 کوٹ ہوا ہے۔ دستوں کے ڈیپنڈنسی تفصیل بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	رشتہ برادر ہوتی	پیشہ	عمر
01	شریفہ بیگم بیوہ غلام وانی	بیوہ ہوتی	گھریلو کام	58 سال
02	امتیاز احمد وانی ولد غلام وانی	پسر ہوتی	سیلز مین	39 سال

اسطورہ توف کے صرف دو ہی ڈیپنڈنسی موجود ہیں۔ ان کے علاوہ ہوتی کا کوئی ڈیپنڈنسی موجود نہیں ہے۔
شریفہ بیگم بیوہ غلام وانی بابت ڈیپنڈنسی (Pension Case) افزیز پیدامیاز احمد وانی ولد غلام وانی
بابت ڈیپنڈنسی (SRO 43) فوری حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ اسطورہ سال ڈیپنڈنسی سرٹیفیکٹ
حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ دفتر پڑائیں سات دن کے اندر اندر رجسٹر
کریں۔ بعد از معیار ملنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
(تحریر الصدا انگریزیکلیکے جسریت درجاول)

رنا

اِنَّا لِلّٰہِ وَاِنَّا اِلَیْہِ رَاجِعُونَ

رسم چہارم

یہ خبر نہایت دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ محمد
قاسم وڈوا بن غلام محمد وڈوا ساکنہ گروباغ بادام
واری جول 18 جون 2022 کو اس
دارالافتا سے رحلت کر گئے۔ مرحوم صومو
صلو کے باندہ، بلند اخلاق کے مالک اور
ایک نیک اور فاضل انسان تھے۔ مرحوم کی

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مقبرہ واقع گروباغ بادام واری میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ اس کے بعد
تقریر تجلی مجلس کا سلسلہ ان کے گھر پر دن بھر جاری رہے گا۔

سوگواران:

۱. شبیر حسین وڈو ۲. محمد مقبول وڈو ۳. غلام حسین
رابطہ نمبرات 7889585287 | 9797882135

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I Fayaz Ahmad Wagay R/o Khanabal Anantnag in my daughters' passport Regd No: R6099259. Her mother's name and date of birth has been wrongly mentioned as Shameema Akhter & D.O.B 09/12/2004. Now I want to change the same as per Academic Records i.e. SHAMIMA AKHTAR AND D.O.B 09/12/2005. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office Regional Passport office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: FAYAZ AHMAD WAGAY
F/O: MEHREENA FAYAZ
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Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name: 1: Unnati- Towards a Better Future Scholarship	in/observer/FAE6
Description: CNH Industrial is inviting scholarship applications from underprivileged students who are studying in classes 8 to 10 and first-year ITI/Diploma courses.	Scholarship Name: 3: GEV Memorial Merit Scholarship 2022-23 for Law Students
Eligibility: Open for residents of Noida, Delhi, and Gurugram only. Students must be studying in classes 8 to 10 or first year of the ITI/Diploma program. Annual family income of the applicants must not be more than INR 5 lakhs from all sources.	Description: GEV Scholarship Fund Trust invites applications from students pursuing law courses at undergraduate or postgraduate level in India. The scholarship aims to provide financial support to meritorious law students and help them pursue a quality legal education at premier Indian institutes.
Prizes & Rewards: For Classes 8 to 10 - INR 12,000 for 3 years For Diploma/ITI students - INR 18,000 for 2 years Last Date to Apply: 31-07-2022 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/UTF2	Eligibility: The scholarship is open for Indian nationals only. They must



Scholarship Name: 2: FAEA Scholarship 2022-23	be already enrolled in any year of an LLB/LLM degree course at a recognized law institute in India or applying for CLAT, LSAT-India, AILET. The students are required to have scored a minimum of 60% in Class X and XII board exams. They must have an annual family income of not more than INR 10,00,000 (10 lakh) from all sources. Also, they must be willing to sign-up for scholarship fund's annual mentorship programs to assist and nurture the next batches of GEV Merit Scholars.
Description: FAEA Scholarship 2022-23 is an opportunity offered by the Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access (FAEA) to Class 12 passed/1st-year undergraduate students in Arts/Commerce/Science/Engineering and other technical and professional disciplines at any university/institution/college in India.	Prizes & Rewards: INR 50,000 to INR 2,00,000 per year Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2022 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/GMM4
Eligibility: Open for candidates who have passed Class XII from a recognized board in India/1st-year undergraduate students.	
Prizes & Rewards: Variable awards Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2022 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/GMM4	

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

SPECIAL SUB DIVISION GUREZ

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NITNo. 17/REW/2022-23/EE/SSDG/2710-19/E-tendering/Dated:-16-06-2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Development of Graveyard at Buglinder A with Chain link Fencing Block Tulail.	12.28	600	25 days	24560	DDC/BDC/ PRI Grants	DEE/CEE/BEE
2	Development of Graveyard at Hussangam with Chain link Fencing Buglinder-A Block Tulail.	10.84	600	25 days	21680	DDC/BDC/ PRI Grants	DEE/CEE/BEE
3	Repair / Renovation of Govt. Middle School Building at Badugam Shot Tulail.	5.00	300	15 days	10000	DDC/BDC/ PRI Grants	DEE/CEE
4	Construction of Tourist Hut phase-I at Badwan Block Gurez Halqa Badwan	23.30	800	40 days	46600	DDC/BDC/ PRI Grants	CEE/BEE
5	Construction of School Building at S Kilshay Zadigay -A Block Tulail	16.69	800	30 days	33380	DDC/BDC/ PRI Grants	CEE/BEE
6	Cutting and Widening of Nalla at Zadigay-B with create Bund Block Tulail.	3.31	200	15 days	6620	DDC/BDC/ PRI Grants	DEE

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	16-06-2022 (10:00AM)
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 16-06-2022 (04:00PM) To 24-06-2022 (10:00AM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 16-06-2022 (04:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 24-06-2022 (05:00 PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	24-06-2022 (10:00AM)

In the office of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez Major Head 0515-Rev/Misc [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dtd 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez (Tender receiving Authority).

2. All bidders have to pay 2% of advertised cost of the work as earnest money deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez at the time of uploading of tender.

3. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract value as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/pledged to Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP.

1. Special Condition: As per Govt. Order No: 238 -FD OF 2021 Dated : 07-09-2021 Participation/Allotments of works can be limited to members of Gram Sabha of each panchayat upto amount of 3.00 lacs only and participants should be registered with District Development Commissioner BANDIPORA No Objection Certificate/ Bio Data for e- Tender Note: The below details are required for e-tendering participation in Panchayat (Annexure A)

2. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez.

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.

4. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website Error! Hyperlink reference not valid. acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

a. Abnormal/ bad weather or serious loss or damage by fire or civil commotion, strike or lockout (other than among the labour engaged by the contractor) affecting any or the trade employed on the work, or non-availability of departmental stores. Any other cause which in the absolute discretion of the accepting authorities is beyond the contractor's desire.

b. On contractor's representation based on the grounds as detailed above the time for completion of the work may be extended by a period considered reasonable by the Department.

c. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

5. The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirement a/s laid down in NIT

All other terms and conditions are as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-4248/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer



Srinagar Craft Safari Completes Ninth Edition

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir on Saturday continued the Craft Safari post recognition of Srinagar as the UNESCO creative city in the field of Craft and Folk Art in the ninth edition. The team of the officers from the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Intellectuals, Academic Scholars, Journalists, Tour operators, Students and people from other fields completed



today's safari defying the rains in the Zadibal area of Srinagar City. The Safari started from Jalali House Donipark Zadibal.

The team continued the 9th edition of the much anticipated safari to the workplaces of Bashir Ahmad Jan, Showkat Ali, Suhail Abbas, Altaf Hussain, Mohammad Shafi Dar, Mohammad Afzal Bhatoo, Abdul Majeed Dar and Mohammad Akhtar Mir which run the units of Sozni, Pashmina Weaving, Carpet Washing, Carpet Rafugari, Sozni Embroidery, Carpet Weaving, Paper Pulp and Paper Mache, respectively in the adjoining areas of Zadibal belt of Srinagar.

After traversing the lanes and bylanes amid heavy rainfall the team then concluded the Safari by visiting the Imam Bada to see the marvellous combination of Khatamband with paper mache work on it.

Speaking on the peripheries of the safari the Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir Tariq Ahmad Zargar characterized the artisans of Kashmir as versatile with diverse skills considering the fact that Srinagar city known for its cultural heritage and eternal assortment of arts and crafts has a treasure of handcrafted artefacts which add to the city's pride of being a symbol of heritage.

Maiden Fire Fighting Facility Inaugurated At Nigeen Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Nigeen Lake on Saturday witnessed its first firefighting facility launch at Nigeen club. Divisional Commissioner P.K. Pole was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

According to statement, in the recent times, gruesome fire incidents numerous heritage properties were reduced to ashes.

The statement reads that the absence of aquatic fire tenders were deeply felt by the houseboat owners.

Nigeen Tourist Traders Association (NTTA) chairman Manzoor

Ahmad Wangnoo expressed his satisfaction and happiness on the inauguration.

He said that this initiative will go a long way in helping the houseboat owners during any untoward incident especially in case of fire.

The inauguration was attended by houseboat owners, stakeholders, NTTA members and officials of Fire & Emergency and department of Tourism.

Speaking on the occasion, P K Pole said that these firefighting boats procured under Smart City Project will greatly help fight any mishap & the F&ES personnel deputed in Ni-

geen Club will be of great help in this regard.

He said that in Dal Lake few boats have already been deployed while as in Nigeen two boats were deployed today.

Meanwhile, director tourism Dr G N Itoo said that the efforts of chairman NTTA are being lauded for his rigorous follow up in getting these firefighting boats issued to Nigeen Lake.

He also hoped that these firefighting boats will now create a sense of relief among the stakeholders especially houseboat owners.

City Road In Shambles, Commuters Aghast

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Commuters have long complained of bumpy rides in Srinagar but authorities have failed to get the roads blacktopped. Usually roads are blacktopped during the start of the summer months but this year authorities have failed to macadamize city roads on time.

"The roads in the city are full of potholes and travelling has become very difficult. Some roads have not been macadamized in the last few years", said Syed Mutahar, a commuter.

"Authorities are delaying macadamization for reasons better known to them" he added.

"Apart from causing problems for local commuters, bad roads in and around the city are maligning the image of Kashmir as a top tourist destination" said Shadab Abbas, a local from Alamgari Bazar.

Chief R&B Chief Engineer Er Rafiq Ahmad Rafiq said the Depart-



ment had to face some issues this year, one of the reasons was the high cost of petroleum products.

Another reason he said was the dispute over rates with the contractors.

"We started the tendering process

in the month of March but the contractors were not comfortable with the rates. So we went for the revision of rates", he said.

"We will complete the macadamization process in one month's time" he said.

FAO Lists SKUAST Global Partner For Sustainable Soil Management

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To promote sustainable soil management (SSM) for food security and climate change mitigation, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir has become the official partner of FAO's Global Soil Partnership (GSP).

The Global Soil Partnership for Food Security and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (GSP) brings together international, regional, and national organizations that are working in the area of soil protection and sustainable management. Launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome on September 7, 2011, the partnership aims to implement the provisions of the 1982 World Soil Charter, and to position soils in the Global Agenda through collective action.

The key objectives are to promote Sustainable Soil Management (SSM) and improve soil governance to guarantee healthy and productive soils for food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development.

Dr Shabir Ahmad Bangroo, Assistant Professor, Division of Soil

Science, Faculty of Horticulture, had moved a formal application on behalf of SKUAST-K for becoming an official partner of GSP, which was screened and approved by the GSP secretariat.

Dr Bangroo, also the coordinator of SKUAST Kashmir – GSP, said the partnership means SKUAST-K will have access to the latest information on soils and sustainable soil management, connection with new partners and stakeholders across sectors, exchange of knowledge and sharing work with others, access to match-making opportunities for GSP project funding and participation in GSP events in the international fora.

Head Division of Soil Science Prof Javed Ahmad Wani said approximately 33% of global soils are degraded and policymakers around the world are exploring opportunities to embrace sustainable development via the SDGs. He said SKUAST-K's Division of Soil Science focuses on addressing these issues at the local, national and international levels.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Gani congratulated the Division of Soil Science for making the partnership a reality and said it will help the university with the relevant resources to work towards soil health in J&K and the country.

Blood Donation Camp Held At DC Office Complex

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To mark 'World Blood Donation Day', District Red Cross Society Srinagar in collaboration with the Health Department Saturday organized a blood donation camp within the premises of DC Office Complex which was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad who is also the Chairman District Red

Cross Society.

During the Camp, about 50 participants including officials of the DC Office, Srinagar, Red Cross Volunteers and local people volunteered to donate the blood.

Speaking on this occasion, the DC urged people to donate blood voluntarily as it is a great service to humanity and helps in saving precious lives. He said that our single drop of blood can save precious lives and we should

participate in such programmes for safeguarding humanity.

While lauding the contribution of Blood Donation Volunteer, Shabir Hussain Khan of Srinagar, who also donated blood on the occasion and has already donated blood 177 times, the DC stressed that every healthy person should come forward and donate their blood for this noble cause to increase the blood capacity in our health system.

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

**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
19- Zil- Qaddah
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 34
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:32
Magrib	7:47
ISHA	9: 29

This Day In History

- 1910 - Father's Day celebrated for 1st time (Spokane, Washington)
- 1917 - The British Royal Family, which has had strong German ties since George I, renounces its German names and titles and adopts the name of Windsor
- 1919 - Opposed to dismemberment of Turkey by the Allies, Mustafa Kemal declares his Turkish Nationalist Congress, headquartered in Ankara, independent of Constantinople
- 1921 - Census held in Great Britain
- 1921 - Turks and Christians of Palestine sign a friendship treaty against Jews
- 1931 - 1st photoelectric cell installed commercially West Haven, Connecticut
- 1940 - German 7th Armoured division under command of Rommel occupies Cherbourg
- 1941 - Romania orders Jews to evacuate Darabani
- 1941 - US President Franklin Roosevelt signs Two Ocean Navy Expansion Act
- 1944 - French troops free Elba
- 1944 - Heavy air raid on US fleet at Guam "Turkey Shoot"
- 1944 - Japanese troops conquer Changsha China
- 1944 - World War II: First day of the 2 day Battle of the Philippine Sea, US naval forces defeat Japanese fleet
- 1948 - Panama and Costa Rica recognize Israel
- 1961 - "Little Egypt (Ying-Yang)" by Coasters peaks at #23
- 1961 - Kuwait declares independence from UK
- 1961 - US Supreme Court struck down a provision in Maryland's constitution requiring state office holders to believe in God
- 1963 - 2 Russian space missions return to Earth
- 1963 - Valentina Tereshkova 1st woman in space returns to Earth
- 1964 - Civil Rights Act of 1964 passes 73-27
- 1965 - Algerian coup under colonel Houari Boumedienne, pres Ben Bella fired
- 1968 - 50,000 participate in Solidarity Day March of Poor People's Campaign
- 1969 - State troopers ordered to Cairo Ill, to quell racial disturbances
- 1970 - A Nikolayev & V Sevastyanov return after 18 days in Soyuz

From KO Archives

'Shocked' Tourist Joins Efforts To Clean Dal

SRINAGAR- A German tourist, who was "shocked" by the levels of 'pollution' in the worlds, famous Dal Lake here, on Sunday joined NGOs cleaning up the water body.

"I am shocked to see the pollution in the lake ... Last time when I visited Srinagar and stayed in a house boat, the condition of the lake was not so bad," said Marc Stollreiter,30, who hired 60 labourers to clean the Nehru Park part of the lake.

This part was once a favourite place for youngsters to swim. Once, even former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah had jumped into the lake here during his regime in 1996-2002.

Stollreiter said the plan to clean the lake was chalked out by him and his friend Birgit Lenger in collaboration with House Boat Owners Association, Valley Citizen's Council and Dal Zamindar Union.

By noon, volunteers took out tonnes of garbage, including polythene carry bags and plastic bottles, from the lake into boats for proper disposal.

A concerned Stollreiter said, "This lake is dying--- It needs proper maintenance and urgent measures to ensure that coming generations are not deprived of the beautiful water body."

A visitor to the city since his childhood, the tourist said that on every trip he observed an "increase" in the level of pollution in the lake.

His efforts were lauded by the General Secretary of the Valley Citizen's Council, Imdad Saqi.

"We are very concerned over the deteriorating health of the lake and failure of authorities to save it," he said and alleged the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority set up to maintain the lake was doing nothing.

(Kashmir Observer, 19 June, 2007)

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PHE MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION,
SRINAGAR, KASHMIR.
Corrigendum- I

For the E-NIT No. PHE/MRD/TS/27of06/2022 DT: - 14/06/2022.issued vide this office No:-PHE/ MRD /TS/949-53 DT: - 14/06/2022 andpublished vide No: 2022_PHE_174051.1 kindly read Tender Title/Name of Work in Annexure to above e-NIT as "Repairs to 100KVA and 250 KVA HT/LT Transformer at various WSSsHumama Heights, Kunzvera and Chattergam 2nd"instead of "Shifting of 250 KVA and 100 KVA HT Transformer at WSS Rakshshalina, Kunzvera, Chattergam and Ompora 1st"

Note: All other terms and conditions as laid down in the tender document shall remain same.

No:PHE/MRD/987-91
Dated: 17-06-2022

DIPK-4257/22

Executive Engineer,
PHE Mechanical Rural Division,
Srinagar.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks

“Srinagar Police today arrested one Zahid Majeed for raping a student of Govt Polytechnic, Bemina. The young woman is undergoing treatment at a hospital & is stable. K people need to talk about this epidemic of sexual assault that is prevailing in our society”

@zubaiyramin

“we must not forget that such incidents are only a moment of light on the very serious culture of violence that we may have been enabling here. we need more conversations around violence against women and consent”

@tooba_tweets

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Doctors’ Orders

Kashmir has not escaped being a typical third world ghetto of frustrated aspirations and stifling systems that compel individuals to flee to more conducive shores for professional fulfillment and material satisfaction. The blame, as always, falls at the doors of successive leaderships for their abysmal failure to outline a vision to harness the latent intellectual and creative energies of the people for the overall benefit of the society. The state’s health sector stands as a symbol of the paradox of talent in plenty rotting for want of opportunity. Coupled with a Kafkaesque officialdom that neither recognizes nor rewards ability and service, is it a wonder that Kashmiri doctors head in droves to more lucrative lands? Those that stay back in the state-run sector are too overwhelmed by the day-to-day battle with adverse working conditions like chronic shortages and immense patient overloads even to begin thinking about ushering in change.

Presiding over this demoralized, overworked and discontented pool of talent is a bureaucracy rife with nepotism, favoritism and downright incompetence that has been unable to streamline the system by, for example, a sustainable, fair and transparent policy on assigning duties in rural and far-flung areas. The peripheral health care system is in a state of collapse, for successive governments have failed to allocate sufficient resources and manpower to make it function up to a reasonable standard. Needless to say, government medical facilities in urban areas, particularly Srinagar, are stretched far beyond their capacity in dealing with the heavy influx that should have been screened at the place of origin. It is a tribute to the high competence and sheer doggedness of doctors serving government hospitals in Srinagar that major medical disasters, otherwise inevitable in the circumstances, are avoided. In contrast, the private sector, ironically manned by experts trained and taught at great public expense, is thriving on the government’s failure to put its house in order. And there is no credible regulation in this sector to prevent exploitation of the poor masses who are driven to seek expensive alternatives because of a decrepit public service.

Amid this chaos come exhortations from the chief minister, Omar Abdullah, for non-resident Kashmiri doctors to return. Having had a cosmopolitan upbringing, Mr. Abdullah is bound to have a fair idea of what Kashmiri doctors working abroad have become accustomed to by way of technical facilities and remuneration. A top notch New York surgeon used to state-of-the-art equipment is being asked return to perform in theaters known to run out of as basic an item as material for stitches in mid-surgery.

The government has been sending disturbing signals about effecting a paradigm shift in the health care philosophy in the state by encouraging the private sector on a large scale, which is unwarranted in Jammu and Kashmir where the per capita income is among the lowest in the country. Inspirations from the US system are totally out of place, and in any case the mercenary American model is under severe criticism from quarters more sensitive to the need of medi-care being easily and cheaply available to the needy. Transplanting ideas that are already being questioned and doubted in advanced societies does not serve any purpose except repeating mistakes that are being repented elsewhere.

One of the surest ways to arrest brain drain from Kashmir is to fashion a system that rewards merit and service, and has minimal deleterious interference from unscrupulous politicians and bureaucrats. The health care system in the state had been devised on the pattern of a welfare exercise and it must continue, and progress, in that vein. The government will have to come out with satisfactory remuneration packages and ensure a modicum of facilities to motivate young doctors to serve in the rural and far-flung areas.

True, doctors’ salaries have to reflect the economic realities of the state, but a lot more talent could feel persuaded to be content with that if the unjust hiccups of a malfeasant officialdom were ironed out. It certainly does not help matters when an influential doctor manages plum postings perpetually solely because of his connections, and his better qualified counterpart is denied an opportunity to upgrade his skills at a higher institute for want of political push.

Mr. Abdullah needs to cure the system of its ills – Kashmiri doctors working abroad will find that enough of an incentive to serve their own people. For, how can specialists in greener climes be motivated to come back when the heroic efforts of those who already work in Kashmir go unappreciated?

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

Crippling Costs of Corruption

Why recent allegations of fraud vis-à-vis JKSSB examinations serve as a wake-up call

Shakir Malik

Fairness in these matters benefits all. If someone skilled in basketball wants to be Michael Jordan, such a person can rise from the ashes, in a society with an egalitarian access to opportunities and fair play. Then in the court, by playing exceptionally well, they will not only make their community proud but also incentivize other young kids to hone their talents to reach greater heights regardless of their social background.

Recently, Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board came under scanner for alleged irregularities with regard to the JKPSI examination. After results were declared on 4th of June, students called out suspicious discrepancies in the list of selected candidates. Many identified a cohort of selected candidates having identical surnames. This sibling selection suspicion soon found a voice through the news. Following reports, soon students started calling out the possibility of fraud in other examinations as well. Many students also questioned the results of the examination held for the post of Finance Account Assistant.

So far, the government has formed a committee to look into JKPSI examination ‘fraud’ which is supposed to submit the report by 24th of this month. Many are hinting at the possibility of a full-fledged JKSSB scam. Right now, as the matter is under investigation, it is premature to declare any judgements. However, if true, the scam will only be reminiscent of many such scams like the 2013 JK-BOPEE scandal.

Such instances aren’t isolated cases of fraud in our society. Corruption has been so rampant in Kashmir that all would have heard of instances of their acquaintances landing roles through favors or fraud. In public offices, the situation is more worrying. A devil’s advocate may argue that government employees normally do not get a lucrative six-figure salary, so they resort to corruption to eke out a luxurious living. Occasionally, influential people like to mess with rules to feed their own hubris. The moral and systematic cost that such abhorrent actions carry trumps every argument.

Why should we swiftly endeavor to end corruption? Because, in



the end, it is only meritocracy that pays off. Aristotle would say that flutes be given to the best flute players to fulfill their one true purpose — making the best music. Corruption which paves the way for the undeserving to important administrative positions, in effect prevents the best amongst us from coming forward to serve us through their services, thereby thwarting the progress of the society. If someone endures countless pains and tribulations to achieve a goal, it is by no means fair that undeserving individuals should by dint of corruption negate all of their hard work.

Fairness in these matters benefits all. If someone skilled in basketball wants to be Michael Jordan, such a person can rise from the ashes, in a society with an egalitarian access to opportunities and fair play. Then in the court, by playing exceptionally well, they will not only make their community proud but also incentivize other young kids to hone their talents to reach greater heights regardless of their social background.

Unfortunately, corruption, by making an undeserving exception ensures that talent languishes in darkness. It shatters all hopes, expectations and dreams of well-meaning citizens. And, rest assured, there will be no Michael

Jordans anywhere; we will be damned to see empowered touts and cheaters all around us.

Corruption doesn’t stop at affecting the meritorious by depriving them of well deserved positions. It stays festering in the system. It becomes a norm when it permits into our institutions, the corrupt, the corrupted and the possible corruptors. This ensures that the cycle of illegal practices continues and keeps disempowering our institutions by corrupting their potential for progress.

How will such unscrupulous entries contribute to the betterment of society? The only logical outcome of this is a group of self-serving corrupt public officials enjoying positions of power. Rather than justifying the need for good behavior we can simply say a person should behave well out of duty. But, the unscrupulous lot with a deep sense of cynicism might, on the contrary, perceive daily thefts as their prerogative.

If bad-faith actors get off scot-free, our society suffers.

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

The author can be reached at malikshakir96@gmail.com

Binary Equation

Renu Kohli



weakening factors that are enduring. Rising imports, including costlier crude oil, have also enlarged the current account deficit, triggering concern about financing difficulties. This triumvirate is a red alert for macro instability. What makes it a troublesome quad is an indebted, precarious public financial position that is now additionally burdened by anti-inflation measures costing loss of fuel revenues and higher subsidy expenditures.

Higher interest rates are required to check inflation, retain foreign capital that’s getting attracted to better returns elsewhere, and to ensure the current account deficit is kept at sustainable levels. Dampening demand is the chief route through which monetary policy works. With the interest rate actions taken so far, existing and new bank loans for business, housing, personal and other purposes have already become more expensive; mortgage payments and debt servicing costs could increase further. Corporate profits, which grew handsomely on the back of extraordinary monetary easing in the last two years and tax cuts in mid2019, will also slow down. Bond yields, which reflect the government’s cost of borrowing from the market, have risen significantly in this quarter and are likely to go up, adversely affecting government finances. In summary, these adjustments could hurt growth.

The alternative was no better; possibly worse. Signs that the relentless price rise was dulling demand were becoming apparent. The recently released GDP data show a strong comeback of 8.7% in 2021-22, after contracting to -6.6% last year. From a current perspective, however, the last — January-March — quarter’s performance sheds better light: a progressive economic deterioration is observable with private consumer expenditure declining nearly -3% upon the December quarter; in annual terms, aggregate private consumer spending rose just 1.8% in the period when the pandemic had waned. Most services restarted operations and demand was expected back revengefully.

This isn’t the only testimony. Retail price hikes forced by input cost pressures are hurting rural demand, nonfood and discretionary spending much more than urban and essential consumption, according to fast-moving consumer goods companies’ reports. This typically happens when living costs rise and real disposable incomes get squeezed. The smaller firms also exited at the fastest pace last quarter because of their inability to pass on higher input costs to consumers, as per the market research agency, Nielsen; this accentuates a slowdown because small businesses help subdue prices and maintain spending of vulnerable consumers.

The external macro environment is turning more adverse. Potential stagflation scenarios are gaining ground in the advanced countries. Last week, both the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Bank cut growth expectations steeply for this year and the next with higher inflation. In the United States of America, inflation shows no signs of peaking so far, its future path is extremely uncertain, the US Federal Reserve has only just commenced tightening, and the significant interest rate hikes required ahead have raised the odds of a recession. A slowing world economy would also slow down trade growth. Indian export growth, which has been strong till now, would be impacted as would the trade deficit. This is another prospective threat to the external accounts.

Both the government and the central bank have endeavoured to talk down inflation and interest rate expectations, allaying fears that growth would be harmed. Reiterating the commitment to contain inflation, the RBI governor underlined that growth needs would be kept in mind as a successful operation (inflation control) cannot leave the patient dead (the economy slips back). At last week’s review, the RBI retained its 7.2% GDP growth prediction for this year even as it raised the forecast inflation by one percentage point. Many believe inflation may be higher than official expectations because of higher oil prices and a catch-up by services, which were inaccessible for over two years. Owing to the impact of high inflation, several institutions have lowered their growth expectations, including the World Bank.

To maintain a favourable macro environment and lead it to maturity with a rise in real incomes is the challenge. The next few quarters will bear out how economic growth withstands and responds to the difficult adjustments.

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 Telegraph India

The author is a macroeconomist

WHAT'S STREAMING



Tweet

John Cena please follow me back
@sempaisent

People that think the low viewership numbers for Ms. Marvel are because of her power set change and not the Islamophobic undercurrents of American/Western society are delusional.

Ms. Marvel is a GREAT show and as a minority I love seeing stories like this finally being made.



Thread

Jessie Earl
@jessiegender

Ms Marvel (which is great) is being review bombed in part because some people see her as a Muslim girl "replacing" the white Carol Danvers. Not only is this racist white replacement nonsense, it's hypocritical given all the harassment Larson got. It's perpetual racism and sexism.



Tweet

M'Baku
@evdpaklhwrs

Best thing about Ms. Marvel was when the dad said "we trust you we just don't trust others around you". This is the representation we truly deserve

Did you know that Marvel's got a Muslim Woman Superhero now? Welcome 'Ms Marvel' into Marvel's cinematic universe.
Read the review of the newly released series here.
Watch on Disney+ (@disneyplus)
#MsMarvel

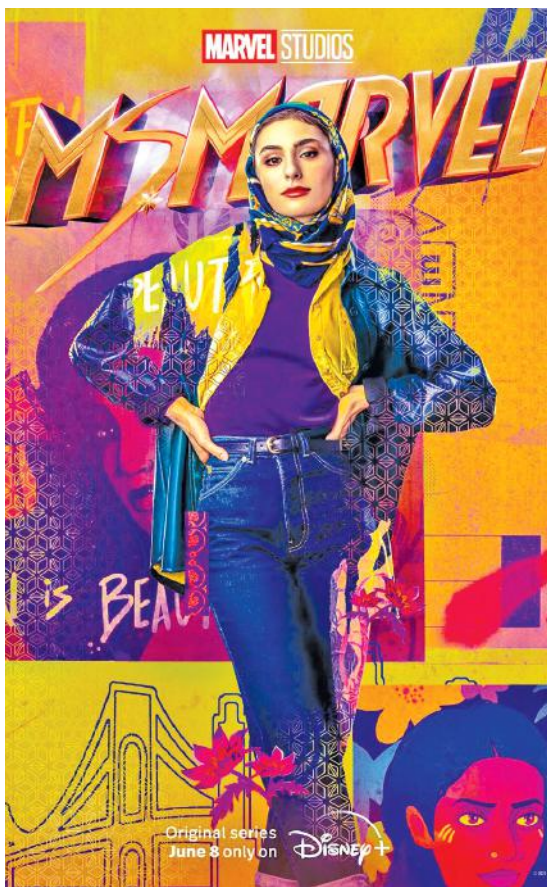
Ms. Marvel is a refreshing take in the Marvel Cinematic Universe as it subverts the existing category of Superheroes. It goes miles ahead through the introduction of not only a Woman Superhero but a Muslim Woman at that

Marvel has made an attempt to bring focus entirely to a lead Muslim character in its latest 'Ms. Marvel. This enterprise is applaud-worthy as it is an honest intervention in a meaningful representation of Muslims

Neha Sheikh

Young Muslims have little to relate to as far as pop culture is concerned. Conventionally, Muslims found orientalist representations of them in Hollywood. They would either be "oppressed", "backward" or as "terrorists". Post 9/11, a new kind of cinema of US nationalism evolved, which owed much of its storyline to a villain which was mostly Muslim. Therefore, most representations of Muslims were primarily negative.

Only recently, with advocacy around intersectionality growing in the west, the "terrorist" Muslim characters are being discouraged. Muslims are being included in movies and media campaigns in a positive light. However, these have only been token representations.



There's no meaningful understanding of Muslims and they're always only shown in a positive light so long as they pander to the western models of "progress". Muslims are either seen as a part of the crowd or seen flouting their religious principles in the name of representation.

Now, Marvel has made an attempt to bring focus entirely to a lead Muslim character in its latest 'Ms. Marvel'. It features Pakistani-Canadian actress, Iman Vellani in the lead role playing 16-year-old Kamala Khan. This enterprise is applaud-worthy as it seems like an honest intervention in the meaningful representation of Muslims which does not restrict itself to inclusion only but also extends to show Muslims in empowered roles. To have a woman superhero and a Muslim woman at that is indeed a step in the right direction. However, how successful an attempt it can be deemed is too premature to declare.

There have been successful shows that have portrayed Asian women of colour across a range of OTT platforms. The latest egg in this basket is Marvel's 'Ms. Marvel'. This series, as many fans state, has been 'review bombed', which is the influx of negative reviews before the release of a series. Hence, while the ratings of Ms. Marvel are high, the majority of its reviews are negative. The show owes the negative backlash to the representation of a brown Muslim female superhero. However, this has not stopped it from acquiring a huge fanbase.

Set in the neighbourhood of Jersey City, United States, the story of Miss Marvel houses the protagonist Kamala Khan, daughter to Pakistani Muslim immigrants Yusuf Khan and Muneeba Khan.

The series opens with Kamala uploading the narration of her favourite Marvel superhero characters via her production channel 'Sloth Baby Productions'. Though a rather unknown channel with little to no traction, this is the show's first intervention - an unconventional introduction to a young 'desi-American'. It moves away from the stereotypical depiction of nerdy-science-inclined Asian teens obsessing over STEM.

The episode then ascends into its first portrayal of a Muslim household, via du'as (prayers). Kamala's brother Amir is seen reciting a du'a before commencing his meal. It is details like these interspersed throughout the show that give it a positive proportion of authenticity and accuracy. Furthermore, a rather accurate trope of a typical South Asian household kicks in when Kamala asks her parents' permission to go to Avengercon, an event where fans of the Avengers (a team of superheroes) can meet fellow fans, participate in various events and discuss their passion for comics all while cosplaying their favourite characters. Kamala's mother whips out a series of very familiar arguments

The Muslim Marvel Superhero

Is 'Ms. Marvel' a Laudable Step towards Representation?



that a majority of Muslim children in South Asia have grown up hearing. From the presence of haram (religiously forbidden i.e. sinful) actions taking place to Kamala wearing 'immodest' clothing, ammi Muneeba Khan echoes the concerns of almost all Muslim parents worldwide. However, this does not stop Kamala from going to Avengercon. She succeeds in sneaking out and showing her costume on the stage at the event. A unique last-minute addition to it is what looks like a kada (bracelet or bangle) belonging to her grandmother. Due to a mishap at Avengercon Kamala's instincts kick in and she is forced to use her recently discovered powers.

From the plot so far, it can be coherently inferred that Kamala's powers originate from her grandmother, in particular her grandmother's kada.

Ms. Marvel is indeed a refreshing take in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. It radically redefines the dominant delineation of a Superhero. Not only does it subvert the existing models of the category of Superheroes, it goes miles ahead by doing so through the introduction of not only a Woman Superhero but a Muslim Woman at that.

It represents Muslims in a light that is not laced with prejudice and islamophobia. The portrayal of day-to-day Islamic practices through the reading of du'as helps in normalizing the daily routines practiced by Muslims around the world that have otherwise been demonised.

In Hollywood, the portrayal of Muslims typically takes two forms: one in need of saving and the other from which the world needs to be saved. Muslim women in particular are often shown lacking any agency and in need of salvation from men from their communities who are either radicalised and violent. The concept of a Muslim family is always shown as dysfunctional.

Ms. Marvel attempts to change this to some extent. Through Kamala Khan, viewers witness a young Muslim girl who, while battling the day-to-day obstacles of being a teenager, also receives a chance to reclaim her ethnic and religious identity.

The representation of Muslims globally is dominantly compromised. Hindi cinema has also increasingly resorted to creating villains out of Muslims and only

“Ms. Marvel is indeed a refreshing take in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. It radically redefines the dominant delineation of a Superhero. Not only does it subvert the existing models of the category of Superheroes, it goes miles ahead by doing so through the introduction of not only a Woman Superhero but a Muslim Woman at that

showing Muslim women as oppressed. In this context, to have a Muslim woman superhero is a much-needed representation for young Muslim women here.

Even as the show is a step in the right direction, there's still some caution to be shown in the optimism. The tone of the series in a few instances may come off as overtly 'immature'. This is not the first instance of casting a young adult superhero. Spiderman is one of the most famous Marvel superheroes. Yet, in comparison, the tone of films such as Spiderman Far From Home holds a much more critical and urgent tone. Even other Marvel movies that delve into the genre of action comedy such as Shang Chi have a more profound and earnest timbre than what Ms. Marvel presents. The series, while portraying teenage characters, lacks in producing this profound tone which to a larger extent makes it come off as 'not-so-serious'. For the first Marvel Muslim hero of its kind this can come off as disappointing.

However, the show is still unfolding. Only a few episodes have been released but with each episode the viewer's trust in the show is increasing. While the first episode started on a note of caution, the second one has encouraged viewers, especially Muslims to put some more faith in the show.

As viewers we hope that the show presents a more diverse portrayal of Muslims especially Muslim women. It has on its shoulders, the dreams of a myriad of brown Muslim girls, who have not had anything on the screen to relate to. However, in a world of 'Anyone can be anything' Ms. Marvel could potentially be a promising endeavour.

Ms. Marvel is available on Disney+ and new episodes release every Wednesday. While it is premature to pass a final verdict on the show, we're all rooting for the much-needed representation to prove more and more authentic as well as productive.

The author is an intern at Kashmir Observer

Centre Announces Incentives For Agnipath Recruits; As Protests Spread To More States, Ministers Say It Is 'Political'

New Delhi: The Centre on Saturday announced several incentives including reserving 10 per cent vacancies in the defence ministry and paramilitary forces for Agnipath retirees as violent protests raged on against the new military recruitment scheme in many states and opposition parties stepped up pressure for its rollback.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, however, strongly defended the scheme saying it was brought after wide-ranging consultations and suggested a misunderstanding was being spread for political reasons, while Union Minister Anurag Thakur appealed to the youths to shun violence and come forward for talks, asserting that the government is ready to look into their grievances with an open mind and make changes, if required.

Singh also met Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and Vice Chief of Army Staff Gen B S Raju and is learnt to have discussed a quick rollout of the Agnipath scheme and ways to pacify the agitators.

Mobs set ablaze Taregana railway station in Bihar during a bandh on Saturday and vandalised Ludhiana railway station in Punjab, as protesters continued to target railway properties on the fourth day of the stir and blocked roads and rail tracks in several states including West Bengal, Haryana, Rajasthan, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh.

Railways cancelled 369 trains on Saturday and passengers faced a harrowing time. Over 200 trains were cancelled a day earlier after the railways faced the brunt of the protests.

The agitation also spread to the southern states of Tamil

Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, with aspirants doing push-ups on roads at some places to register their protest.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi termed the scheme as "directionless" and said her party will work for its withdrawal while appealing to the youths to adopt peaceful and non-violent means to fight for their demands.

Party leader Rahul Gandhi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have to withdraw Agnipath like the farm laws.

"He will have to accept the demand of the youth of the country by becoming 'maafiveer' and take back the 'Agnipath' scheme," the former Congress chief said.

As army job aspirants staged a protest in Chennai, DMK leader and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin asked the Centre to rethink the scheme.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann demanded a rollback and said those who cleared physical tests in the last two years must get a chance to appear in written exams for joining the Army.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader claimed that the Agnipath scheme will "dilute" the fighting ability of soldiers and render the youth jobless.

With the protesting youths alleging that they will be left in a lurch with no retirement benefits after the end of the four-year contract under the scheme, the ministries of home affairs and defence announced concessions and incentives that will assist retirees in their further employment.

The central government indicated that other departments too were working in this direction after several BJP-ruled



states like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Assam announced various measures to encourage the youths to apply under the Agnipath scheme and assured them reservation.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said some political parties, which keep looking for every opportunity under an agenda to block any change taking place, have "provoked" the youths.

He said the government's approach on the issue is that it is ready consider any changes in the interest of the youth and the country.

"I would like to appeal to the country's youth that path of violence would not take you anywhere. ... If you have any better suggestion, you can place your views.... Government is always ready to consider with an open mind," he said and suggested the

protesting youths come for talks with the central government.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said it has decided to reserve 10 per cent vacancies for recruitment in CAPFs and Assam Rifles for Agniveers.

"The MHA also decides to give 3 years age relaxation beyond the prescribed upper age limit to Agniveers for recruitment in CAPFs & Assam Rifles," the ministry tweeted

Further, for the first batch of Agniveer, the age relaxation will be for five years beyond the prescribed upper age limit, it said.

At present, jawans between the age of 18-23 years are recruited into the paramilitary forces.

A 10 per cent reservation will be implemented in the Indian Coast Guard and defence civilian posts, and all the 16 Defence Public Sector Undertakings, according to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's office.

It said this reservation would be in addition to the existing quota for ex-servicemen.

"Defence Public Sector Undertakings will be advised to make similar amendments to their respective recruitment rules. Necessary age relaxation provision will also be made," it said.

The defence minister said the scheme was announced after around two years of deliberations including with the ex-servicemen community and a decision was taken based on a consensus.

"It is bringing revolutionary changes in the recruitment process in the armed forces. Some people are spreading misunderstanding about it. Maybe, there could be some confusion among the people as it is a new scheme," Singh said speaking at the conclave organised by a media group.

Union Minister Hardeep

Singh Puri said the PSUs under his housing and petroleum ministries are working on hiring 'Agniveers' and also slammed the Opposition for spreading "misinformation".

Despite the Centre's steps to assuage concerns, there was no let-up in the protests.

In Patna and its outskirts, bandh supporters were restrained by Bihar police from forcing shops to down their shutters, but they hurled stones and set fire to Taregana railway station in Masaurhi sub-division and a jeep belonging to the railway police.

There was also cross-firing and journalists covering the clash were assaulted.

In the Danapur sub-division, bandh supporters vandalised an ambulance and the driver alleged that a patient and attendants inside were also beaten up by the mob.

The railways have suffered massive losses in the state during protests in the last three days. More than 60 train coaches, 10 engines and some stations have been torched.

Earlier, bandh supporters had attacked a police outpost in Jehanabad district, leaving several personnel injured.

Large-scale violence in the past few days has led to the suspension of internet services, barring the ones controlled by the government, in 12 severely affected districts. A home department notification said the restrictions would remain effective for at least three days.

The Union Home Ministry, meanwhile, accorded a VIP security cover of the CRPF to at least 10 Bihar BJP legislators and leaders including Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devia and state

BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal, citing threat to them in the wake of the violent protests.

The bandh received in-principle support from all opposition parties RJD, Congress, the Left and AAP.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), partner of the BJP in the state and the Centre, has also sought a review of the scheme, and urged the Union government to allay the fears of the protesters.

Train services on the Sealdah-Barrackpore route in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district were disrupted for around one hour on Saturday as a group of anti-Agnipath agitators blocked railway tracks and did push-ups to register their protest.

Kolkata Police clashed with agitating members of the Left-affiliated AIDSO and AIDYO when they tried to block roads in the city's Hazra area, a hundred metres from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's residence.

Hundreds of youths participated in rallies in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode in Kerala, opposing the Agnipath scheme and demanding the conduct of pending written examination for the army recruitment at the earliest.

The job aspirants, who gathered in huge numbers at Thampanoor in the Kerala capital, marched to Raj Bhavan, the official residence of Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, raising slogans of "We want justice" and holding placards and banners.

In Dharwad, Karnataka, police used mild lathi-charge to disperse anti-Agnipath protesters as they attempted to take out a march.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Police Officer

year 1998. He was promoted to selection grade constable after clearing the departmental examination.

In 2012, he was promoted as Head Constable, and six years later as Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI). In December last, Mir was promoted to the rank of Sub-Inspector and posted in Indian Reserve Police (IRP) 23 battalion.

Meanwhile, National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah on Saturday condemned the killing of police Sub Inspector Farooq Ahmad Mir in Pulwama, terming it dastardly and horrific.

"Yet another family has been devastated. Such dastardly acts only leave a trail of everlasting agony behind them. I condemn this act of terror in the strongest possible terms. My heart goes out to the bereaved family. May Almighty give them strength to bear the pain of this irreparable loss, and eternal peace to the departed," Farooq Abdullah said.

Condemning the killing, Omar Abdullah said he was deeply saddened by the horrific killing of the police officer.

"I offer my condolences with the bereaved and pray to the Almighty that they find enough strength to bear this inconsolable loss. May the deceased rest in peace," Omar Abdullah said.

Bad Weather

unnamed official reported that after the killing of two local Hizb militants on Thursday, no fresh contact was established with militants during searches.

The operation was called off due to inclement weather conditions, they said.

The operation started in the area on 14 June after specific inputs about the presence of militants.

Officials said that after the initial exchange of fire on 14 June, the searches continued in the area and fresh contact was established with militants on 16 June.

On 16 June, police claimed that two militants were killed during encounter and identified one slain militant as Zubair Sofi of Mohanpora in Kulgam. The identification of the second militant was not known yet, they said.

They added that Sofi was involved in the killing of woman teacher Rajni Bala on May 31.

They further added that searches continued in the area for two more days, however, no fresh contact was established and finally due to bad weather conditions, the operation was called off on Saturday evening after 5 days.

IED Defused

without causing any damage and the traffic movement which was suspended on the highway as a precautionary measure was restored as well," they said.

Last week, an IED was destroyed on Baramulla-Srinagar highway after it was found planted on the roadside.

Rare June Snowfall

as well," Ahmed said, adding "We've received reports of snowfall from Gulmarg's agharwat, Shopian and in the adjacent areas of Holy cave."

He further added that whenever it rains for a few days in Kashmir and temperature goes down, there is a possibility of snowfall in upper areas of the valley.

"Weather has already started to improve but there are still chances of a light to moderate rain with low chances of snow in the higher regions to continue in the next few days across Kashmir," Ahmed said.

He further added that the erratic weather will continue till 22 June. "There will be an overall improvement in weather from Wednesday noon," he said.

Pertinently, in view of the forecast, the meteorological department has also asked farmers to avoid spray in orchards till June 22. "Rain may lead to shooting stones in vulnerable areas. People should plan their trips accordingly," said MeT Deputy Director.

Rains Trigger Landslide,

have pressed its men and machines and efforts are on to restore the traffic at the earliest despite continuous rains.

The officials said at least two private cars suffered damages after being hit by rolling stones from a hillock overlooking the highway near Panthiyal in Ramban district.

However, the passengers travelling in both the vehicles escaped unhurt, they said.

The highway, which had remained closed for nearly 10 hours the previous day following a landslide near Banihal, was opened for one-way traffic Friday night, the officials said, adding the light motor vehicles were allowed from both sides this morning.

Intermittent rainfall continued in most parts of Jammu and Kashmir over the past two days, providing much needed relief to the people from the scorching heat especially in the plains of Jammu region.

Reports from Rajouri said several roads were submerged due to sudden rise in the flow of water in rivers and streams, the officials said.

Dr Farooq Pulls

joint candidate for the presidential elections. In a statement, Abdullah, who heads the National Conference and is at present a Lok Sabha member, however, thanked the opposition leaders for proposing his name. He said he was honoured that his name was proposed by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to run for the office of the President of India.

"Subsequent to Mamata didi proposing my name, I have received a number of calls from opposition leaders offering their support for my candidature," Abdullah said in the statement, adding he had discussions with senior colleagues of his party and family about this "unexpected" development.

"I am deeply touched by the support that I've received and honoured to have been considered for the highest office in the country. I believe that Jammu and Kashmir is passing through a critical juncture and my efforts are required to help navigate these uncertain times," he said.

The former Union minister said he believed he has a "lot more active politics ahead of me and look forward to making a positive contribution in the service of JK and the country".

"Therefore, I would like to respectfully withdraw my name from consideration and I look forward to supporting the joint opposition consensus candidate," the NC statement said, conveying his gratitude to Banerjee and all the senior leaders who offered their support.

Abdullah's name was proposed by Banerjee

during a meeting earlier this week of 17 opposition parties, including the Congress, DMK, NCP and the Samajwadi Party.

Banerjee had suggested the names of Abdullah and former West Bengal governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi after Pawar had declined the offer.

The process to elect a new president began on June 15. The last date of filing of nominations is June 29. The polls, if necessary, will be held on July 18 and the counting on July.

Amarnath Yatra

Pahalgam and the shorter 14-km Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal.

The first batch of the pilgrims will leave for the yatra a day ahead from Bhagwati Nagar base camp Jammu and pass through Jammu-Srinagar national highway before reaching their respective base camps in Pahalgam and Baltal.

The officials said a contingency plan has already been chalked out to ensure accommodation of pilgrims in transit camps in case of inclement weather forces closure of the highway besides the measures for early opening of the highway by clearing landslide debris.

Curfew Relaxed

fitted with public address systems were seen making rounds in the Bhaderwah, informing residents about the relaxation in the curfew and requesting their cooperation in maintaining law and order.

Normal activities resumed in the town with the announcement of relaxation in curfew. People stepped out of their homes to buy milk, bread and other essentials.

The curfew was first relaxed in Bhaderwah for two hours on June 15, followed by five hours in two phases on June 16 and four hours on June 17. The relaxation periods passed off peacefully.

Police and security forces are deployed in strength in the town to maintain law and order, the officials said.

How 'Marriages

the matchmakers didn't spare her. "But who would want this for themselves? I wanted support and care," said Afroza. "I had been through hell with him and I was all alone there with strangers away from my hometown. I would never want anyone to go through the level of trauma and despair that I went through. I just cannot fathom how people, especially women cannot understand it."

Afroza did get a few matches but all of them agreed to marry her only when she will leave her daughter behind. "I wanted to remarry for the sake of my parents but the condition of leaving my child behind is unacceptable. What harm would my little daughter have caused to anyone? She was just a year old. This shows that this society won't give anyone a second chance."

Afroza finally chose to be a single parent and sacrificed her whole life just because a large section of society could not show the support and encouragement that she required for making a new beginning.

There are a lot of hindrances caused by society when someone chooses to re-marry. They have to face taunts and judgments from people. Not only that, there have been cases in

which after the death of the husband the in-laws refuse to give any share in his property to his wife or their child if she chooses to remarry.

Mehak also faced this unjust behavior at the hands of her in-laws. Her husband died within two years of her marriage leaving behind a daughter to be risen all alone by the young widow.

Just a few days after her husband's demise, her in-laws started to make her feel that she and her daughter have no share in his property. Her in-laws clearly said that she would lose all her husband's property if she remarried, forcing her to be a single mother.

Mehak's husband died due to a natural cause and she knew all along that her husband would leave her soon but there are a lot of females who don't even know whether their husbands are alive or not.

A lot of women are left as 'half widows' in the valley and due to the societal and religious pressure most of them keep on waiting for their husbands. The Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) estimate the number of 'half-widows' at around 1,500 in the valley.

The half-widows live with constant emotional uncertainty and societal and religious pressure. They also live in economic distress. According to Islamic jurisprudence, a widow with children gets one-eighth of her husband's property. A widow without children gets one-fourth. A half-widow gets nothing till her husband is declared dead. And to add to the affliction, their option to remarry has a lot of hindrances apart from second marriages being a taboo.

The sectarianism further confuses the matter. There are different views of different schools of thought in this regard. "Legally," says advocate Irshad Masoom, "if the whereabouts of the husband cannot be found for up to four years or seven years, then the marriage should be declared null and void."

The only sufferer in this situation is the woman who has lost her only support, Masoom says. "She has to wait for years with no guarantee of her husband returning."

Even though when someone despite all the taunts and judgments, takes the step to marry again they still have to go through hundreds of questioning faces. One victim of it was Sabrin. Sabrin, who was hours from getting married for the second time, was transported 12 years back and all scenes of her first marriage unfolded in front of her as well as the time of her divorce.

Sabrin's first marriage was a tragedy for her. Her in-laws and husband had brutal behavior toward her. All this started with the taunts she received from the female members of her new family. It didn't stop there. Her husband then started to physically abuse her and no one would stop him from doing it.

She compromised all the years for the sake of her daughter because she didn't want to give her a broken family. But then, one day, while her husband was dragging her down the stairs, her family happened to arrive there. After the incident, her family persuaded her to divorce but she couldn't get custody of her daughter.

Her family members eventually persuaded her to go for second marriage. "You are not doing sin, stop overthinking and start a new journey of your life," Sidra, her sister, told her.

During her second marriage ceremony, when Sabrin was sitting in a room full of guests, she heard people murmuring among themselves.

"Why did she have to apply henna this much," said one of the guests. "She could have just applied it on the fingertips," replied another. "After all it is her second marriage," added an old lady sitting with the other two.

These comments started to cloud Sabrin's mind and made her feel like she was the accused and not the victim of all that has happened to her.

"Why do people have to make it even more difficult than it already is?" Sabin asks. "The marriage happened despite their comments but how it made me feel is unexplainable. Why cannot society let people like us live? Why cannot they make things easy for us?"

But while Sabrin is now happily married despite all the disapproval linked with second marriage, the case of Kulsum is a classic example of how some dreams become a dreadful experience for Kashmiri women.

As a happy-go-lucky college-girl, she was first introduced to a Kashmiri techie doing job in Bengaluru. He came across as a suave man and made Kulsum feel that he was the right man for her. But two months after their marriage, the lid over the can of worms got lifted and she saw his real face. "He was getting unmasked every now and then when I would question his commitment issues," Kulsum says. "I was away from home and emotional support. His indifference was affecting me. Some four months later, I came home as a mentally-unsound person."

Some marriages, she says, don't need to be violent to unsettle you, they can be quiet and vicious like hers.

Back home, as counseling started, she became clear in her mind. "I didn't want that apathetic marriage anymore," she says. "But at the same time I didn't know that it would be 'out of the frying pan into the fire' situation for me."

Months later, as her mental balance somehow got restored, the second marriage option was explored. But to her chagrin, the process became a traumatic period. "More than in me, my prospective in-laws and matchmakers were interested in my first marriage," Kulsum says. "This is when I realized the real mess in our marriages."

In Kashmir, Kulsum says, people give preference to families than to persons. "I was also married in the so-called 'high-caste' family and it hardly mattered for my parents to look beyond that mindset. I was never married to a right person because we don't see it that way."

Today, as Kulsum is still exploring the second marriage option, she's regretting the delusional state of affairs that has plagued Kashmir's wedlock.

"We Kashmiris spend fortune on marriages, but when the same pomp and show driven bond turns ugly, we don't learn our lessons and accuse the victims," she says. "We need to streamline this marital chaos, rather than letting it fester like a wound that second marriage has become in Kashmir."

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infection was reported in the last 24 hours, they said.

Elderly Man Killed

intimation a police party rushed to the spot. "We have arrested the accused and registered a case into the incident for further proceedings," the official said.

AMARNATH YATRA

Lt Gen Dwivedi Reviews Security Situation

Agencies

JAMMU: Ahead of Amarnath Yatra, which will commence on June 30 and conclude on August 11, Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, General Officer Commanding -in-Chief, Northern Command, visited the Counter Insurgency Force (Delta) to review the operational preparedness of the units and the security situation in the area.

The Army Commander was accompanied by Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh, General Officer Commanding (GOC) White Knight Corps during his visit.

The Army Commander was briefed by GOC, CIF (Delta) and commanders on ground regarding various actions being undertaken by the Force to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Being stationed in the erstwhile Doda district, CIF, Delta had the responsibility to protect strategically important Jammu-Srinagar highway, which is primary route for Amarnath pilgrims.

As per defence spokesperson, Army Commander also reviewed the operational preparedness of the Force for smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra.

The Army Commander also interacted with the soldiers who are deployed for Counter Terrorism operations and obtained feedback on operations, training, weapons, equipment and administrative issues.

The Army Commander commended all ranks for their unwavering dedication to duty, selfless devotion and high standards of professionalism. He exhorted all ranks on the need to remain vigilant to counter the anti-national elements.

This year, Jammu and Kashmir administration expecting around 8 lakh pilgrims to the holy shrine in south Kashmir..

Officials said that yatra saw the arrival of around 6.3 lakh pilgrims in 2011, one of the highest footfalls in a decade, and plans were afoot to scale up the numbers. After the 2016 unrest in the Kashmir Valley, post



the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani, there had been a steep decline in the number of pilgrims enrolling for the yatra.

The year 2018 saw the arrival of 2.85 lakh pilgrims, the highest after the 2016 unrest when hundreds were killed and several injured due to pellet guns.

In 2019, the yatra was abruptly called off on August 2, days before the government moved a legislation in Parliament to revoke the applicability of Article 370 of the Constitution in J&K, which granted the former State special status.

In 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, the number of pilgrims stood at 6.21 lakh, 3.54 lakh, 3.72 lakh and 3.53 lakh respectively.

"The yatra was planned in 2021 too but was called off due to rising cases of COVID-19. It could not be held in 2020, again due to the pandemic. This year, preparations are on to make it a grand success," said the official.

The yatra will commence from the twin routes of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district.

In 2017, eight people were killed when a bus carrying Amarnath pilgrims from Gujarat was attacked by Lashkar-e-Taiba militants near Batingoo in Anantnag district.

Following the incident, stringent measures were put in place, which included tagging of vehicles with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID).

This year, the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) has been asked to provide RFID tags to pilgrims, unlike previous years, when the CRPF and J&K police had been tasked to do the job—(KNO)

Shift KP, Jammu Based Employees To Their Choicest Place Of Posting: Pole

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday convened a meeting of officers to review the status of service related matters of PM Package and Jammu based employees and action taken to transfer those employees to secure areas.

Besides, he also reviewed couple transfer issues and drafting of seniority lists of PM Package employees by respective departments.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir Division; Commissioner, SMC and HODs of different departments.

While reviewing the department wise number of PM Package and Jammu Based employees, Div Com directed HoDs of departments to contact each and every employee to ascertain their choice of safer place where an employee wants to be transferred.

He said the transfers shall be made only within the division and place of new posting should be within municipal limits or within three kilometers of municipal cities. He further directed to make couple transfers according to their convenience.

Besides, Div Com emphasized compilation of all the data related to the service matter including the number of candidates who had not joined the services or who got another new jobs.

Meanwhile, Div Com also reviewed the construction progress of Transit Room Tenements (TRT) at different locations in all districts of Kashmir Division.

He stresses on R&B and JKPC officers to expedite the work to complete projects on time.

He impressed on Deputy Commissioners to identify land for construction of TRTs at single place instead of scattered plots wherever the land identification is still pending.

He also asked them to get identified land transferred and mutated to the concerned department.

Besides, he directed Health, Education and ICDS officers to provide civic facilities including schools, health centers, Anganwardi centres and other facilities at migrant TRT accommodations.

Moreover, Div Com directed engineering departments to ensure provision of water and power supply besides completion of construction of access roads at TRTs, simultaneously,



TWO COLLEGE GIRLS COVER their heads with a shawl amid heavy rainfall in Srinagar on Saturday. .
KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

‘AGNIPATH’ SCHEME

Police Foils Attempt By Aspirants To Block Highway In Kathua



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Police on Saturday foiled an attempt by Army aspirants to block Jammu-Pathankot highway in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, where youth Congress activists also staged a protest in the winter capital demanding immediate rollback of the new Agnipathi' scheme.

A group of youth, who have already cleared physical and medical tests and were waiting for their written examination to join the Army over the past couple of years, staged a demonstration against the new recruitment policy at Chadwal in Kathua district, officials said.

They said the protesters, chanting slogans against the scheme and the BJP, tried to block the Jammu-Pathankot highway but their attempt was thwarted by police who used mild lathicharge to chase away the protesters, some of whom indulged in stone-pelting in

retaliation.

Additional forces have been rushed to the scene and the situation in the area is well under control, the officials said, adding none was hurt in the "minor" stone-pelting incident.

Scores of Congress activists led by youth president Uday Bhanu Chib staged a protest outside Press Club in Jammu to press for rollback of the Agnipath scheme.

The scheme is meant for the youth of the country but they are not satisfied and are on the roads against the government which unfortunately is not listening...the youth are genuine in their concerns which needs to be addressed by rolling back the scheme, Chib told reporters.

He said Congress supports the protesting youth as the new recruits join the armed forces to serve the nation.

The government is playing with

the sentiments and aspirations of the public. The recruitment in the armed forces on contractual basis is not acceptable, he said, adding "any attempt to turn the Army into a private limited company will not be tolerated".

Unveiling the scheme on Tuesday, the government said youths between the ages of 17-and-a-half and 21 years would be inducted for a four-year tenure while 25 per cent of the recruits will be retained for regular service.

The upper age limit was raised to 23 years on Thursday as the protests against the new model for enrolment of soldiers into the Army, Navy and Air Force spread.

The new scheme for the recruitment of soldiers in the three services was projected by the government as a major overhaul of the decades-old selection process to enhance the youthful profile of the three services.

NC, Apni Party & AAP Seeks Immediate Rollback Of Agnipath' Scheme

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Voicing their support to the protesting Army aspirants in Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference, Apni Party (JKAP) and Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday sought a rollback of the new Agnipathi' scheme for recruitment of soldiers in the armed forces.

Hundreds of army aspirants staged protest demonstrations at different places in Jammu region for the third straight day on Saturday against the scheme.

Expressing dismay over the proposed Agnipath scheme, the National Conference said the BJP-led union government is playing with the future of the youth of the country.

Extending support to the protesting army aspirants, the NC said they have applied for the posts of general duty in Indian Army in 2020 following which their physical examination was conducted along

with the medical examination but their written examination was not conducted even after two years.

Terming the unfolding events across the country as unfortunate, the party said this action plan of contract-based recruitment in the forces was not in any way in the interest of people of the country and the Indian Army.

Reacting sharply to the scheme and unfolding situation in the country, JKAP president Altaf Bukhari said he fails to understand what the BJP is getting by teasing the public.

In J&K, they (BJP leaders) are claiming to win 50 seats in the next assembly elections. I do not think they will be able to show their presence and can move freely because they are playing with the sentiments of the people, Bukhari told reporters on the sidelines of a function to welcome new entrants into the party fold here.

He urged the Prime Minister

Narendra Modi to remodel the scheme as the youth are on the roads and have apprehensions which need to be addressed.

Decrying the Agnipathi' scheme as a draconian policy opposed to the interests of the youth, senior AAP leader and former minister Harsh Dev Singh lambasted the BJP-led central government for "setting the entire nation on fire" with its whimsical defense recruitment policy.

The Saffron brigade had been experimenting with the country by bringing freakish laws and anti-people policies. Previously, farmers were forced to languish on roads for more than a year amid introduction of controversial farm bills.

This time, the government had resorted to playing with the fire by bringing an insane transformation in the recruitment process pertaining to the defense sector without any deliberations and pilot study, Singh alleged.

BJP Expels Corporator Arrested On Graft Charges

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir unit of BJP on Saturday expelled a woman corporator who was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) along with her husband for taking a bribe here, a party spokesman said.

J&K BJP president ordered the expulsion of the corporator Jyoti Devi of Trikuta Nagar from the basic membership of the party on the recommendation of the disciplinary committee, the spokesman said.

He said the action against the corporator was taken in view of the fact that her husband has been caught accepting a bribe on her behalf.

The ACB trapped and arrested the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) corporator and her husband Sham Lal on Friday following a complaint by a contractor that she is demanding a bribe of Rs 10,000 for issuance of Malba' (debris) clearance certificate to release his payment for the construction work undertaken by him.

Abducted Minor From MP Recovered In Ramban

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A minor abducted girl, hailing from Madhya Pradesh, was recovered and her abductor arrested in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday.

The girl was rescued in a joint operation by J&K police and Madhya Pradesh police from Sangaldan area of Gool within 24 hours of the complaint, a police official said.

He said a team of Police Station Sarni in Betul district of

Madhya Pradesh reached Police Post Sangaldan on Friday to search for a minor who had allegedly been kidnapped by Bijinder Singh alias Ravi Rajput, also a resident of Madhya Pradesh.

The local police immediately swung into action and rounded several suspected persons and finally recovered the minor and also arrested the accused person, the spokesman said.

He said both the girl and the accused were handed over to the team of Madhya Pradesh Police.

Salal Power Station Issues Advisory As Water Level Rises In Chenab

Observer News Service

REASI: Salal Power Station has issued advisory amid increasing water level of Chenab River.

NHPC Salal Power Station (690 MW) in district Reasi has advised the people not to venture near the Chenab as its water level is constantly increasing due to changing weather (summer and monsoon season).

"The Chenab river water level in the upstream and downstream areas of the reservoir & river can increase or decrease at any point of time during the month of June 2022 to October 2022, which is likely to cause unexpected high flow of water in the river. The general public and local residents are requested to remain cautious & careful and not to camp or visit river

Chenab front and also keep the livestock away from the river banks and do not try to cross the river from any unprotected places or mediums so as to avoid the risk of loss of life or property" an advisory stated.

The NHPC Salal Power Station Management has further requested everyone to remain vigilant and safe while paying special attention to the sound of "sirens" as a warning before releasing the water from the Dam and also requested to follow the instructions written on the "Warning" board installed at various places by Salal Power Station.

It is also noteworthy that if there is any loss of life or property in this context, then NHPC Salal Power Station Management shall not be held responsible.

Kishtwar To Turn Into Major Power Hub After Completion Of Ongoing Projects: MoS Singh

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar will become a major power hub after the completion of the ongoing power projects.

Jitendra Singh held a meeting with Chairman & Managing Director of National Hydro Project Corporation (NHPC), A K Singh, and discussions were held regarding ongoing projects of NHPC in Jammu & Kashmir and prospects of future business development.

The NHPC chief also briefed the minister about the status of the ongoing power projects in Kishtwar, which when completed will turn Kishtwar into a major power hub generating nearly 6000 MW of power, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

Pakal Dul hydroelectric (HE) project (1,000 MW) is under active construction after river diversion was carried out on November 1, 2021. The project

will generate 3,230 million units (MUs) annually and is expected to be completed by July 2025, the statement said.

Kiru HE Project (624 MW) is also under active construction. The river diversion was carried out on December 31, 20221 and it will generate 2,272 MUs annually, the statement said, adding that the project is expected to be completed by July 2025.

The work of Kwar HE Project (40MW) started with the award of civil work package on May 11, 2022. The project will generate 1,975 MUs annually and scheduled completion is in November 2026, the statement added.

Ratle HE project (850 MW) is under construction and work started by awarding engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract on January 18, 2022. The scheduled date of commissioning of the project is February 10, 2026, and once commissioned, the project will generate 3,136 MUs annually, the statement said.

PROGRESSING J&K

'Har Gaon Hariyali' Initiative Ensuring Sustainable Development, Climate Justice Promotion Across UT: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: 'Har Gaon Hariyali' program, a unique initiative launched by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, in consonance with the vision of 'Green Jammu and Kashmir' drive has proved instrumental towards ensuring sustainable development besides promoting climate justice across the Union Territory.

The ambitious program is also contributing tremendously towards increasing the carbon stock especially in villages located near degraded forests of J&K.

The Green Jammu and Kashmir drive itself is in commensuration with the National Forest Policy 1988 and the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Policy 2011 which envisages afforestation on all degraded and denuded lands in the union territory within and outside forests.

In the words of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, the 'Green Jammu and Kashmir' campaign aims at creating people's movement at a massive scale with involvement of all stakeholders particularly village panchayats, women, students, Urban Local

bodies, NGOs and civil society.

"Our aim is to bring two third geographical area of Jammu and Kashmir under the forest and tree cover. The forest and tree cover in Jammu and Kashmir is about 55 percent, which is substantially higher than the national average of 24.56 percent" Lieutenant Governor maintained.

Significantly, 1.35 crore plantations have been targeted for the year 2022-23, of which, 26.50 lakh saplings will be planted with active involvement of Village Panchayat Plantation Committees (VPPCs) to create

green assets in the Gram Panchayats.

To ensure widespread people's participation in government-sponsored plantation drives, the government is adopting a multi-disciplinary convergence model linking school-level eco clubs, Village Panchayat Plantation Committees and MGNREGA works to various plantation and protection drives.

The biggest achievement under Har Gaon Hariyali is that a massive convergence programme is taking place by dovetailing funds under MG-NREGA and the afforestation programme of the forest

department.

Under low-cost mode of greening and increasing the forest and tree cover, more than 50 lakh seeds/grass-slips are likely to be planted during the year 2022-23.

Notably, NITI Aayog in its 'State Energy and Climate Index' report has revealed that Jammu and Kashmir has 94.5 tonnes of carbon stock per hectare of forest land while Andaman and Nicobar tops the list with 96.4 tons of carbon stock per hectare.

Carbon stock refers to the amount of carbon stored in forests in the

form of biomass, soil, deadwood and litter. An increase in green cover and carbon stock indicates a healthy trend to deal with global warming.

A recent Forest Survey of India report revealed that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an increase in the total forest cover in the last three years. The report said that the emission intensity of Carbon in Jammu and Kashmir forests is 98.2 tonnes per hectare.

An allocation of about Rs 200.76 crore has been made for Forest, Ecology and Environment sector under Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) for

the year 2022-23 which is Rs 9.01 crore more than the previous year's budget allocation.

Jammu and Kashmir has 20,194 sq km of forest area which is 47.80% of its geographical area with 55% forest and tree cover and 43% open forest. Besides, having the maximum number of forest types, J&K also has the highest biodiversity of herbs in the country.

Economically, the forests in Jammu and Kashmir generate 2 million mandays of employment and has a monetary value equivalent to Rs 1.93 lakh crore.

Mumbai To Face MP In Ranji Trophy Final



Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Domestic giants Mumbai completed formalities to make the Ranji Trophy final by virtue of first innings lead on the final day of their last-four match against Uttar Pradesh, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The 41-time champions, Mumbai thoroughly dominated from the first ball of the game, which ended in a draw, at the Just Cricket Academy ground.

Mumbai had posted 393 in their first innings and then bundled out Uttar Pradesh for a meagre 180, to gain a massive first-innings lead.

When play ended on the fourth day on Friday, Mumbai had piled up a mammoth 449 for 4 in their second essay, courtesy hundreds by Yashasvi Jaiswal and Armaan Jaffer.

At stumps on Day 4, Mumbai took an overall lead of 662 runs,

making it amply clear that there was only one result possible from the match.

On Saturday, play began after lunch due to wet out-field and overnight batters Sarfaraz Khan and Shams Mulani continued to torment the UP bowlers.

Both Sarfaraz (59 not out) and Mulani (51 not out) completed their half-centuries, after which both the captains decided to shake hands.

Mumbai posted 533 for 4 in their second essay.

Sarfaraz hit one boundary and three sixes, while Mulani hammered six fours.

Mumbai will meet Madhya Pradesh in the final, which will be played at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium from June 22.

The final will be a battle between two former Mumbai players Amol Mazumdar and Chandrakant Pandit, who are coaches of Mumbai and MP respectively.

IND VS SA 5TH T20

India Favourites In Series Decider Vs SA



Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: A lot of grey areas are yet to be addressed but a young Indian team, with an admirable collective temperament, will start as favourites in the series-deciding fifth T20 International against South Africa here on Sunday.

In a space of eight days, this Indian team has played four games. It fielded an identical XI, which is in sync with Rahul Dravid's "school of continuity",

seen the nadir in the first two games, only to break its own record of highest margin of victories over the Proteas—by 47 runs in the third game and by 82 runs in the fourth.

With Dinesh Karthik doing exactly what is expected of him and Harshal Patel and Avesh Khan also hitting the straps, the Indian fans would want to see Yuzvendra Chahal perform a trick or two at his IPL home ground in a match that matters the most.

Therefore, when the teams step out on the M Chinnaswamy Stadium turf, the side that looked jaded and overcooked in the first two games will start as overwhelming favourites as the South Africans have already lost the plot.

If Temba Bavuma is unable to recover, they will miss a leader more than the batter. And suddenly in the last two games, the batting has looked iffy on tracks that have variable bounce, which has made this Indian attack look way more lethal.

Hardik Pandya Hails Dinesh Karthik After Rajkot Heroics



Press Trust of India

RAJKOT: Hardik Pandya has expressed his admiration for Dinesh Karthik, saying his resurrection from obscurity is an inspiration for many in and outside the team. The 37-year-old Karthik smashed his maiden T20I fifty to help the hosts secure an 82-run victory over South Africa in the fourth T20 International here on Friday.

During a chat with Karthik, the video of which has been uploaded by the BCCI on its website, Hardik recalled his past conversations with the seasoned campaigner, who

is going through a dream run with the bat. "I need to tell you this, genuinely I want to tell you this, you have given a lot of inspiration to many guys in their life."

"I remember the conversation you were having when you were not in the scheme of things, a lot of people counted you out," Hardik told Karthik during the chat. India were struggling at 81/4 in the 13th over when stand-in skipper Pant was dismissed for 17. It brought Karthik and Hardik together and the pair revived the Indian innings with a brisk partnership of 65 runs.

"I remember those conversations. You told me then that my goal is to play for India again and the goal is to play this World Cup, I am going to give it my everything, and seeing you achieve that is very inspirational. A lot of people are going to learn new things. Well done my brother, very proud of you," Hardik added.

Karthik smashed nine fours and two sixes in his entertaining 55-run knock, Hardik made 46 off 31 balls to prop up the India innings. The series decider will be played at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Sunday.

UEFA Clears Nasser Al-Khelaifi, Bans Leonardo In PSG Investigation

Agencies

GENEVA: UEFA cleared its own executive committee member Nasser al-Khelaifi of any punishment despite finding his club Paris Saint-Germain guilty of misconduct for confrontations with match officials after losing in the Champions League.

PSG president al-Khelaifi and sporting director Leonardo were locked into heated scenes while seeking to question match officials about decisions in Real Madrid's 3-1 win in March.

A second-half hat trick by Karim Benzema lifted Madrid to a stunning comeback at Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, eliminating PSG 3-2 on aggregate in the round of 16.

The defeat left PSG still seeking a first European title in a season when the Qatar-owned club added Lionel Messi to a superstar forward line with Kylian Mbappé and Neymar.

Media reports from the stadium said al-Khelaifi had to be calmed after trying to enter the locker room of referee Danny Makkelie of the Netherlands, who has since been selected by FIFA to



work at the World Cup in Qatar. UEFA published its disciplinary committee verdict late Friday, confirming charges of "violating the basic rules of decent conduct" and "unsporting conduct." However, the only sanction was a one-match ban from a UEFA competition match for Leonardo. The former PSG player and Brazil international was fired by the club last month.

UEFA did not provide reasons why al-Khelaifi was not cited in the disciplinary statement.

Al-Khelaifi joined UEFA's ex-

ecutive committee in 2019 representing clubs and was promoted to lead the influential European Club Association last year after the failed launch of the Super League.

That project challenging the authority of UEFA and the Champions League was led by Madrid and other storied clubs but PSG refused to join.

Al-Khelaifi also leads Qatari broadcaster beIN Sports which is a leading UEFA broadcast partner and buyer of Champions League rights.

England Have Sights Set On 500-Run Mark: Jos Buttler



Reuters

AMSTERDAM: England will keep chasing the 500-run mark in one-day internationals (ODI) after narrowly missing out on the milestone in a record-breaking win over Netherlands, Jos Buttler said. England broke their own record for the highest team total in ODI history after they smashed 498-4 to win by 232 runs on Friday.

Buttler, Dawid Malan and Phil Salt notched up centuries while Liam Livingstone walked into bat in the 45th over and scored England's fastest ODI fifty as they eclipsed their previous record of 481 against Australia in 2018. "We've come close one time before this and the message in the team is to try to keep pushing boundaries and taking the team forward, take the game on," Buttler told reporters.

"Is it a matter of time before

we make 500? I don't know. We'll keep trying to do it. It's a tough thing to try to achieve. It'll probably have to happen on a belting wicket at a small ground. "I think the biggest thing, irrelevant of the score, is the mentality we are showing as a team. We keep trying to better that and be better as a team when we play. We know that stands us in good stead."

Buttler brought up his century in just 47 balls, the second-fastest in England history and one ball shy of his own record, earning praise from limited-overs captain Eoin Morgan. "Jos played in a world of his own, like he has been over the last year or two years," Morgan said.

"It's incredible to watch and not something we ever get sick of or take for granted. It really is amazing cricket. It's the reason he probably is the best white-ball cricketer in the world at the moment."

PCB Suspends Coach After Molestation Allegations



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has suspended one of its national level coaches after a player alleged he had molested her. The coach, Nadeem Iqbal of Multan region, was a well-known pace bowler in his playing days and made his first class debut for the same team as the great pacer Waqar Younis.

A PCB official confirmed that they had initiated an inquiry into the matter to find out if Nadeem had breached his terms of employment with the board. "Obviously we can't carry out any criminal investigation that is for the police to do but our inquiry will find out if he was in breach of his terms of contract with us," the official said.

Nadeem, 50, who played 80 first-class matches, was in his heyday considered a better bowler than even Waqar and in one match he took seven wickets to skittle out the National Bank team for 20 runs in Karachi. The victim in a complaint to the police claimed that she went

for PCB women's trials in Multan some years ago when Nadeem was one of the coaches.

"He got close to me with promises of selecting me for the women's team and also getting me employment on the board. But over time he kept on sexually molestating me and also involved his friends. He also had me video taped and later kept on blackmailing me," she alleged in a video message. In 2014, five young female cricketers had accused officials of the private Multan Cricket Club of sexual harassment.

The cricketers told the media that the officials of the well-known cricket club, which was affiliated to the district association, demanded sexual favours in exchange for selection in the team. Last year Pakistan's Test leg-spinner, Yasir Shah, was also accused of aiding a friend in sexually assaulting a young girl and later threatening her. The complainant later dropped the charges against Yasir but a case is still pending in a court against his friend.

Sadio Mane To Bayern Munich: Liverpool Reach Agreement - Report

Agencies

MUNICH: Sadio Mané looks to be headed for Bayern Munich, ending his trophy-filled six-year spell at Liverpool.

A person familiar with the situation said Friday that Liverpool has reached an agreement with the German champions for the transfer of the Senegal forward in a total package worth 41 million euros (\$42.9 million).

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss details of the deal, which has not yet been completed.

Liverpool will receive 32 million euros (\$33.5 million) up front for Mané, with a further 6 million euros (\$6.3 million) due when he meets a specified appearance clause and an additional 3 million euros (\$3.15 million) based on individual and team achievements.

His last game for Liverpool was the 1-0 loss to Real Madrid



in the Champions League final last month.

He has won every major honour with Liverpool — the Champions League and World Club Cup in 2019, the Premier League in 2020 and both the FA Cup and League Cup in 2022 — and looks to be seeking a fresh challenge at the age of 30.

Mané has mostly played as a left winger for Liverpool but converted to a central striker for the second half of last season following the signing of Luis Diaz. He impressed in his new role, scoring nine goals in his last 14 games in all competitions.

Chess Helped Me Become What I Am: V. Anand

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: It's time to give back to the sport, says the legendary Viswanathan Anand, who is seeking to enter global chess administration with an aim to make it professionally more enticing for the youth.

Anand, whose moves on the board still leave opponents grasping at straws, wants to fully commit himself as "someone" who can work towards the betterment of the sport.

In an exclusive interview with PTL, the five-time world champion charted out his future plans, days after the All India Chess Federation (AICF) unanimously decided to endorse his candidature for the deputy president's post in the forthcoming FIDE election.

"Compared to three or four years back, I have cut down on my time as an active chess player. I have long aspired to come into the chess administration and this opportunity as the deputy president will be a huge learning curve for me," Anand remarked.

"The game of chess helped me become what I am today. It's time for me to give back. The idea is to encourage more youth to take up the sport seriously and make it a profession. I



will communicate my ideas and vision once I am elected to the new panel," he added.

While Anand will be part of incumbent Arkady Dvorkovich's panel, among other candidates is the seasoned administrator and former deputy president of the international chess federation, Bachar Kouatly.

However, Anand believes the Dvorkovich administration will have a clear advantage over the others because of the work done by them to make the sport immensely popular, especially at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The current administration has done some outstanding work to give the game a face-lift especially when every sport was sidelined because of the COVID-19 pandemic. So, I readily agreed to be a part this panel when I was nominated for the position," Anand said, speaking about his decision to take part in the elections.

Pakistan Cyclists To Compete In Asian Meet After Getting Visas



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Seven members of the Pakistan Cycling team will be participating at the Asian Elite and Junior Cycling Championships after getting their visas issued by the Indian embassy in Islamabad.

"Our squad including five cyclists and two officials left via Wagah border yesterday for the championships," Secretary-General of the Pakistan Cycling Federation Moazzam Khan Khair told PTL.

He said only one official of the PCF who was to accompany the delegation had not been issued a visa.

"The good thing is the rest of our applications were all accepted and processed," he said.

The championships got underway on Saturday in New Delhi with five Pakistani cyclists set to take part in events from June 19.

The Asian meet, an Olympic qualifier, is the first major cycling event after the pandemic and a lot of ranking points will be up for grabs during the event. Khair feels there is a need to set up a mechanism where visa applications from Pakistani athletes and officials invited for regional or International sporting events to India can be fast tracked.

There have been instances in the past where Pakistani athletes have not been issued visas on various grounds for international events in India due to the tense political and diplomatic relations between the two countries.