



A wholesome meal for people on the go

Turkish Burger

Now Taste Mediterranean Flavour in Srinagar

Bun Maska & Irani Chai JK Bank Lawns, Opp Ghat 6 Boulevard, Srinagar-1

Quote!

Try not to become a man of success but a man of value
- Albert Einstein

NEWS DIGEST

J&K Adds 40 New Cases, 1 Covid Death

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday reported 40 new COVID-19 cases, raising its tally to 4,54,585, while one more death pushed the fatality count to 4,755, officials said. Twenty-two cases were reported from the Jammu division and 18 from the Kashmir Valley, they said. The fresh death was recorded in Kashmir, the officials added. There are 209 active Covid cases in the union territory, while the number of **More on P6**

BJP Sarpanch Held On Rape Charges

SRINAGAR Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested a BJP Sarpanch from central Kashmir's Budgam district for allegedly raping a girl. Sources told a local news agency KDC that a girl name (withheld) was allegedly raped by a BJP Sarpanch under the jurisdiction of police station Beerwah. A written application was moved by father of the victim before Budgam police and during course of **More on P6**

CRPF Man Shoots Self Dead

SRINAGAR: A paramilitary CRPF personnel on Wednesday shot himself dead in Anantnag district of south Kashmir, officials said. Reports said that the personnel, a dog handler, ended his life by shooting himself with his service rifle at a camp adjacent to police station Anantnag. Soon after hearing the gunshot, his fellow colleagues from 40th battalion rushed to the spot only to find him in a pool of blood. A police official **More on P6**

Fresh Snowfall Closes Gurez Road

SRINAGAR: The 84-km long Bandipora-Gurez road has been temporarily closed for traffic movement following fresh snowfall at Razdan Top, officials said here on Wednesday. An official said that Razdan Top received around one and half inches of fresh snowfall due to which traffic movement on the road has been temporarily closed. He said that some parts of higher reaches of Gurez valley including Tulail have also received fresh snowfall. The official added that the Border Roads **More on P6**

Army To Raise 'Porter Company' In Ladakh

Press Trust Of India

Leh: The Army will raise a 500-men 'porter company' for multifarious support to the personnel in Ladakh, officials said on Wednesday. "The porter company for 2022 is being raised from July 1 under the aegis of the headquarters of the 14 Corps as sanctioned by the central government for the areas in Leh district," Commandant Col V S Malhan said. The recruitment process will be held at Army service corps (ASC) company located opposite to the Hall of Fame (museum) in Leh from June 29 to July 1, he said. Of 520 porters to be recruited, 400 will be employed in general category and 120 in reserved categories, Col Malhan said.

Flood Fears Return To Haunt Kashmir Valley

I&FC Dept Issues Alert In Srinagar As Jhelum Breaches Danger Mark

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: The authorities in Kashmir Valley on Wednesday sounded flood alert in this capital city after heavy down-pour over the past four days led to a rise in the level of most water bodies in Kashmir with the Jhelum river crossing "danger level" at Sangam and Ram Munshibagh in Anantnag and Srinagar district respectively.

The authorities have also started moving people from low-lying areas to safer locations. Videos which have gone viral on social media show dozens of villages including Wayil in Ganderbal, Quimoh in South Kashmir, Chamgund in Kulgam and Srinagar's Bemina area submerged under a massive gush of water.

Notably, the water level at Sangam in Anantnag district was measured at 18.18 feet, marginally above the 18-foot mark for flood alarm. As soon as the water level at Sangam exceeded the 18-foot threshold, the flood and irrigation department issued a flood alarm for the Jhelum River.

Vaishov stream, which flows mainly through Kulgam district, was flowing dangerously above the flood alert mark as well. A breach in a temporary diversion along the banks of Vaishov stream in Chamgund in Kulgam was also reported.

Pertinently, authorities have also sounded a flood alarm in Srinagar after the water level in Jhelum breached 16-ft mark at Ram Munshibagh here. As per officials **More on P6**



A man carrying his belongings from his submerged house in Bemina area of the city on Wednesday: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Kashmir's Top Geo-scientist Dismisses Flood Threat

Auqib Javeed

Amid the panic caused by the incessant heavy rains and swelling of water bodies in the Valley, senior Geoscientist Dr Shakeel Romshoo Wednesday allayed the flood fears stating that Kashmir is unlikely to witness 2014 situation. "This is a common phenomenon, with the

contributing nallahs in the Upper Jhelum Basins (UJB), particularly in the Veshu, having a slight risk of flash flooding (UJB comprises of Lidder, Veshu, Rambhara, Lidder, Sandran, Bringi). There is a little probability that it will result in a substantial flood, especially Sangam downstream," Romshoo, posted on his Facebook. Romshoo, who is the Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science **More on P6**

LET'S SAY, IF THE RAINS WOULD'VE CONTINUED for a few more days, the whole valley would've been under water. Wouldn't it have been authority's negligence to secure embankments around water bodies?"

Schools Closed In Many Districts

Authorities in several districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday ordered suspension of class work in schools in view of heavy rains. The schools were closed in Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwama, Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar districts. **More on P6**

LG's Advisor Assesses Flood Situation

In view of the increasing water levels in River Jhelum and its tributaries, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Wednesday paid a visit to Flood Control Room Ram Munshi Bagh here and assessed the flood situation across the Jammu and Kashmir. During the visit, **More on P6**

25 Tourists Rescued At Sinthan Top

Authorities in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday claimed to have rescued twenty-five tourists stuck near Sinthan Top road. "Under the supervision of DC Anantnag, a joint rescue operation was launched by administration of Sub-Division **More on P6**

Heavy Rains Kill 70 Sheep In Budgam

At least 70 livestock which include sheep, goat and some cows were killed due heavy rains in Kashmir. According to the reports, 66 sheep and cows were killed in the high altitude area of Budgam where Chohan families go to graze livestock during summer months. Mohammad Ashraf District sheep officer Budgam **More on P6**

INTERVIEW

'Srinagar Needs Holistic Urban Planning'

Auqib Javeed

Traffic in Srinagar is reaching stupendous proportions, with non-controllable vehicular footfall from outside and peripheral areas aggravating the congestion scenario on the roads, reveals a research of Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (JETIR).

Transport, as per the research, is expanding its hydra-headed tentacles prompting commoners and experts to blame government for its inability to tackle the mess.

"The traffic volume in the city roads has doubled beyond its capacity," the JETIR fact-finding says.

"The capacity of 1.3 kilometers road from Radio Station to Kohli Brothers at Regal Chowk is 1200 vehicles, however over 2421 vehicles pass on the road leading to traffic snarls."

Similarly, the report notes, the capacity of 0.7 kilometer road from Batamalo to Bemina crossing is 1200



vehicles—"however, over 3146 vehicles pass on the road leading to traffic snarls".

In a recent interview with Kashmir Observer, SSP Traffic Srinagar, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah said the city's traffic management is a coordinated effort involving among others the proactive role of Department of Roads and Buildings (R&B).

Apart from the traffic issue, the R&B is equally facing probing public queries regarding the potholed roads in Srinagar during summer.

In conversation with Kashmir Observer, Chief Engineer, R&B, Rafiq Ahmad Rafiq talks about the plight of roads and traffic in Kashmir capital.

Let's begin with the obvious—why's R&B yet to fix bad roads in Srinagar?

Well, not all roads are bad in the city, but yes, some patches need to be fixed.

Actually, surging oil prices delayed the development activity. We've been in the tendering process since March, but the contractors were not comfortable with **More on P6**

'Cyber Criminal' Using IAS Officer's Mobile No For Fraud

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Senior IAS officer Shahid Choudhary said on Wednesday that a cyber criminal was using his mobile number to defraud colleagues and friends.

The officer took to Twitter to inform about the matter and requested the Jammu and Kashmir Police to take strict action against the culprit.

He said a cyber criminal was using mobile number 8105819214 and his picture to send messages to his colleagues and friends seeking financial help.

Choudhary, a 2009-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is tribal affairs department secretary and chief executive officer of the Mission Youth Jammu and Kashmir. He won the prime minister's award for excellence in public administration in 2015.

In a tweet, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Kashmir said, "General public is advised to remain cautious and follow precautionary measures to deal with fraudsters

Rains Wash Away Part Of Banihal Highway

1150 Trucks, 150 LMVs Stranded On Highway

Observer News Service

Jammu: Incessant rains triggered landslides and flash floods along the Srinagar-Jammu highway forcing the closure of the strategic surface link for the second straight day Wednesday, leaving over a 1200 heavy and light motor vehicles stranded.

Flash floods triggered by heavy rains washed away the shuttering of an under-construction bridge and a 150-foot section of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway even as landslides in Ramban and Udhampur districts forced closure of the strategic road for the second consecutive day on Wednesday, officials said.

The traffic on the Mughal Road, which connects the

twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district, was also suspended due to landslides, they said.

"The shuttering of under-construction Peerah bridge was washed away due to heavy rains (on highway)", police official said, adding that the one which is normally used for traffic is safe.

In Udhampur district, a 150-foot stretch of the Jammu-Srinagar highway was washed away on Wednesday near Toldi Nallah, 16 kilometers away from Udhampur town, they said. Many machines were involved in the work to restore the road patch swept away in the flash floods in the Tawi river.

"Chances of road opening today are **More on P6**



File Photo

100 LMVS FROM JAMMU TO SRINAGAR WERE ALLOWED TO PASS RAMBAN after the highway was cleared and made functional for vehicular movement. However, a new landslide has again blocked the road and the movement of vehicles has been stopped. As of now, we've about 1100 HMVs and 150 LMVs stuck on the highway."

Two Feared Dead In Tarsar Lake Accident

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two people, including a tourist from Uttarakhand are feared dead in an accident in the high altitude Tarsar Lake in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said Wednesday.

According to officials, the district administration Anantnag launched an operation rescue a

group of 13 people who were on an expedition to Tarsar lake.

"It was given out that of these 13 people a tourist and a guide are feared dead and efforts are on to locate their bodies while 11 others have reached back safely," they said.

They said that a special team of rescuers comprising trained personnel from **More on P6**

Hunt For 'Child Killer' Week On, No Trace Of Man-Eater Leopard In Uri

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: A week after, the Jammu and Kashmir wildlife department deployed over 50 of its men including the sharp shooters to catch or kill the leopard who mauled three children to death in a week in the border town of Uri, the department has failed to trace the man-eater animal despite continuous efforts.

An official from the wildlife department told Kashmir Observer that the terrain in the border town of Uri is tough and the continuous downpour is making it difficult to catch or kill the leopard.

The leopard is suspected to be roaming the Sri forests. The officials said that few teams have been constituted with the help of forest protection departments including the police and sharp shooters to catch the animal "but so far we haven't got any clues," he said.

The order to kill the animal was issued by the Chief Wildlife Warden on Tuesday last under Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

"In exercise of the powers vested in me under sub-section 1(a) of section 11 **More on P6**



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Do Optimists Really Live Longer? Here's What The Research Says

The Conversation

Do you tend to see the glass as half full, rather than half empty? Are you always looking on the bright side of life? If so, you may be surprised to learn that this tendency could actually be good for your health.

A number of studies have shown that optimists enjoy higher levels of wellbeing, better sleep, lower stress and even better cardiovascular health and immune function. And now, a recent study has shown that being an optimist is linked to longer life.

To conduct their study, researchers tracked the lifespan of nearly 160,000 women aged between 50 to 79 for a period of 26 years. At the beginning of the study, the women completed a self-report measure of optimism. Women with the highest scores on the measure were categorised as optimists. Those with the lowest scores were considered pessimists.

Then, in 2019, the researchers followed up with the participants who were still living. They also looked at the lifespan of participants who had died. What they found was that those who had the highest levels of optimism were more likely to live longer. More importantly, the optimists were also more likely than those who were pessimists to live into their nineties.

Researchers refer to this as exceptional longevity, considering the average lifespan for women is about 83 years in developed countries.

What makes these findings especially impressive is that the results remained even after accounting for other factors known to predict a long life including education level and economic status, ethnicity, and whether a person suffered from depression or other chronic health conditions. But given this study only looked at women, it's uncertain whether the same would be true for men. However, another study which looked at both men and women also found that people with the highest levels of optimism enjoyed a lifespan that was between 11% and 15% longer than those who were the least optimistic.

The fountain of youth?

So why is it that optimists live longer? At first glance it would seem that it may have to do with their healthier lifestyle.

For example, research from several studies has found that optimism is linked to eating a healthy diet, staying physically active, and being less likely to smoke cigarettes. These healthy behaviours are well known to improve heart health and reduce the risk for cardiovascular disease, which is a leading cause of death globally. Adopting a healthy lifestyle is also important for reducing the risk of other potentially deadly diseases, such as diabetes and cancer.

But having a healthy lifestyle may only be part of the reason optimists live a longer than average life. This latest study found that lifestyle only accounted for 24% of the link between optimism and longevity. This suggests a number of other factors affect longevity for optimists.

Another possible reason could be due to the way optimists manage stress. When faced with a stressful situation, optimists tend to deal with it head-on. They use adaptive coping strategies that help them resolve the source of the stress, or view the situation in a less stressful way. For example, optimists will problem-solve and plan ways to deal with the stressor, call on others for support, or try to find a silver lining in the stressful situation.

All of these approaches are well-known to reduce feelings of stress, as well as the biological reactions that occur when we feel stressed. It's these biological reactions to stress - such as elevated cortisol (sometimes called the stress hormone), increased heart rate and blood pressure, and impaired immune system functioning - that can take a toll on health over time and increase the risk for developing life-threatening diseases, such as cardiovascular disease.

In short, the way optimists cope with stress may help protect them somewhat against its harmful effects.

Looking on the bright side

Optimism is typically viewed by researchers as a relatively stable personality trait that is determined by both genetic and early childhood influences (such as having a secure and warm relationship with your parents or caregivers). But if you're not naturally prone to seeing the glass as half full, there are some ways you can increase your capacity to be optimistic.

Research shows optimism can change over time, and can be cultivated by engaging in simple exercises. For example, visualising and then writing about your best possible self (a future version of yourself who has accomplished your goals) is a technique that studies have found can significantly increase optimism, at least temporarily. But for best results, the goals need to be both positive and reasonable, rather than just wishful thinking. Similarly, simply thinking about positive future events can also be effective for boosting optimism.

It's also crucial to temper any expectations for success with an accurate view of what you can and can't control. Optimism is reinforced when we experience the positive outcomes that we expect, and can decrease when these outcomes aren't as we want them to be.

Although more research is needed, it's possible that regularly envisioning yourself as having the best possible outcomes, and taking realistic steps towards achieving them,

PUBLIC NOTICE

My father's name and residence has been wrongly written in school records as Mehraj din Shah and Residence as Akingam while the correct name and address is Mehrajdin Shah & Residence Kangan Hall Magraypora Anantnag which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Boys Higher Sec School Akingam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sania Mehraj

D/o Mehrajdin Shah

R/o Kangan Hall Magraypora Anantnag

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Number Plate of my vehicle Bearing registration No: JK03D-7148. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Aqib Nazir

S/o:- Nazir Ahmad Ahanger rna

R/o:- Sahibabad Achabal

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Number Plate of my vehicle Bearing registration No: JK13B-9260. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO PULWAMA within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Ali Mohd Wani

S/o:- Ab Rehman Wani

R/o:- Panzgam Pulwama

rna

ہزاروں سال زرخس اپنی بے نوری سپرد کرتی ہے
بڑی مشکل سے ہوتا ہے حسن مسکندیدہ در پیدا

خاندان واعظ کا اور ایک چراغ بج گیا

یہ نچر نہایت ہی رنج و غم کے ساہوادی جاتی ہے کہ سید علی واعظ الحسنی ولد سید محمد واعظ الحسنی ماسکندہ کانگر پورہ سرنگرم مومئہ 20 جون 2022ء شام کو اس دارالرائی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی تدفین 24 جون 2022ء بروز جمعہ صبح 6 بجے اسکے آبائی مقبرہ واقع بازار عسکری بازار، جلی بل میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ اس کے بعد تقربتی مجلس دن بھر اسکے گھر واقع کانگر پورہ سرنگرم میں جاری رہے گی۔

سوگواران

از نہایت ہردوشورہ

مضمون: درخواست منجانب غلام حسن وعبدالحمید پسران عبدالعزیز راتھر ساکنہ ہردوشورہ برادعطا کی فونکٹی سرٹیفکیٹ متوفی عبدالعزیز راتھر

اشہار بمبراد آگاہی بر خاص دعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر ہذا کو ایک درخواست باپت حصول فونکٹی سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ اس سلسلے میں پیٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے ساکنان کا والد عبدالعزیز راتھر مومئہ 09-06-2019 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ اس نسبت ہر خاص وعام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذریا اعتراض ساتھ پوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میکانڈر کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نايب تحصيلدار

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

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

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money In Rs.	Time of completion	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Sanitary/ Plumbing Works for Ground Floor (Gutted Portion) of Zabarwan Guest House at Main Campus university of Kashmir.	39.89	Rs.1100/-	79,780	06-Months	21-06-2022 to 04-07-2022 (6.00 PM)	05-07-2022 (11.30 AM)	"AAY" & "BEE"
2.	Painting and other miscellaneous works in Conference Hall of Department of Kashmiri at Main Campus.	0.73	Rs.100/-	1,460	25-Days	21-06-2022 to 04-07-2022 (6.00 PM)	05-07-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"

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

NIT No: - F (UCD)(E.tend)/KU/18/22
DATED: 21/06/22.

DIPK-NB-1874/22

Executive Engineer



can help develop an optimistic mindset.

Of course, this might be easier said than done for some. If you're someone who isn't naturally optimistic, the best chances to improve your longevity is by living a healthy

lifestyle by staying physically active, eating a healthy diet, managing stress, and getting a good night's sleep. Add to this cultivating a more optimistic mindset and you might further increase your chances for a long life.

GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

RURAL ENGINEERING WING KUPWARA

E-TENDER NOTICE NO: 22 of 2022-23 DATED: 18 -06-2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K (UT) , e-tenders in SINGLE COVER SYSTEM are invited on item basis from approved Contractors /Reputed Firms/companies shown as under for the below noted work:-

S No	Name of Work	Panchayat	Block	Advertised Cost in (Rs. Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Teder Document in Rupees	Earnest Money	Time of Completion	Head of Account
01.	Construction of Panelling Panchayat Ghar at Rednag	Rednagh	Sogam	5.00	DEE	200	10000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
02.	Construction of Flood Channael drain from Jamia Masjid Alnoor to Paddy Fields via Gh Nabi Mir and others at Ward 2	Darapora-A	Sogam	3.50	DEE	200	7000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
03.	Construction of Culvert NLO Bashir Ahmad wani ward no 05	Diver-B	Sogam	2.00	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	4000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
04.	Construction of Road from Roshan Din to Masjid Sharief with R/Wall at ward No.11 at Sogam-D	Sogam-D	Sogam	2.0	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	4000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
05.	Construction of Chainlink Fencing of Pry School at Hardpati at Sogam-D	Sogam-D	Sogam	2.00	"D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	4000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
06.	Improvement of link road from Astan Mohalla Paddy Field with Culvert at Gungbugh	Sogam-D	Sogam	6.00	DEE/CEE	300	12000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
07.	Construction of Chainlink Fencing around Burial ground at Sheep Mohalla at Gujarpati Sogam-D	Sogam-D	Sogam	2.00	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	4000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
08.	Construction of Fencing, Filling and Levelling of Eid gah Park Near Masjid Sharief Sogam-D	Sogam-D	Sogam	5.37	DEE/CEE	300	10740	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
09.	Construction of Chain Link Fencing Graveyard near Jamia Masjid	Diver-D	Sogam	1.98	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	3960	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
10.	Construction of drain from Main Road to Gh Nabi Reshi at Ward 9	Gundmacher	Sogam	1.96	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	3920	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
11.	Construction of drain from javaid Ahmad Bakashi to Ab Majeed Workshop ward 7	Gundmacher	Sogam	2.00	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	4000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
12.	Construction of Tile Path from G Road to Ab Rehman Wani and others	Gundmacher	Sogam	1.50	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	3000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
13.	Construction of Drain with Cover Slab and Path from Mohmad Abdullah Rather to Paddy Field.	Lalpora-C	Sogam	6.00	DEE/CEE	300	12000	45 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
14.	Construction of Drain from Police Station to Dehgam Kul	Lalpora-C	Sogam	1.00	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	2000	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
15.	Improvement of Yander Kul from L/o Habibullah Mir at different Places	Lalpora-C	Sogam	4.00	DEE	200	8000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
16.	Construction of P/wall from G Road to Dehgam Kul near Jamia Masjid Lalpora	Lalpora-C	Sogam	4.00	DEE	200	8000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
17.	Construction of Fencing around Panchayat Ghar near Lalpora-D	Lalpora-D	Sogam	3.00	DEE	200	6000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
18.	Construction of Culvert near Shop of Azad gania on Yallah Yender Khul ward no 4,5,6	Lalpora D	Sogam	7.48	DEE/CEE	300	14960	60 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
19.	Construction of Flood Channel from H/o Gh Hassan Bhat to L/o Inamul Haq , Gh Rasool and others ward-7,3	Lalpora-E	Sogam	6.66	DEE/CEE	300	13320	60 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
20.	Construction of L/ Road with Culvert from Yaqoob Nallah to Liyaqat Awan and others W-2, 6	Lalpora-E	Sogam	6.66	DEE/CEE	300	13320	60 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
21.	Improvement /Upgradation of Link Road from main road to Sever Sar Road via Irmigation Kul at Ward -5	Lalpora-E	Sogam	3.32	DEE/CEE	200	6640	45 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
22.	Chain link Fencing around 2 No Graveyards Ward -4 and 1	Lalpora-E	Sogam	6.66	DEE/CEE	300	13320	60 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
23.	Construction of Fencing around Eidgah Tekkipora-A	Takipora-A	Sogam	2.44	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	4880	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
24.	Construction of Khul near Jamia Masjid Maidanpora	Takipora-A	Sogam	2.50	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	5000	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
25.	Construction of Link Road from Majun Sar to Aijaz Ahmad Khan and others	Takipora-A	Sogam	2.50	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	5000	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
26.	Construction of Fencing around Graveyard Pooshwan near Chohan Mohalla at Ward 1	Darapora-A	Sogam	1.50	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	3000	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
27.	Construction of Chain Link Fencing around Burial Ground Tantrypora Darpora C ward No.2	Darapora-C	Sogam	3.00	DEE/CEE	200	6000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
28.	Construction of Fencing with Filling graveyard near Gull Awan at Dardpora Ward 6	Daradpora	Sogam	2.00	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	4000	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
29.	Construction of Flush Point Bathroom near Masjid Shareef Buj Mohalla	Darapora-A	Sogam	3.00	DEE/CEE	200	6000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
30.	Construction of Sanitary Complex at Ward no. 1 near Panchayat Ghar and Masjid Sharief	Darapora-C	Sogam	3.00	DEE/CEE	200	6000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
31.	Construction of 2 No Sanitary Complex for Mir Mohalla Doursa Wani	Doursa Wani	Sogam	2.5	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	5000	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
32.	Construction of Flush Point Bathroom near Masjid Masjid Sharief and Wani Mohalla Ward 4	Doursa Wani	Sogam	2.37	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	4740	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
33.	Construction of Drain with wall charal dub to Bab Peer Shah Ward 3	Darapora-A	Sogam	3.00	DEE/CEE	200	6000	30 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
34.	Construction of Concrete path with R-wall at Mohalla Daradpora ward 5	Daradpora	Sogam	2.00	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	4000	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
35.	Construction of Protection wall near Masjid Abu Baker Daradpora Ward 9	Daradpora	Sogam	2.00	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	4000	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
36.	Construction of concrete path with R-wall Rand Road to GH Hassan Shiekh	Daradpora	Sogam	2.00	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	4000	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
37.	Construction of Concrete path with drain Lohar Mo-halla Phase 2nd	Daradpora	Sogam	2.00	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	4000	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
38.	Improvement of Spring with drain from Spring to Gulshan Begum	Doursawani	Sogam	1.42	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	2840	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23
39.	Improvement of Footpath with R-Wall near Ahmad Bhat	Doursa-wani	Sogam	2.00	D"/DDC Reistered Cards	200	4000	20 Days	Capex PRI 2022-23

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	18-06-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20-06-2022 (10AM)
3.	Bid submission Start Date	20-06-2022 (10 AM)
4.	Bid Submission End date	27-06-2022 Upto 3 PM
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Bids (Online)	27-06-2022 (4PM)

Position of AA = Accorded
Position of Funds = Available

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Criteria ,specification, Drawings, 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:-

2 Special Condition: For Works Adv. Cost Up-to Rs. 3.00 lakhs, only DEE Class and DDC Registered Card holders of respective/ adjacent Panchayat Halqas shall take part in tendering process in light of the Govt Order No 238-F of 2021 Dated 09-07-2021. Bidder must upload any document Residential certificate/ Aadhar card/Ration card/ Electricity Bill showing Panchayat name, as residence proof that he/she is residing the particular Panchayat halqa ,

3 The Cost of the tender documents shall be deposited into treasury under Major Head 0515-OR's the bidders must upload the scanned copy of treasury acknowledgment slip.

4 Hard Copy shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as Lowest Bidder (L1) after opening of Financial Bids.

5 All Bidders have to submit/upload Bid Earnest money i.e. 2% of the Advertised Cost of the work in shape of CDR/FRD Pledged to Executive Engineer REW Kupwara.

6 The date and time of opening of technical bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message one their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of all e- Bidders shall be opened on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer REW Kupwara (tender receiving authority).

7 The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.

27 All applicable taxes as per the rates in vogue shall be deducted in all running account bills.

28 The Successful bidder shall have to submit photographic evidence of work before, during and after execution.

29 Even after the work is allotted to the contractor/agency and there is a complaint regarding the documents submitted by him on the basis of which contract has been awarded and if it's found that the documents are not Genuine and are fake, then his contract shall be terminated and the concerned Agency / Contractor shall be BLACKLISTED for participation in all the future tenders of the Of Rural Engineering Wing Kupwara.

Executive Engineer
REW Kupwara

NO: XEN/REW/KUP/
Dated

DIPK-4564/22



GCoE Organizes Blood Donation Camp

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Health Centre of Govt. College of Education (GCoE), M.A. Road, Srinagar in collaboration with Govt. Medical College, Srinagar on Wednesday organized a Blood Donation Camp, here.

During the blood donation camp, a huge number of students and teachers donated blood. It was a gesture by the institution in bringing a ray of hope to contribute to the serious problems of acute shortage of blood.

It was given out that India faces a blood shortage of 3 Million Units, the problem can be addressed if an additional 2 percent of Indians donate blood, as open by health experts.

“We need 12 Million units of Blood every year but just about 9 Million units are being donated and to contribute our bit our college has been regularly organizing Blood Donation Camps” said Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Principal of the College.

“Students and the faculty members come forward voluntarily to donate blood”, she added.

She applauded the students for their humane gesture and said that blood donation can save lives of innumerable people. It is a great service to humanity and contribution to society as general, Naz added.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Shaheena Akhter, Coordinator Health Centre and Arshid Sualeh.

'Pre-Emptive Measures For Tackling Flood-Like Situation Indispensable'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference State Youth President Sheikh Mohammad Imran urged the government wings like SDRF to keep its men and machinery ready for tackling any ominous situation while taking necessary precautionary measures for saving the lives of people living close to the river banks.

“As immoderate weather conditions have triggered flash-floods at many places and the water is flowing above danger levels in few tributaries, the authorities must exhibit utmost vigil and carry out rescue operations in susceptible areas where landslides, flash-floods and shooting stones may wreak havoc. The people living in such vulnerable areas must be relocated to safer places by the Disaster Management teams in coordination with the respective district administrations,” Imran said.

He further demanded that water de-logging machines must be dispatched to low lying areas so that people do not have to go

through adversities.

“The water de-logging services must be put into operation in the areas adjacent to Dal Lake, Bemina along with other vulnerable places across Srinagar. Water de-logging in the city streets needs to be carried out assiduously for averting the traffic jam in these weather conditions. I am hopeful District Administration Srinagar will take necessary measures to ensure people face no trouble,” he said.

Imran asserted that concerned government bodies must take cognizance of the ongoing dredging and desilting projects of various rivers and lakes across Kashmir in order to prevent another deluge in the valley as many independent reports suggest.

“Taking comprehensive measures for rejuvenating our dying water bodies remains imperative for countering the wrath of climate change. The flood channels need to be restored immediately and all the illegal structures must be razed down and confiscations removed otherwise we will have to fear every drizzle in the impending years,” he added.



KO Photo Abid Bhat

Low lying Areas In City Submerge Due To Heavy Rains

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: With incessant rains from the last couple of days, flood like conditions prevailed in some low lying areas of the city. Lanes in many city localities were submerged and city dwellers had a tough time walking on the city streets.

Almost all the interior and main roads were inundated while people found it difficult to cross the roads.

Heavy water logging was reported from city hub Lal Chowk, Jawahar Nagar, Exhibition Road, Raj Bagh, Batamalloo, Bemina and other parts of the city. People alleged

that such a situation has arisen because of the inaction of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation. “The action of SMC is limited to facebook only where the Corporation posts some of the photographs about its achievements but on ground it remains invisible. No dewatering pumps were used to drain the waters from the roads and streets”, locals said.

Many areas of Bemina locality were submerged and people were seen helplessly helping those whose homes were submerged.

In the old city, people alleged that the dewatering operation is also running at a snail's pace and it became a source of inconvenience for

a large number of people.

Most public transport went off the roads and many in the city preferred to stay indoors due to water logging which hampered smooth traffic movement.

In view of the increasing water levels in River Jhelum and its tributaries, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar paid a visit to Flood Control Room Ram Munshi Bagh and assessed the flood situation.

He also held a detailed meeting with the senior officers of Irrigation and Flood Control wing of Jal Shakti Department and evaluated the overall flood scenario across the UT. (With CNS Inputs)

DC Assesses Situation Due To Incessant Rainfall

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to take first hand assessment of the situation arisen due to incessant rainfall in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday undertook a whirlwind tour of various areas of the Srinagar City to inspect the measures taken to tackle challenges from the prevailing weather situation to prevent any flood like situation in the district.

The DC who is also the Chairman District Disaster Management Authority visited various areas of the City including Jehangir Chowk, Rambagh, Rawalpore, Nowgam, Lasjan, Padshahi Bagh, Mehjoor Nagar, Kursu Rajbagh, Zero bridge and other adjoining areas to take

stock of the preventive measures undertaken to ensure effective flood management system.

While reviewing the level of water at Hamdaniya Colony, Rawalpore, the DC directed the Irrigation & Flood Control authorities to take up immediate measures for construction of protection bund along the embankments of irrigation canal to protect the area from water logging by spill over of irrigation canal. He also asked them to remove grass and weeds from the canal to increase its carrying capacity.

At Baginder, Lasjan, DC took stock of the water level and inspected the process of laying sandbags on the embankments along the river Jhelum.

On the occasion, the DC was informed that over 50000 sandbags

have been kept reserved to deal any exigent situation in the district. He was also told that these sand bags are being laid at vulnerable spots as a protective measure to deal with any flood like situation.

Later, he visited Padshahi Bagh, Mehjoor Nagar, Kursu Raj Bagh areas and had on the spot assessment of the water level increased due to incessant fall from the last couple of days.

Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr Syed Haneef Balkhi and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Fazlul Haseeb, the DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Senior officers from Irrigation & Flood Control, R&B, SMC, PDD, UEED and other Departments.

DIAL-EMMA

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



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
23- Zil- Qaddah
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 35
ZUHR	12:33
ASR	5:33
Magrib	7:49
ISHA	9: 31

This Day In History

- 1942- World War II: Germany's latest fighter, a Focke-Wulf FW190 is captured intact when it mistakenly lands at RAF Pembrey in Wales.
- 1943- RAF discovers Werner von Braun's V1/V2-base in Peenemunde
- 1952- US airplanes bomb energy centers at Yalu Korea
- 1960- Japan signs security treaty with the US
- 1961-The Antarctic Treaty, ensuring that Antarctica is used for peaceful purposes; for international cooperation in scientific research; and does not become the scene or object of international discord, comes into force
- 1972-Hurricane Agnes becomes US's costliest natural disaster, effecting 15 states, with 119 deaths, \$3 billion damage
- 1972- President Nixon & his Chief of Staff H. R. Halde-man agree to use CIA to cover up Watergate
- 1973- World Court condemns French nuclear tests in the Pacific
- 1974 -1st extraterrestrial message sent from Earth into space
- 1980- 1st solar-powered coast-to-coast two-way radio conversation
- 1983- Syria throws out PLO leader Arafat
- 1985- Bomb destroys Air India Boeing 747 in air near Ireland, 329 die
- 1990- African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, on a US tour, receives a tumultuous welcome in Boston.
- 1991- Mazda becomes 1st Japanese car to capture Le Mans 24 hour race
- 1994- South Africa is readmitted to the United Nations Organisations (UNO)

From KO Archives

Quit Worrying On Hurriyat: PM To Atal

NEW DELHI - Brushing aside the charge that the Government mishandled Hurriyat leaders' visit to Pakistan, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has affirmed its commitment to take the Indo-Pak dialogue process forward while ensuring that India's vital interests are fully safeguarded.

Replying to a letter from former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on June 15, Singh emphasised that there was no room for ambiguity regarding India's position on Jammu and Kashmir in its discussions with Pakistan or actions.

"I have reiterated on every possible occasion that there can be no redrawing of boundaries. We have also ruled out any role for a third party — either through intervention or as guarantor or as mediators—in am form," he said in his letter dated June 20 to Vajpayee.

He said that India had consistently held that the dialogue with Pakistan was predicated on its commitment to end cross border terrorism, as outlined in the joint statement of January six 2004. "The centrality of this position was recently reflected in the Joint Statement released after my meeting with President Musharraf." With regard to the Hurriyat leaders' visit to Pakistan, he said it was not correct to state that the authorities on the Indian side had mishandled it.

By allowing the Hurriyat leaders to travel beyond Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Islamabad violated the understanding reached between the two countries on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service.

Drawing Vajpayee's attention to the fact that the Hurriyat leaders have regularly met dignitaries from Pakistan visiting India as well as its diplomats in the last four or five years, the Prime Minister said that their track to Pakistan-administered Kashmir using Srinagar-Muzaffarabad was cleared on the basis of agreed procedures. "That Pakistan decided to invite them to visit Islamabad and other cities in Pakistan violated an understanding on these procedures that had been reached between India and Pakistan," Singh said.

He said passports were issued to those Hurriyat leaders who did not possess it and made request for the issue of such documents.

Noting that Hurriyat Conference was one of the groups that is outside the electoral process in Jammu and Kashmir, the Prime Minister said that nevertheless, the Government was willing, to enter into dialogue with such groups provided they agree to abjure the path of violence.

(Kashmir Observer, 23 June, 2005)

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir					
Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Srinagar Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir					
Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org					
GIST of Short term e-NIT No: MDS/TS/2022-23/ 32 /e-tendering					
Date: 20 -06-2022					
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from reputed/ registered contractors/firms for the below mentioned works:					
Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Time of completion (in days)	Position of funds
1	2	3	4	5	6
Repair/ replacement jobs to various departmental vehicles (Mahindra Scorpio-JK01P-3525, Mahindra Thar- JK01AP-1538, Mahindra Scorpio-JK01S-5530, Mahindra Bolero-JK01AF-8101 and TATA Yodha JK01AQ-7543)	200.00	1350.00	66,200.00	05	Available
Position of AAA: under MH-2059 M&R					
Position of TS: Sanctioned vide No. 26 of 06/2022.					
1. The Tender Document 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 Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 20 -06-2022 (04.00 PM).					
2. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 20 -06-2022 (04.00 PM) to 01-07-2022(06.55 PM) in two covers.					
3. The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 02-07-2022 (02.00 PM) in the office of the under signed.					
Sd/- (Er. Jahan Ara) Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Srinagar					
DIPK-4486/22					
No. MDS/ TS/ 1609-13 Date: 20 -06-2022					

Regd. No. A-2586

Aura Aesthetics

ADVANCED DENTISTRY & MEDICAL AESTHETICS

SKIN | HAIR | DENTAL & LASER CLINIC

Our Derma / Cosmetic Services

PRP, MESOTHERAPY FOR FACE AND HAIR, CHEMICAL PEELS, DMC PIXIGENUS MEDIFACIALS, IONOFACIALS, HYDRAFACIALS, CARBON PEEL, TATOO REMOVAL, LASER HAIR REMOVAL, SCALP MICROPIGMENTATION, MELASMA, WART REMOVAL, MOLE REMOVAL, ACNE TREATMENT, UNDER EYE TREATMENT, MICRO BLADING, BB GLOW, SKIN WHITENING, GLUTATHIONE IV DROPS, COLLAGEN/PEPTIDES TREATMENTS AND MUCH MORE

Our Dental Services

Root Canal Treatment & Extraction (Adults & Kids)

Bridges (Crowns)

Restorations (Fillings)

Implants

Smile Designing with Emax Crowns

Veneering(Indirect & Direct)

Teeth Whitening In Office

Scaling

Fixed Orthodontics

Braces and Invisalign

Surgical Tooth Removal

Implants

Pediatric Dentistry

@AURA_Aesthetics @AURA Aesthetics

For Details Contact: 9797-703533 JAWAHAR NAGAR NEAR J&K BANK

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Budgam.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsrver.net

K O V I E W

Earthquake alert

An earthquake of magnitude 6.1 in Afghanistan on Wednesday killed around 1000 people. The European seismological agency, EMSC, said the earthquake's tremors were felt over 500 kilometres by 119 million people across Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. Rescue efforts have suffered due to the absence of international aid agencies most of whom left Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover of the country last year and the chaotic withdrawal of the US forces. The Taliban has little resources to tackle the disaster at hand. So, the world including the neighbors need to step up to help out the victims of the natural calamity in the war-scarred country.

That said, the Afghanistan quake should be a warning to us here in Kashmir. The Valley has witnessed two moderate quakes over the last weeks. While these can be dismissed as routine occurrences in any other place, not so in Kashmir, which falls in earthquake zone 5. In a written reply in 2017, the then Minister for Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Syed Basharat Ahmed Bukhari told the then J&K Assembly that almost all districts of Kashmir valley and erstwhile Doda district fall in Seismic Zone-V and the rest of the districts fall in Seismic Zone-IV. So, there is always an apprehension of threat to life and property.

In 2005 a big temblor that was 7.6 on Richter scale led to the loss of around 80,000 lives. Pakistan Administered Kashmir was worst affected with a predominant number of the people killed hailing from there. On this side of the state, the quake caused devastation along the villages bordering Line of Control, particularly Uri and parts of Kupwara district leaving around 1300 people dead. If anything, the recent quakes should warn us as to a possible repetition of this natural disaster in the region.

Already, a study by a prominent US seismologist Roger Bilham has warned that Kashmir Valley is likely to be hit by an earthquake of largest ever magnitude. But the study has not specified any particular time-frame. In what can be an apocalyptic scenario, Bilham said the quake could trigger landslides that would dam the river Jhelum, He also urged India and Pakistan to develop a cooperative plan to deal with the aftermath of a mega-quake in the union territory. But ever since the 2005 earthquake which initially alerted the government and the people to build stronger, reasonably quake resistant structures, the complacency seems to have again set in. The recent quakes have thus come as an important reminder to us to become more mindful of our vulnerability to the natural disasters – flood being the another – and take pro-active measures to lessen the damage should, God forbid, we experience another disaster. It is incumbent on the government not only to get its act together but also create public awareness to help people to better prepare for a possible future calamity.

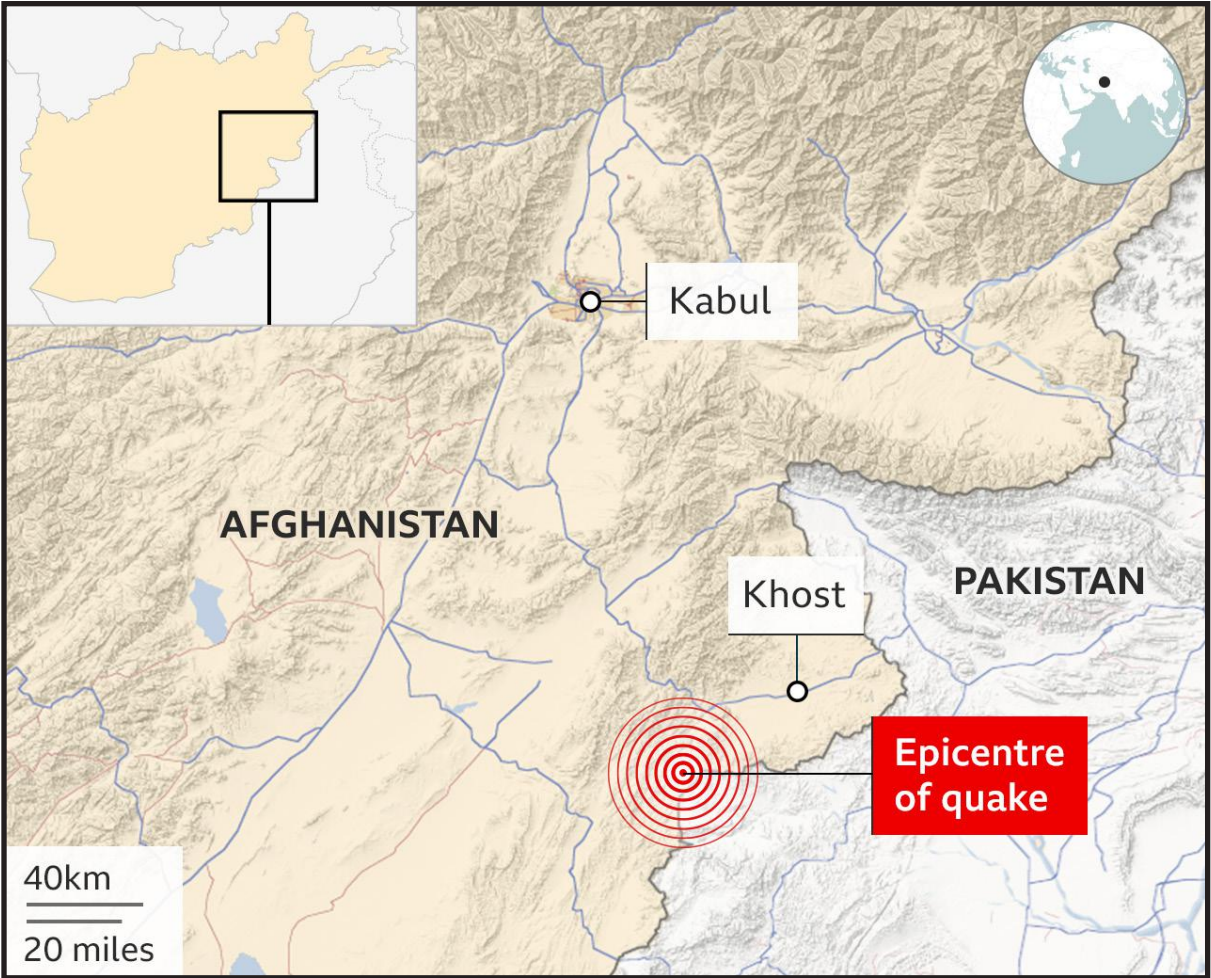
OTHER OPINON

Migration Patterns In India

One of the most common and enduring ideas concerning migration is that migrants move from one state to another to avail better employment opportunities. However, data from the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey have challenged this fundamental assumption: almost 88 per cent of migrants, the PLF says, moved within the same state, while only about 11.8 per cent moved to another state in 2020-21. Migration to India from another country was reported to be less than one per cent. Significantly, these figures have remained relatively unchanged in the last decade. In 2011, there were around 39.6 crore intra-state migrants; the correspondent figure for inter-state migrants was about 5.4 crore. Research has attributed the fall in inter-state migration to a number of factors — difficulty in accessing entitlements like the public distribution system and preferential norms as well as domicile requirements in some states for government jobs. The PLS data can be used to draw some other references. Migration is linked to the uneven economic opportunities offered by states: Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, therefore, remain the destination of workers from poorer states. It is logical to surmise that these movements will continue as long as there are disparities in economic growth among states. Policy loopholes must be addressed accordingly. For instance, the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, 2020 does not address the needs of intra-state migrants, thereby leaving them out of the scope of their protection. This should be rectified.

As suggested by the PLF data, some aspects of migration are changing. Take, for instance, the rise in migration within states, which exposes uneven development among metropolises and their hinterlands within a state. The imperative for state governments would be to even out the template of development and generate greater local employment. The poorly-planned and executed lockdown in March 2020, which brought unimaginable sufferings to India's labourers, especially those in the informal economy, also brought about a shift: people remain sceptical about outstation employment. Further transitions within India's migration patterns cannot be ruled out. This is because the deepening impacts of climate change are expected to cause severe displacement in the years to come. Policy must be ready to accommodate and secure the lives of climate migrants in a country whose laws are yet to accord legal protection to climate refugees.

Telegraph India



Are We in a Deathtrap?

Earthquake in War-torn Afghanistan
Has Lessons for Kashmir

Dr. Afroz Ahmad Shah

On June 21, a magnitude 5.9 earthquake (USGC) occurred in the border area of Afghanistan at a depth of 10 km. The shallow depth of faulting is dangerous, mainly when the region is not prepared to face medium to large earthquakes. The war-torn country has a lengthy history of political problems, which resulted in no ground preparations to deal with earthquakes, and other similar hazards. The stable political landscape of a region generally decides the future of a nation, and that in Afghanistan has not been advantageous, resulting in an economic crisis, apart from a range of other issues.

It is essential to realise that such a magnitude earthquake in a well-prepared nation like New Zealand or Japan will not usually cause any damage or death. Therefore, earthquake-related losses could have been minimised to a large extent had there been proper planning in practice. In that sense, it is a human disaster, and we ought to be honest and accept that reality.

The earthquake threat in South and SE Asia (e.g., countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia etc.) is because of the interaction between the tectonic plates of India and Eurasia. Tectonic plates do not follow political boundaries, and it is through the plates that we relate to each other.

The ongoing northward journey of India started more than 50 million years ago which caused a tectonic collision with the Eurasia plate and, with that, the formation of beautiful

“It is essential to realise that such a magnitude earthquake in a well-prepared nation like New Zealand or Japan will not usually cause any damage or death. Therefore, earthquake-related losses could have been minimised to a large extent had there been proper planning in practice. In that sense, it is a human disaster

mountain ranges, valleys, and rivers, which are the main attraction for people living in those regions, and tourists are often magically glued to the scenic views of those regions.

The geomorphology of Kashmir

makes it one of the most iconic regions in South Asia because the valley is an oval-shaped basin which is surrounded by the mountains of Pir Panjal and the Himalaya Ranges. These mountains are often covered with snow, adding an extra ingredient to the magnificent view of the region. The lush green forests add yet another feather to the beauty, making the region one of the most attractive tourist destinations in the world. However, the beautiful landscape that houses people is shouldered by faults, which cause earthquakes; sometimes large enough to cause significant loss of life and damage to assets.

Historically, Kashmir has witnessed many large earthquakes and our work suggests the remnants of



those devastating earthquakes are still fresh in the sediment and rocks of the Kashmir valley. Earthquake hazards are genetic to the valley's structural makeup; therefore, there is no way we could reverse it. We can only wish that it never comes. However, scientific evidence suggests that medium to large earthquakes can strike the Kashmir region and there is little to no doubt about it. However, the timing can play tricks on us and that is where we must be cautious.

It can happen anytime. Are we ready to face the consequences?

I would say a big No. We have built our buildings on a shaky foundation. We have magnificent residential and non-residential buildings that are often beautifully decorated from within and outside. However, these buildings can technically turn into a pile of rubble overnight if jolted by a strong earthquake. This raises an important question about the safety of our houses.

Are we living in a deathtrap?

It is a bitter reality that we are living in homes that are not safe for us. We must think about it now; otherwise, it will be too little and too late. Look at the devastation in Afghanistan, a less than six magnitude earthquake has caused more than 900 deaths till now, and the number can go up. It is simply mind boggling.

How can a small earthquake result in such large-scale devastation? The answer is simple; the buildings were not prepared to handle earthquakes. It is a lesson for everyone, and particularly for people who have not done any ground preparations to deal with earthquake hazards. Time is ticking; tectonic plates do not wait; they are on their job and could jolt anytime.

Therefore, we must learn from Afghanistan's example. We are far behind in this struggle but it is never too late to turn things in our favour. Safety comes first and there should be no second thoughts about it. The administration should take the necessary steps to deal with the region's earthquake hazards. All residential and other buildings must be audited and scaled on an earthquake safety scale, which should be the priority.

All maps from USGC

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

The author is an Assistant Professor of Structural Geology at the Department of Geosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Brunei Darussalam



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Facilitate Drug De-Addiction

A recent study conducted by Srinagar based Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (IMHANS) in a Drug De-addiction centre in Srinagar, found that over two-third of patients in the study had started substance abuse in the age group of 11-20 years. The most common substances of abuse identified included nicotine (94.4%), medicinal opioids (65.7%), cannabis (63.6%), benzodiazepines (45.5%), other prescription medications (43.4%), alcohol (32.5%), inhalants (11.1%), and cocaine (7.5%). The study revealed that poly-substance abuse was found in 91.9% of the studied patients. Inhalant use was seen predominantly among adolescents (54.5%) whereas nicotine (50.2%), cannabis (49.2%), alcohol (61.1%), opioids (58.4%), and benzodiazepines (53.48%) were more predominant in the age group of 21 to 30 years. According to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and

Empowerment (MoSJE) in February 2019, 600,000 people, i.e. 4.6 percent of the total population of Jammu and Kashmir use opioid drugs, 80 percent of the drug addicts in Kashmir use heroin and morphine.

The problem of drug abuse not only affects the physical, mental and social health of the individuals but it disturbs and burdens the whole family. It also gives great threat to family happiness and creates individual, family, economic and social disorganization.

The Kashmir disputes such as political turmoil, armed conflict, Militancy, violence, terrorism, psychological distress, unfavorable environmental conditions and rapid socio-economic problems like poor industrial and infrastructural development, mass unemployment, corruption, poverty, underdevelopment etc. have leading a rising number of drug addicts in Kashmiri society. The use of tobacco, charas, Ganga,

cocaine, heroin, opiates cannabis, alcohol and inhalant substances etc. has been growing rapidly among the adolescents in Kashmir. The use of these illicit drugs posing a big threat to humanity, by deteriorating adolescents mentally and physically, damaging family relations, spoiling potentiality, dreams, degrading the social and moral values and becoming a hindrance in shaping their career as well as progress and development of the societies

The measures of drug abuse are critical, because drug use, at its core, is a health issue. Unless we reduce demand for illicit drugs, we can never fully tackle cultivation, production or trafficking. Governments have a responsibility to counteract both drug trafficking and drug abuse, but communities can also make a major contribution. Families, schools, civil society and religious organizations can do their part to rid their communities of drugs. Businesses can help

provide legitimate livelihoods. The media can raise awareness about the dangers of narcotics. We can succeed if we reinforce our commitment to the basic principles of health and human rights, shared responsibility, a balanced approach to reducing supply and demand, and universal access to prevention, treatment and support. This will foster communities free of drug-related crime and violence, individuals free of drug dependence who can contribute to our common future and a safer world for all.

It is high time to save our generation from drug abuse and If we do not take concrete steps now, then after some years, the young generation of Kashmir will be destroyed. Police taking action against drug abuse is not enough. We as a society have to act responsibly.

M Ahmad
abhomet78@gmail.com

Russia-China Ties Under Stress?

Recent events in Ukraine and Taiwan are once again testing the Russia-China ties, as neither has commented upon or shown support to each other's actions in different theatres of action

Asad Mirza

Two time-tested allies, though differing ideologically at present but firmly rooted in the same political ideology roots and having faced several crises together, supporting each other at regional and international level through political brinkmanship are facing a new stress. Though each of them deny publicly of supporting each other, yet no one can discount the secret deals which help further cement their ties.

To boost the bilateral ties and trade, a new cross-border bridge between Russia and China was inaugurated on 10 June in the Far East in a bid to further boost bilateral trade between traditional Communist friends, besides countering rising US-led sanctions over Taiwan and Ukraine.

Kremlin's representative in the Russian Far East, Yuri Trutnev, described the bridge as carrying a special symbolic meaning in today's divided world. While Russia's Transport Minister Vitaly Savelyev said that the bridge would help increase bilateral annual trade between the two countries to more than 1 million tons of goods.

Russian authorities claim that the bridge would bring Moscow and Beijing closer together by expanding trade. China's Vice Premier Hu Chunhua also welcomed the development, saying that Beijing seeks to deepen practical cooperation with Russia in all areas.

Russia announced in April it expected commodity flows with China to surge, and trade with Beijing to reach \$200 billion by 2024. China is a major purchaser of Russian natural resources and agricultural products.

The development comes amid Western criticism of Beijing's refusal to condemn Moscow's military operations in Ukraine while also censuring US-led sanctions against Russia and acting arrogantly against Taiwan.

CHINA-US TIES

It seems as if Chinese tensions with the US are taking a turn for the worse. On 10 June, Chinese and US defence ministers held a tense meeting, clashing over Taiwan.

Addressing the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin asserted that Washington would do its part to manage tensions with China and prevent conflict.

US President Joe Biden declared last month that his country would get involved militarily should China



US President Joe Biden declared last month that his country would get involved militarily should China attack Taiwan

attack Taiwan, although his administration has since claimed that American policy on the issue has not changed.

On his part Chinese Defence Minister Fenghe warned Austin that Beijing will "not hesitate to start a war" if Taiwan declares independence. The Chinese minister vowed that Beijing would "smash to smithereens any 'Taiwan independence' plot and resolutely uphold the unification of the motherland", and also "stressed that Taiwan is China's Taiwan... Using Taiwan to contain China will never prevail".

RUSSIA-CHINA TIES

The new bridge further underlies the growing strengthening of relations between China and Russia, albeit with some reservations from both sides. So far, China has not given any public expression of support for Putin's 'special military operation'. Xi himself has subsequently stated that China is 'committed to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries'. Though Russia has

asked for military aid from China but no response has been forthcoming at least publicly, so far.

Neither does it seem that China wants to risk being involved in trade

Though for the time being China will continue to support Russia, and may not give-up the ideological common ground militarily but economic factors may impel it to overlook Russian interests in certain matters, as it continues to consolidate its global power and also in the central Asian region guided by its economic goals

Wars with the West. Chinese companies, particularly those established in the US, appear to be equally circumspect about breaking US sanctions.

Putin's war in Ukraine has highlighted the resilience and also the

limitations of Sino-Russian partnership. Far from being an "arc of autocracy", this could be described as an interests-based relationship between strategically autonomous powers. Also more rhetorical than time and action tested.

Foreign policy coordination between China and Russia is limited by their different views of global order. Beijing wants a stable international system, skewed in its favour, whereas Moscow thrives on disorder and uncertainty.

Xi Jinping aims to preserve the Sino-Russian partnership while maintaining ties with the West. But Beijing's balancing act will become harder to sustain as the war continues.

The balance of power within the bilateral relationship has tilted sharply towards Beijing. Russia is more reliant on China than ever. The

long-term outlook for the relationship is unpromising.

At their Beijing summit in February 2022, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin proclaimed a "friendship without limits". Yet Putin's invasion of Ukraine, and the Chinese response to it, has exposed the limitations of the Sino-Russian partnership. Far from being an "axis of authoritarians", as described by western observers, this is a traditional great power relationship centred in strategic calculus. Chinese and Russian interests diverge in key respects, and the war has highlighted contrasting visions of global order and disorder.

Xi Jinping has attempted to chart a "neutral" course that maintains the partnership with Russia but protects China's global interests. This balancing act might become harder to sustain if the Ukraine war drags on. Both sides value the partnership as too important to fail. But over time, its strength may erode. As both pursue different global ambitions, the

cohesions may become fewer. The relationship will become increasingly unequal and dysfunctional, and would be defined principally by its constraints.

CHINA'S REGIONAL AMBITIONS

Meanwhile, Central Asia has become of increasing strategic importance to China as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which has pinched direct supply chain routes between China and the EU. It is just like how Russia views Ukraine and other former Soviet republics in its immediate neighbourhood.

China has invested much in C+C5 alliance, supported by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in terms of security and trade. The trade aspect also includes the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which includes Russia as well as C+C5 members Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, while Uzbekistan is an observer nation and expected to join the block soon. Interestingly, China has a Free Trade Agreement with the EAEU but has not yet agreed tariff reductions. When it does, regional China-Central Asian trade will increase significantly.

While at its core is the issue of Afghanistan, the C+C5 is intent on becoming an institutionalised regional voice. While the C5 already have their own dialogue arrangements with Russia – which also includes infrastructure developments and trade, the China format allows them some ability to compare as well as cooperate. Given the issues between Russia and the European Union right now, winners will be China and the C5 states.

Thus, though for the time being China will continue to support Russia, and may not give-up the ideological common ground militarily but economic factors may impel it to overlook Russian interests in certain matters, as it continues to consolidate its global power and also in the central Asian region guided by its economic goals.

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

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai.

He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs.
www.asad-mirza.blogspot.com

Do Optimists Live Longer?

Fuschia Sirois

Do you tend to see the glass as half full, rather than half empty? Are you always looking on the bright side of life? If so, you may be surprised to learn that this tendency could actually be good for your health.

A number of studies have shown that optimists enjoy higher levels of wellbeing, better sleep, lower stress and even better cardiovascular health and immune function. And now, a recent study has shown that being an optimist is linked to longer life.

To conduct their study, researchers tracked the lifespan of nearly 160,000 women aged between 50 to 79 for a period of 26 years. At the beginning of the study, the women completed a self-report measure of optimism. Women with the highest scores on the measure were categorised as optimists. Those with the lowest scores were considered pessimists.

Then, in 2019, the researchers followed up with the participants who were still living. They also looked at the lifespan of participants who had died. What they found was that those who had the highest levels of optimism were more likely to live longer. More importantly, the optimists were also more likely than those who were pessimists to live into their nineties. Researchers refer to this as "exceptional longevity", considering the average lifespan for women is about 83 years in developed countries.

What makes these findings especially impressive is that the results remained even after accounting for other factors known to predict a long life – including education level and economic status, ethnicity, and whether a person suffered from depression or other chronic health conditions.

But given this study only looked at women, it's uncertain whether the same would be true for men. However, another study which looked at both men and women also found that people with the highest levels



of optimism enjoyed a lifespan that was between 11% and 15% longer than those who were the least optimistic.

THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH?

So why is it that optimists live longer? At first glance it would seem that it may have to do with their healthier lifestyle.

For example, research from several studies has found that optimism is linked to eating a healthy diet, staying physically active, and being less likely to smoke cigarettes. These healthy behaviours are well known to improve heart health and reduce the risk for cardiovascular disease, which is a leading cause of death globally. Adopting a healthy lifestyle is also important for

reducing the risk of other potentially deadly diseases, such as diabetes and cancer.

But having a healthy lifestyle may only be part of the reason optimists live a longer than average life. This latest study found that lifestyle only accounted for 24% of the link between optimism and longevity. This suggests a number of other factors affect longevity for optimists.

Another possible reason could be due to the way optimists manage stress. When faced with a stressful situation, optimists tend to deal with it head-on. They use adaptive coping strategies that help them resolve the source of the stress, or view the situation in a less stressful way. For example, optimists will problem-solve and

plan ways to deal with the stressor, call on others for support, or try to find a "silver lining" in the stressful situation.

All of these approaches are well-known to reduce feelings of stress, as well as the biological reactions that occur when we feel stressed. It's these biological reactions to stress – such as elevated cortisol (sometimes called the "stress hormone"), increased heart rate and blood pressure, and impaired immune system functioning – that can take a toll on health over time and increase the risk for developing life-threatening diseases, such as cardiovascular disease. In short, the way optimists cope with stress may help protect them somewhat against its

harmful effects.

LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

Optimism is typically viewed by researchers as a relatively stable personality trait that is determined by both genetic and early childhood influences (such as having a secure and warm relationship with your parents or caregivers). But if you're not naturally prone to seeing the glass as half full, there are some ways you can increase your capacity to be optimistic.

Research shows optimism can change over time, and can be cultivated by engaging in simple exercises. For example, visualising and then writing about your "best possible self" (a future version of yourself who has accomplished your goals) is a technique that studies have found can significantly increase optimism, at least temporarily. But for best results, the goals need to be both positive and reasonable, rather than just wishful thinking. Similarly, simply thinking about positive future events can also be effective for boosting optimism.

It's also crucial to temper any expectations for success with an accurate view of what you can and can't control. Optimism is reinforced when we experience the positive outcomes that we expect, and can decrease when these outcomes aren't as we want them to be. Although more research is needed, it's possible that regularly envisioning yourself as having the best possible outcomes, and taking realistic steps towards achieving them, can help develop an optimistic mindset.

Of course, this might be easier said than done for some. If you're someone who isn't naturally optimistic, the best chances to improve your longevity is by living a healthy lifestyle by staying physically active, eating a healthy diet, managing stress, and getting a good night's sleep. Add to this cultivating a more optimistic mindset and you might further increase your chances for a long life.

By arrangements with The Conversation



Neighbours help a man retrieve his belongings from a submerged house in Bemina area of the city on Wednesday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

No blanket permission to any agency for surveillance under NETRA, NATGRID: Centre to HC

Agencies

New Delhi: The Centre has told the Delhi High Court that no blanket permission has been granted to any agency for interception or monitoring or decryption of any messages or information under the surveillance programmes like the Centralised Monitoring System (CMS), Network Traffic Analysis (NETRA), and National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID).

It said that the lawful interception or monitoring or decryption of any message or class of messages or any information stored in any computer resources, is done by authorised law enforcement agencies having legal and statutory powers and after due approval by the competent authority in each case.

The government, in its affidavit, defended the need for CMS, NETRA, and NATGRID surveillance systems saying that "grave threats to the country from terrorism, radicalisation, cross border terrorism, cyber-crime, organized crime, drug cartels cannot be understated or ignored"

and a robust mechanism "for timely and speedy collection of actionable intelligence including signal intelligence is imperative to counter threats to national security".

The government said it is undeniably in legitimate state interest and is imperative that the requests for lawful interception or monitoring must be dealt with by the executive authority to maintain speed and promptitude in taking decisions.

The joint affidavit was filed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Communication Ministry and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in response to a PIL which has claimed that citizens' right to privacy was being "endangered" by these surveillance programmes.

"The lawful interception or monitoring or decryption of any message or class of messages or any information stored in any computer resources is done by authorised law enforcement agencies having legal and statutory powers and after due approval in each case by the competent authority

as per the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act and the Information Technology Act," the affidavit, filed through central government standing counsel Ajay Dignpaul, said.

The joint plea filed by NGOs Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL) and Software Freedom Law Centre (SFLC), through advocate Prashant Bhushan, has claimed that these surveillance systems allow central and state law enforcement agencies to intercept and monitor all telecommunications in bulk which is an infringement of the fundamental right to privacy of individuals.

The NGOs have contended that under the existing legal framework there is an "insufficient oversight mechanism" to authorise and review the interception and monitoring orders issued by the state agencies.

The NGOs have sought directions to the Centre to "permanently stop the execution and the operation of the surveillance projects, CMS, NETRA, and NATGRID, which allows for bulk collection and analysis of personal data.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Flood Fears

of the flood & Irrigation department, the Jhelum river was flowing at 16.21-ft at Ram Munshibagh, 0.21-ft above the alarm level of 16-ft and 1.69-ft below flood level of 18-ft.

Additionally, higher reaches have even received snowfall which accounts for a substantial drop in the temperatures in the recent week. The holy Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir also received snowfall.

According to reports, the higher reaches of Kashmir especially Affarwat area of Gulmarg, Tulail, Gurez, hilly areas of Kangan in Ganderbal, Rajouri and Poonch districts located in upper reaches of Pir Panjal mountain ranges and others experienced fresh snowfall, leading to the closure of many roads including Gurez-Bandipora, Mughal road and Srinagar-Jammu highway.

"The habitation residing along the River Jhelum in south and central Kashmir are requested to remain vigilant," an official from the Irrigation and flood control department told Kashmir Observer.

He further added, "We've pressed in men and machinery to fill breaches at several locations across Kashmir."

When asked about why these embankments had been crushed down by just four days of downpour, the official replied, "This is not the right time to answer such questions".

While Jhelum was flowing at its lowest ebb in several years until recently, rains from the last few days have brought about considerable rise in the water level, raising eyebrows against the authorities.

"Let's say, if the rains would've continued for a few more days, the whole valley would've been under water. Wouldn't it have been authority's negligence to secure embankments around water bodies?" Owais Anafas, a resident of Bemina told Kashmir Observer.

However, the officials say that the water level across Kashmir has already started receding.

"See, it's quite understandable the way people are reacting. But, they too should know that when it heavily rains across Kashmir, the waters increase abruptly and when it stops raining, the water takes some time to recede. However, now things have come under control across Kashmir," Ahsan Ul Haq, S.E. Hydraulic Circle Budgam told Kashmir Observer.

"The threats of flood have also subsided but it'll take at least two to three days for the water bodies to come back to its original shape. But, people living near the embankments are strictly advised to remain vigilant unless the threat of waters fully subside," he added.

A full weather improvement is expected starting in the late afternoon, according to the Meteorological (MeT) department.

"The weather has already improved. There's no prediction of rain till 28th June. We may expect light intensity showers after 28 but as of now, no severe downpour is predicted," Mukhtar Ahmed, Deputy Director MeT in Srinagar told Kashmir Observer.

Kashmir's Top Geoscientist

and Technology (IUST) further added that "considering that rain is predicted to stop shortly, there is very little likelihood that the gauge level at Sangam would worsen into a Pan-Jhelum flood. It may even climb a few more feet in the next couple of hours, qualifying as a small flood (technically). But Inshallah there is nothing to worry about. No reasons for goose bumps due to our 2014 flood experience."

It may be noted, that following incessant rainfall over the past four days in Kashmir, the authorities sounded a flood alert in the valley on Wednesday. The flood and irrigation department

sounded the flood alert in the Jhelum River as the water level crossed the 18 ft-mark at Sangam in the Anantnag district, which is a mark for flood alarm.

Heavy rains have also triggered a rise in the rivers and streams in Jammu and Kashmir.

Low-lying areas in Srinagar city and other parts of the Valley are facing waterlogging as higher reaches are threatened by flash floods and mudslides.

However, the Meteorological (MeT) department has forecast an improvement in the weather from Thursday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Sun greeted people in the evening and weather turned pleasant after the continuous downpour.

Rains Washaway

minimum. There are no report of any loss of life", they said."The Jammu-Srinagar highway is blocked due to fresh shooting stones and landslides at several places in Ramban district," a traffic official said.

There are over 33 landslides, mudslides and incidents of shooting stones reported on the 270-km highway in Ramban and Udhampur districts, they said. The highway was closed for traffic due to shooting stones at Panthiyal on Tuesday. Work is on to clear the highway, the officials said.

The situation at Battery Cheshma on the highway is bad as a lot of mud is to be cleared to ensure that heavy vehicles trapped in it are cleared, they said.

The road connecting Khari to Mahoo and Khari to Nachlana blocked due to mudslide and shooting stones and part of the road sank at Hirnihaal, they said, adding the people are again advised not to venture out.

As highway continues to be closed for traffic, stranded passengers were provided with food and medical facilities, they said. It is still raining in Ramsao-Ramban sector as of now, the officials said.

SSP National Highway Shabir Ahmad Malik told Kashmir Observer that till Tuesday, about 1650 vehicles were stranded on the highway near Ramban.

"100 LMVs from Jammu to Srinagar were allowed to pass Ramban after the highway was cleared and made functional for vehicular movement. However, a new landslide has again blocked the road and the movement of vehicles has been stopped. As of now, we've about 1100 HMVs and 150 LMVs stuck on the highway," Malik said.

The official further added that the vehicles won't be allowed to pass Ramban till Thursday evening.

"The men and machinery are already on the job. Passenger safety is of utmost importance to us. That's why, it'll take another day to clear the road. All vehicles will be allowed to leave Ramban from Friday," the SSP added.

The Mughal Road is blocked due to landslides at Poshana while the SSG road is blocked at Chini nallah and efforts are on to clear them, they said.

However, heavy rains are hindering the cleaning operation, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam on Wednesday monitored the road clearance operation at various places on national highway and the arrangements for the stay of passengers stranded in the area due to blockade of the road.

According to an official spokesperson, the DC said that landslides blocked the highway at Mehar, Panthyal, Shanpalace, Marog, where the clearance work was on. The DC, he said, also stated the road will be cleared for vehicular traffic very soon.

"Meanwhile, the district administration has made arrangements for night stay, meals and other facilities for the stranded passengers" the DC said.

According to the spokesperson, the DC directed the executing agencies to depute adequate men and machinery to clear the landslides to avoid

prolonged traffic breakdown and ensure early restoration of the road.

"He appealed to the commuters to contact traffic control rooms before starting their journey on the highway," he added. (With PTI inputs)

Schools Closed

"In view of very heavy rains in Anantnag district, class work in all primary, ordered middle and High schools of district shall remain suspended today," Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Dr. Piyush Singla said.

District Administration Kupwara also announced decision to suspend classwork in primary, middle and high schools across the north Kashmir district as a "precautionary measure" amid incessant rains.

Chief Education Officer Shopian said that due to prevailing bad weather conditions, classwork upto class 8th shall remain suspended in all the government and Private Educational Institutions of district.

District administration Ramban also tweeted: "In view of heavy rains and overflowing of nallahs at several places across Ramban District, all Primary, Middle & High Schools shall remain closed today. Orders will be issued separately." Similar order has been issued by district administration Kulgam.

CEO Baramulla also ordered that class work in all Primary, Middle and High Schools shall remain suspended in view of incessant rainfall in the north Kashmir district.

LG's Advisor

Advisor Bhatnagar also held a detailed meeting with the senior officers of I&FC wing of Jal Shakti Department and evaluated the overall flood scenario across the UT, an official spokesperson said.

Speaking during the meeting, he said, the Advisor delved upon the officers that men and machinery should be geared up and deployed at all the vulnerable spots to avoid any exigency.

Bhatnagar, he said, asked the officers that sand bags and other required material should be kept available near the Jhelum embankments so that any kind of breach is timely rectified.

"Advisor Bhatnagar further stressed upon the officers that the proper coordination and synergy should be maintained with district administrations as well as SDRF so that timely deployment of emergency response teams can be made to vulnerable areas," the spokesperson said.

Bhatnagar, he said, also asked the officers that the public should be informed timely about the flood levels in their respective areas and any kind of fake news or misinformation should be timely rectified with the help of Information department as well as Doordarshan and AIR.

"He also asked the officers to use the social media in proper way with timely and accurate information related to flood water levels should be updated," he added.

During the meeting, the spokesperson said that the Advisor was informed that the water levels are increasing at Sangam and Ram Munshi Bagh areas due to down flow of Jhelum river and as of now severe flood across the Kashmir valley is not predicted however full alert is being maintained and close monitoring is being done.

"The Advisor was also informed that the weather has significantly improved from today morning and with the passage of time the water levels will start receding," he said.

Later, Advisor Bhatnagar also checked the water gauge level at the Ram Munshi Bagh station and also held on spot inspection of embankments of Jhelum river.

25 Tourists

Kokernag (Revenue, Police and NHIDCL) and administration of Sub-Division Chatroo (Revenue and police)

under supervision of DMs Kokernag and Chatroo on June 22, 2022 at around 11 am during which half a dozen vehicles carrying 25 tourists, locals, supplies stuck near Sinthan Top road were rescued", said a district administration official adding the road was blocked due to fresh snowfall landslide.

"Tehsildars and SHOs of both the sides were closely monitoring the operation under supervision of SDPO Kokernag with the army's 19 RR on standby", they said.

Heavy Rains Kill

said that at least 66 sheep were killed due to snow, rain and cloudburst at high altitude areas.

"14 sheep were killed due to cloudburst at Dourien, 8 were killed at Ladermad as a pine tree fell on them, some were killed due to hypothermia and some were killed due to non availability of feed," he added.

He said that they have advised shepherds in all 12 highland altitude points in district Budgam to return till weather improves.

"Primary reports said that out of 2.5 lakh sheep, 66 died due to bad weather for the past few days," he said.

Chief advisor for J&K Gujjar Bakarwal Youth Welfare Conference told a local news agency KNO that cattle herders at Diskhal, Hamkhal, Daandeer, Frasnag, Meachi khanen, Dragtolan, Bargah, Chidaki, Tosamaidan have lost livestock due to untimely snowfall while urging the government for relief to the affected families.

Similarly reports said that several nomadic families living on the upper reaches and banks of the river in Kulgam have lost their livestock due to continuous rainfall.

An official from administration said "Tehsildar Kulgam & the team visited various locations to shift the nomads to safer places as per the directions of DC Kulgam Bilal Bhat, Relief-Blankets/ Food items provided. Relief cases being prepared for the loss of livestock/ property."

"Have received distress calls from migratory families stuck in high altitude #kausarnag #kulgam. Teams were constituted and sent with necessary relief (blankets,waterproof covers. Food & fodder). Teams will reach there after trekking for 30 kms," he tweeted.

District Magistrate Shopian also said, "The rescue team deployed by District Administration Shopian assessing the ground situation at Upper Dubjan tattapani."

In Ganderbal, administration has deputed officials to review /check situation at Dourinar, Vishensar, Gadsar, loundisulban, Sonamarg, Ganderbal, Mahlish, Kulan Gumri, Mengandob, Salnai and Jawdara however no loss of any livestock or human life has been reported from district.

Two Feared Dead

Revenue, Police and NDRF were pressed into service.

The group of people had been sightseeing at Tarsar when they were washed away on a makeshift bridge due to a strong current.

The two missing persons are Dr Mahesh from Uttarakhand and Shakeel Ahmad from Gagagneer Ganderbal.

'Srinagar Needs

the rates. So we revised the rates and the issue got resolved.

It's for the first time in the history of Kashmir that the rates were revised within two years which would usually take a decade. So, with decks finally been cleared, we've tendered blacktopping in several city areas.

But Kashmir has limited time for macadamized roads. The work in most of the places hasn't started yet. When're you going to do it then? In winters?

As I said, we started the tendering process in the month of March but

there were no bidders due to rate issues. With revised rates, the work has now started.

Let me assure you, road macadamisation has started in the summer season only in the last two years and we completed it on time.

So, how many kilometers will be blacktopped in Kashmir this year?

First of all, let me tell you that R&B isn't the only department responsible for the road maintenance in Srinagar.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is in-charge of 1394 kilometers outof total 1758 kilometer road stretch in Srinagar. They were supposed to go for macadamization in the city last year, but due to some issues, they couldn't do it. Only 407-kilometer of road comes under R&B. And the rest including by-passes come under Beacon agency.

We usually macadamize 2000 kilometers every year, but this year, under various projects, we're planning to macadamise over 1600 kilometers.

But people have this grievance that you don't remove the crust of the road first before the macadamization making roads elevated. Why is it so?

Yes, I agree. But we're still evolving and we don't have such technologies where we can remove the crust on the spot and recycle it. But this technology will also be with us one day.

But the potholes in the city have been there since the last few years. The bad roads in Natipora, Shalteng, Bemina, Qamarwari and other areas lead to massive traffic jams.

There's no dispute on that observation, but when we went for blacktopping in Natipora last year, the locals barred us from doing it. They wanted a concrete pavement road, which wasn't possible for us. We cannot change a proposal in a very short period of time. So, the funds meant for that project lapsed.

And yes, regarding Shalteng stretch, you can ask the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) — the designated agency for it.

So, how many grade-separators are being constructed in the city?

As of now, two grade separators are under construction on the Bemina highway. And the third one, at Sanat Nagar, is work in progress.

And what about Qamarwarichowk? Well, once the Noorbagh bridge will be re-aligned, the Qamarwari chowk will be redesigned with wide and hassle-free road.

Also, the volume of vehicles has increased manifold in the last few decades but roads remain the same. Any plans to expand the roads in the city?

See, there has to be a balanced process. Transport system has to evolve. As long as you don't have an efficient public transport system, you cannot keep pace with the number of vehicles. But yes, building roads at an already built-up place is not that easy, it comes with a huge cost.

Are you saying Srinagar lacks proper town planning?

Yes, there's a need for holistic urban planning. Whatever has happened in the past, used to be theoretical in nature. Urban planning is a subject which deals with pockets. It takes pockets as surgical units.

Also, there's no headway in the Boulevard 4-Lane Road Project even after 11 year. Why is it so?

Actually, the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) is the main agency for the road. They had to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Once they finalise it, they will do it.

'Cyber Criminal'

According to sources, some other senior officials in the Jammu and Kashmir administration have also been targeted by the cyber criminals in a bid to extract money by hacking into bank accounts.

Week On, No Trace

of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 hereby accords the permission in favor of the Wildlife Warden, North Division, Kashmir to hunt or cause the said animal to be hunted forthwith with completing the required formalities," the order said.

Suresh Kumar Gupta, Chief Wildlife Warden J&K told Kashmir Observer that terrain in the Uri is making it difficult for his men to trace the leopard.

He said the similar incident took place in Mahur village of Samba in 2019 when the leopard killed two kids but the department gave-up after three months of search operation as they couldn't trace the animal.

"...You need to understand that the terrain is mountainous in Kashmir and the animal is very clever and tricky and it's difficult to trace him. Gupta told Kashmir Observer, adding that "It is also possible that the leopard might have shifted to another area following the continuous disturbance,"

As reported earlier, the department has deployed over 50 of its men including the sharp shooters to catch or kill the leopard.

However, sources told Kashmir Observer that the department is running short of men and infrastructure, which is making it difficult to address the growing conflict between man and animal.

"Over 2,851 sq km is notified as wildlife areas as protected land in J&K and we have only 821 permanent staff members on the ground," sources told Kashmir Observer.

They said the department needs over 5000 permanent staff members on the ground to tackle any crises. It may be noted that forests cover around 20% of the geographical area of Jammu and Kashmir. More than half of the Kashmir Valley is forested.

Gupta agreed that the department lacks manpower and needs more permanent staff members on the ground.

"But let me tell you that we have referred over 150 posts to the government for recruitment and its process is going on. I am sure that the issue will get resolved in the coming months," he said.

He further added that they have more than 2000 permanent staff members of forest protection force, whose service can be availed at any time.

"We have a forest territorial wing, whose service can be also availed at any time," he added.

However, Gupta denied that there is a lack of infrastructure in the department. He said from the last three years the department was provided with enough equipment to deal with any crises.

J&K Adds 40 New

recoveries reached 4,49,621, they said.

BJP Sarpanch Held

investigation, statements of victim and other witnesses under relevant provisions of law were recorded, they said adding that subsequently the allegedly accused BJP Sarpanch identified as Mohammad Yousuf Ganie who was absconding was arrested on 7th June by Police.

A police officer confirmed the incident to Kashmiri Dot Com and said a case under FIR no 66/ 2022 under section 376, 506 of Indian Penal code was registered in a local police station.

The Sarpanch has been shifted to central jail Srinagar. (KDC)

CRPF Man

said that cognizance of the incident has been taken.

Fresh Snowfall

Organization has pressed men and machinery into service to clear snow so that the road can be made through for traffic (KNS)

Div Com Orders Speedy Restoration Of Services, Roads Affected Due To Incessant Rains

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Keeping in view the recent rainfall and increasing water level in rivers and tributaries, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review flood management measures and preparedness in the districts of the division.

The Div Com took stock of damages occurred in the districts due to recent rains and instructed DCs to initiate assessment of damages in their area of jurisdictions.

The Div Com instructed DCs to ensure expeditious restoration of the damaged roads, besides disrupted water and power supply etc. He further asked to keep close tab on availability essential commodities in the districts.

He also asked the DCs to activate 24x7 multi departmental control rooms/ Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) and notify helpline numbers and publicise the same for information of the general public. He emphasized to ensure prompt

response to distress calls.

While reviewing the situation of Ramban District, the Div Com directed the DC to expedite restoration work of national highway 44 and provide safe shelter and food to the passengers stranded in the district. He further asked the DCs to ensure that migrant population was not affected and provide adequate assistance to them.

He also stressed on close monitoring of water in rivers, canals, Nullahs so that timely measures were taken in case of any eventuality.

Inquiring about the lightening incident in Dudu Basantgarh of Udhampur district, it was informed that the Divisional administration has sought the help of Air Force authorities for airlifting the injured by Helicopter.

The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Director Planning while all DCs of Jammu Division along with other concerned officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Union Minister Inaugurates Additional 20 Bedded Facility At Pahalgam Hospital



Observer News Service

PAHALGAM: Union Minister of State (MoS) for Health and Family Welfare (H&FW), Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar inaugurated additional 20 bedded facility at Civil Hospital Pahalgam.

The MoS also took a detailed stock of medical facilities put in place for holy Amarnath Yatra 2022 besides other arrangements in a meeting here.

Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather; CMO Anantnag, Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Zagoo besides other senior officers of health and other allied departments were also present in the meeting.

While inaugurating the facility, the MoS said that the additional 20 bedded facility will help to decongest the nearby hospitals besides it will provide relief to the patients as well as yatrīs. She asked the officers to keep the required number of doctors available at the hospital besides other facilities and equipments should also be made available for the better health facilities for the public.

Meanwhile, the MoS also reviewed the Amarnath Yatra arrangements including the setting of base hospitals for the ensuing Amarnath Yatra 2022 scheduled from the end of this month.

While reviewing the arrangements for smooth conduct of

yatra, the MoS expressed satisfaction over the arrangements being made for the yatra and stressed that no stone should be left unturned for providing better facilities to holy yatrīs.

During the meeting, the MoS was informed by the Director that all the arrangements are in place and up-gradation of facilities have been made this year besides the routine facilities which used to be available en route the yatra have been established.

The Director informed the MoS that this year two DRDO hospitals are being made operational for yatrīs so that they don't face any kind of problem besides good number of doctors and paramedics within and outside the UT will be put into service for the yatra.

It was also informed that 24/7 control room has been established by the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir.

The director also informed the MoS that the DSHK has trained 300 doctors and paramedical staff at the Regional Institute of Health & Family Welfare (RIHFW), Dho-biwan under 'Training of Trainers' program in High Altitude.

It was also informed that the directorate will deploy good number of health care workers for Yatra duties in order to provide the best medical services to the devotees at make-shift hospitals.



A MAN CARRIES HIS DAUGHTER through knee deep waters in the flood-hit Bemina area of the city on Wednesday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

J&K Has Immense Potential In Field Of Performing Arts, Culture: LG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir has immense potential in the field of performing arts and culture, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that his administration is committed to the growth of art and culture of the Union Territory by opening new avenues of Film making and film production.

Sinha made these remarks during his interaction with delegations of Performing Artists and Film Makers of Kashmir; Dalit Janjagrat Mission here at Raj Bhavan, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the delegation comprising of veteran artists and filmmakers- Ayash Arif, Waheed Jeelani, and Zameer Ashai presented a memorandum with regard to current cultural scenario in the UT of J&K.

The demands and issues presented included implementation of artist beneficiary schemes by the J&K Cultural Academy, enhancement of performing artists' fee, larger scope for involvement of performing artists from the genres of art by strengthening of cultural institutions of valley like Doordarshan, All India Radio and Cultural Academy.

The members of the delegation expressed gratitude to Lt Governor for the recent Jammu Kashmir Film Policy introduced by the Government and hoped that



it will give a much needed boost to the regional film industry, and the people associated with it.

The Lt Governor observed that Jammu Kashmir has immense potential in the field of performing arts and culture. It has rich traditional cultural values which need to be showcased using modern means like films and dramas. The UT administration is committed to the growth of art and culture of Jammu Kashmir by opening new avenues of Film making and film production.

The Lt Governor paid a patient hearing to the issues and demands put forth by the delegation and assured them every possible support and necessary action on merit.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Dalit Janjagrat Mission (DJM) led by National General Secretary and Incharge J&K, Suhail Ahmad Mir also called on the Lt Governor and projected their concerns issues and demands.

The delegation apprised the Lt Governor about various developmental and administrative issues of Kashmir Valley,

including proper maintenance of rural roads. Sh Suhail Mir highlighted various developmental issues pertaining to J&K and urged the Lt Governor to issue necessary directions for completing the stalled projects in a time-bound manner.

Mir expressed his gratitude to the Lt Governor for dynamic and reformative policies for the people of J&K. He said that the UT is witnessing a new era of development, and complimented the administration for implementing a progressive industrial policy which will maximize investments and generate ample opportunities for the local youth in coming times.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the members of the delegation observed that the UT Government is committed to the equitable and rapid development of all the regions of J&K.

He assured them that all their genuine issues and demands would be taken up for examination and early redressal. The Lt Governor further urged them to continue their sustained endeavours for the advancement of public welfare.

Amarnath Yatra

Joint Security Conference Held In Jammu

Agencies

JAMMU: Ahead of Amarnath Yatra scheduled to begin next week, the Army conducted a Joint Security Coordinating Conference at Tiger Division here to coordinate operational preparedness.

Lieutenant General Pushpendra Singh, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Yol based Rising Star Corps or 9 Corps and

Additiownal Director General of Police ADGP Mukesh Singh co-chaired the conference to coordinate operational preparedness of security forces in Jammu and Samba districts.

The conference was attended by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Samba, along with Inspector General level officers from Border Security Force (BSF),

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Deputy Director from State Intelligence Bureau, Formation Commanders and Brigade Commanders of Jammu and Samba.

"The top brass of army, police and intelligence officers discussed threat perception and security arrangements for Shri Amarnath Yatra during the high level meeting," a Jammu based defence spokesperson said.

TRF Conspiracy Case

'Militant' Held As NIA Raids Multiple Spots In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A militant, closely associated with The Resistance Front (TRF) commander responsible for recent targeted killings, was arrested on Wednesday as the NIA carried out searches at multiple locations across Kashmir in a "terror conspiracy case", an official said.

Mudasir Ahmad Dar, a resident of Nowpora-Kharpora village in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, was arrested for providing logistical support and transporting arms and ammunition, a spokesperson of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said.

The official said the searches were carried out at a total of 11 locations in Srinagar, Kulgam, Pulwama and Ganderbal in connection with the TRF conspiracy case.

"He (Dar) was closely associated with the TRF commander responsible for the recent targeted killings across Kashmir and was also involved in radicalisation and recruitment of impressionable youths at the behest of the group," the spokesperson said.

The NIA said incriminating materials, including digital devices, have been seized during the searches and further investigation in the case is underway.

The case relates to activities of "TRF, an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit, and its self-styled commander Sajjad Gul who has been actively radicalising, motivating and recruiting youths of J&K to undertake violent activities in J&K and other parts of India", it said.

The NIA registered the case suo motu on November 18 last year.

Vivek Bhardwaj Nominated As Chairman JKLFC

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Department has been nominated as Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKLFC) in place of Mr. Atal Dulloo, IAS, for a period not exceeding three years," reads the government issued by Principal Secretary to the government Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, a copy of which is with news agency—Kashmir

News Observer (KNO)—(KNO)

IAS, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department is hereby nominated as Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKLFC) in place of Mr. Atal Dulloo, IAS, for a period not exceeding three years," reads the government issued by Principal Secretary to the government Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, a copy of which is with news agency—Kashmir

2 RDD Employees Suspended For Misappropriation Of Funds

Observer News Service

DODA: Assistant Commissioner Development Doda, Phulial Singh has placed 2 employees of Rural Development Department under suspension with immediate effect for alleged misappropriation of funds.

The suspended employees include Kashif Nadeem, then VLV and Zubair Alam, the then GRS of Panchayat Dhara-A.

The action against the employees was taken on the basis of the findings of an Inquiry Committee constituted after the local public filed a complaint against the accused employees of swindling funds drawn for non-existing

Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) proposed for Ward No 06 (Chatta) of the Panchayat.

As per the Rural Development Department, the Committee was constituted by BDO Doda (Ghat) on the directions of Assistant Commissioner Development to ascertain the facts. The inquiry Committee ascertained that the Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) shown to cost Rs. 3.90 lakh has not been constructed at the proposed site and instead 2 toilet units were shown to be constructed at two different locations, while the payment of Rs. 3.90 lakh was drawn against the non-existing Community Sanitary Complex.

Driver, Conductor Escape Unhurt As Truck Plunges Into Bandipora Nallah

Agencies

BANDIPORA: A driver and conductor miraculously escaped unhurt after a truck, on way from Srinagar to Bandipora, rolled down into Baedkul Nallah in Ajas village of North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Wednesday.

Reports said that a cement laden truck skidded off the diversion constructed on either side of the newly

constructed Ajas bridge, and fell into Baedkul Nallah after driver lost control over the vehicle.

Locals, present on the spot, immediately swung into action and rescued the duo, who miraculously did not suffer any injury.

Both the driver and conductor are safe. A police official told GNS the cognizance of the accident has been taken and investigation about the incident set into motion. (GNS)

ACB Charges Former Executive Engineer, Others In Graft Case

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday said to have filed a chargesheet against the then Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Kupwara and others for purchase of furniture items for MLA Hostel Kupwara at exorbitant rates.

"Anti Corruption Bureau produced chargesheet against Mohammad Shafi Bhat, the then Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Kupwara and others for purchase of furniture items for MLA Hostel Kupwara at exorbitant rates in the Anti Corruption Court Baramulla," a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said.

It said that the instant case under FIR number 08/2015 was registered at P/S Vigilance Organization Kashmir (now ACB) in backdrop of a verification conducted into the allegations that officers/officials of R&B Division Kupwara in connivance with others have misappropriated government funds meant for purchase of various furniture items for MLA Hostel Kupwara.

It was also alleged the then Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Kupwara Mohammad Shafi Bhat in furtherance of criminal conspiracy hatched by him with supplier Abdul Lateef Ganai and other officials of the R&B Division Kupwara have misappropriated government funds meant for the purchase of various furniture items for MLA Hostel Kupwara in year 2009-10 by dishonestly & fraudulently showing fake and fictitious competition in the tendering process, the statement said.

It said that the investigations conducted by ACB revealed that the accused Executive Engineer has invited quotations vide NIT number 1776-82 dated 17.06.2009 for supply of various furniture/furnishing items for MLA Hostel Kupwara, without obtaining Administrative Approval from the competent authorities and without advertising the same in print/electronic media besides this the tendering process was also fabricated by preparing fake & forged quotations of purported participating Quotationers to show the fake competition in or-

der to favour the accused supplier MS Wani Furnishing House represented by Latief Ahmad Ganie.

"Investigations conducted further revealed that all the other participants fraudulently shown to have participated in the tendering process had denied that they ever participated in the tendering process and the documents prepared by the officials are fake/forged to facilitate the issuance of supply order in favour of the supplier. It was also found that the said accused Executive Engineer by abusing his official position under a well knit conspiracy with other officials & the accused supplier Latief Ahmad Ganie arbitrarily fixed the rate of Furnishing / furniture items without conducting any market survey and fixed the contract for supply of said item in favour of the accused blue eyed supplier. Vide supply order No. 80/AC of 09/2009 on highly exorbitant rates without obtaining Administrative Approval and also effected purchases in favour of the supplier at exorbitant rates."

The investigation conducted by

ACB has proved that the accused officials in their capacity as public servants have abused their official positions by entering into conspiracy with the supplier and under a well knit conspiracy have resorted to manipulation/forgery of tendering records and purchased the furniture items on huge exorbitant rates thereby illegally/fraudulently giving undue pecuniary benefits to accused supplier and causing loss to state exchequer, the statement said, adding that the chargesheet was presented against Mohammad Shafi Bhat, the then Executive Engineer, Mohammad Sultan Sheikh, the then Executive Engineer, Abdul Gani Bhat, the then Head Draftsman, Noor Mohammad Ganai, the then camp clerk of R&B Division Kupwara and Abdul Latief Ganai (Supplier) S/o Abdul Hamid R/o Kalaroo Kupwara accused beneficiary for commission of offences under various sections of IPC/PC Act svt 2006 before Hon'ble Anti Corruption Court Baramulla.

"Next date of hearing has been fixed on 09-08-2022," it said.

Around 4.5L Persons Get Treatment Under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY SEHAT Scheme

'Rs 307crores Paid To Empanelled Hospitals Till Date'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Government has treated more than 4.5 lakh people across the UT for various ailments under the Ayushman Bharat- PMJAY SEHAT scheme and paid Rs 307 crore to the empanelled health institutions under the scheme.

Under this scheme, J&K Government has empanelled around 250 hospitals including private run health institutes to provide free treatment to the beneficiaries under the scheme.

As per the statistics, 68.18 percent (69.85 lakh) of the beneficiaries have been registered under the scheme; making 76.59 percent of the total families eligible for benefits under the SEHAT scheme.

An official said that of the 69.85 lakh registered beneficiaries, 37.7 lakh people have been issued golden cards in Kashmir and 32.09 lakh in Jammu.

Government has employed all its resources at district level to register all population under the scheme for maximum benefit to the people who have struggled all the years to get treatment which was unaffordable to majority of them.

The Government has directed for 100 percent coverage of the scheme this year. Mass awareness campaigns have been launched by the administration through various mediums

including TV, radio and print, as well as social media to aware maximum people about this scheme and improve overall health scenario of the UT.

State Health Agency Jammu and Kashmir(SHA-J&K) has initiated a door-to-door campaign to achieve the 100 percent target under the scheme. The administration has established facilities at various places to issue golden cards. Various departments have drawn a strategy to reach out to drivers, vendors, orphanages, and mandis and register them under the scheme. A special walk-in drive was also organised for shikara owners and their families.

The Government of India has selected the Sher-e-Kashmir Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura as a starting point for the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Project (ABDM) in J&K, the rollout of which was approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Pertinently, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme was launched in the year 2020 with an aim to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir UT.

It provides free of cost insurance cover to all the residents of the UT of J&K and also provides financial cover up to Rs.5 Lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K.

Ranji Trophy Final: MP Restrict Mumbai To 248/5 On Day 1



Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: An unheralded bunch of Madhya Pradesh bowlers stuck to its plans as a star-studded Mumbai side toiled its way to 248 for five on the first day of the Ranji Trophy final in Bengaluru.

Despite an opening stand of 87 between Prithvi Shaw (47, 79 balls) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (78, 163 balls), Mumbai failed to drive home the advantage on a pitch that wasn't conducive for strokeplay.

A 400-plus first-innings total will now depend on the season's highest run-getter Sarfaraz Khan (40 batting, 125 balls), who is looking good for another big knock with the dependable Shams Mulani (12 batting, 43

balls) giving him company.

While left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya was the tireless operator from one end, having sent down 31 overs for figures of 1 for 91, seamer Gaurav Yadav (23-5-68-0) was distinctly unlucky and the wickets column don't reflect the relentless pressure that he put on Mumbai batters, especially skipper Shaw.

In fact, it was the pressure applied by Yadav which helped nippy seamer Anubhav Agarwal (19-3-56-2) and tall off-spinner Saransh Jain (17-2-31-2) to share the bulk of the spoils, with some intelligent execution of plans.

Mumbai did enjoy the advantage during the first hour after Shaw opted to bat and, along with Jaiswal, took on the MP attack.

AIFF Affiliated Units Tell FIFA-AFC SC Intervention Was 'Out Of Necessity'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The All India Football Federation's (AIFF) member units on Wednesday met the visiting FIFA-AFC team and informed them that the Supreme Court intervention in the national sports body was "out of necessity".

Last month, the SC ousted the Praful Patel-led dispensation in the AIFF and appointed a three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA) to frame a new constitution and hold elections for a new set of office bearers, besides running the day-to-day affairs of the national federation.

Since then, there have been speculations about a possible FIFA ban on India for third party intervention in the affairs of the AIFF. However, the apprehensions, to a large extent, were cleared with the visit of FIFA-AFC delegation.

On the second day of its visit, the team held discussions with a seven-member committee of the state associations.

"It was a very positive and constructive meeting. We explained the visiting team how the Supreme Court came to the scene after the old dispensation (under Patel) did not hold elec-



tions even after its term was over," a top source who attended the meeting told PTI on condition of anonymity.

"There was confusion all around (because of not holding the elections) and that was affecting Indian football. It was not good for the game in the country. So, it was explained to the FIFA-AFC team that the SC intervention was out of necessity. There was no other way out," the source added.

It is understood that the FIFA wants the transition period of the national federation to be as short as possible.

"FIFA is likely to set a date before which the elections of the AIFF are to be held so that the FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup, to be held in India, are organised by the new set of office bearers.

"The visiting team wants the transition period under the CoA to be as short as possible. That is the sense the state associations got from the FIFA-AFC team."

HC Directs Selection Panel To Consider High Jumper Shankar For CWG 2022



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court Wednesday directed the Selection Committee to consider on merits the case of athlete Tejaswin Shankar, a high jumper who has been excluded from participating in the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

The high court said Shankar's non-participation in the interstate championship shall not be the sole criteria for rejecting him and observed that he is a "medal prospect" and there should not be an ego issue.

Justice Jasmeet Singh issued notice and sought a response of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and the Selection Committee of the AFI for the senior category on the petition.

The plea sought to direct the AFI not to disqualify Shankar from participating at the CWG 2022 based on non-attendance at the Interstate Senior Athletics Championships, and be allowed to participate based on having met the qualifying standard at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) championships.

"These are record holders and you don't let them go... He (Shankar) is a medal prospect. Let it not be an ego problem," the court said.

The court was informed by advocate Parth Goswami, representing AFI and Selection Committee, that the final list of athletes has already been prepared and submitted to Indian Olympics Association (IOA).

He further said that the Selection Committee is scheduled to meet today.

LG Sinha Inaugurates First-Ever National Rowing Championship In J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday inaugurated the first-ever National Rowing Championship in J&K.

Addressing the participants at the inaugural event at SKICC, the LG extended his invite to each member of the sporting fraternity, from across the country, to enjoy the warm hospitality and the spectacular games.

"The National Rowing Championship will provide a unique opportunity for young sportspersons from all over the country to display sporting excellence and share the camaraderie and sportsmanship," observed the LG.

The LG said the Nehru Park's Water Sports Centre, inaugurated last year, is equipped with world class infrastructure for kayaking, canoeing and rowing. He urged sportspersons to take advantage of the world class infrastructure

with a focus on medals in the international arena.

"Every day around 400 children including girls are being imparted specialized training through this Water Sports Centre. In the last three years, our players have won 100 medals in national level competitions in kayaking and canoeing and many players have also represented the country in international tournaments," the LG added.

A water sports centre like Srinagar is also being built in Basohli in Jammu division, which will be equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities.

Rajlaxmi Singh, President Rowing Federation of India while speaking on the occasion extended gratitude to LG for his support in organising the National Rowing Championships-2022 in J&K. She said that the region has immense talent pool in the field of sports with many sports persons are making

their mark at the international level. Dal Lake has the potential to host international level water sports events, she added.

S.A. Watali, Organizing Secretary, delivered the welcome address.

On the occasion, Oath was also administered to the participants to abide by the spirit of the game.

The teams will compete in different categories in the course specially made for the championship in Dal Lake.

Dilbag Singh, DGP; SJM Gillani, ADGP Armed; Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary Youth Services and Sports; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; MV Sriam Secretary General RFI; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; Arjuna and Dronacharya Awardees, Olympians, coaches, participants from across the country, technical officials, Officers of RFI besides others were present on the occasion.

First Para-Athletic Meet of Kashmir Held At IUST's Athletic Track

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The first Para-Athletic Meet of Kashmir began on Wednesday at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) in which several para-athletes from different parts of Kashmir participated.

The event was organised by the Directorate of Physical Education & Sports of the university on the synthetic athletic track of the university which is the only international standard athletic track in Jammu and Kashmir. Prof. Shakil A Romshoo (Vice Chancellor, IUST), Registrar, Finance Officer and many officials of the university were present on the occasion.

Appreciating the enthusiasm of para-athletes, Prof. Romshoo said, "The fervour of these athletes is worth appreciation. Despite their challenges and limitations, they don't give up the courage and participate with great enthusiasm". He assured that the university will be organizing more such events in



future on larger scale.

"The university has sufficient infrastructure to organize national and international sports events in the university," he added.

Thanking Voluntary Medicine Society Bemina for their support, Dr. Hilal A Rather (Asstt. Director, Sports) said that "This event marked an important milestone for para-athletic sports of Kashmir."

Besides para-athletic meet, other sports events were also held in the campus on Wednes-

day. All the competitions of the event were conducted in accordance to the Regulations of the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations), followed in the World University Games.

The NEP-2020 promotes holistic development of students, with great emphasis on sports. In keeping with this central tenet of the education policy, IUST vouches to support and coordinate activities in sports and organize more such events in the future.

ICC T20 Rankings: Karthik Jumps 108 Spots, Kishan Breaks Into Top 10

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: On the back of his recent exploits, veteran Dinesh Karthik jumped a massive 108 spots to 87th on the latest ICC T20 rankings for batters, even as young opener Ishan Kishan broke into the top 10.

Kishan finished the series with two half centuries against South Africa and was the leading run scorer with 206 runs at an average of 41. That form catapulted the left-hander up one spot to sixth on the latest T20 rankings for batters.

Karthik has been in excellent form since the IPL-15 and had a few blazing knocks in the T20 series against South Africa. Pakistan skipper Babar Azam still holds the top spot on the T20 batting rankings and Kishan is the only Indian player rated inside the top 10.

Yuzvendra Chahal was the biggest mover on the T20 rankings for bowlers with the India spinner jumping three places to 23rd following his six wickets during the South Africa series.

Josh Hazlewood maintains his position as the top ranked T20 bowler, with Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan (joint third) and Sri Lanka tweeker Wanindu



Hasaranga (sixth) both moving up a place inside the top 10.

Ravindra Jadeja maintains his top position in the Test all-rounders' list with 385 rating points. He is currently in the UK for India's upcoming Test against England, a spill over of last year's five-match series, which could not be completed owing to a COVID-19 outbreak.

Bangladesh captain Shakib al Hasan moved up to second position with 346 rating points, though he has a long way to go if he wants to overtake Jadeja at the top of list.

Former India captain Virat

Kohli (742) maintained his 10th position in the Test batting chart, while seasoned off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (850) and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah (830) occupied the second and third positions in bowling respectively.

West Indies quick Kemar Roach also made his move on the updated list for bowlers, with the veteran right-arm jumper four spots to eighth following an impressive display against Bangladesh.

Australian quick Pat Cummins leads the Test bowlers' list with 901 rating points.

ENG Vs NZ, 3rd Test: James Anderson Blow For England



Agencies

LONDON: Jamie Overton will make his debut for England in the third and final cricket test against New Zealand starting Thursday after fellow fast bowler Jimmy Anderson was ruled out because of an ankle injury.

Overton's twin brother, Craig, was also in the squad and an option to replace Anderson but England went with the more inexperienced of the siblings in the only change to the team at Headingley.

England holds an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series.

England captain Ben Stokes said Anderson had a "puffy ankle," and wasn't sure if he'd be healthy enough to play in next month's test against India.

"Unfortunately Jimmy's not pulled up as well as we would

have liked him to, so Jamie Overton's going to make his debut this week," Stokes said.

"It's unfortunate for Jimmy, but we've got a massive test against India coming up as well. I'm not too sure how serious it is, to be honest."

Stokes said Jamie Overton offered a "point of difference" because of his extra pace.

"He fills a different role from Jimmy," Stokes said, "but to have someone in your back pocket who can bowl 90 mph is big for us.

"That's the only change this week. As tempting as it was to get both twins out there playing for England, Jamie's the only change."

Craig and Jamie Overton were looking to become the first set of twins to play for England.

New Zealand hasn't named its team for the match.

Zaheer Abbas, Pakistan Cricket Great, Admitted To ICU

Press Trust of India

LONDON: Pakistani batting great Zaheer Abbas has been admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of a private hospital in London.

According to Geo News, Abbas, 74, was moved to the ICU three days after getting admission in Saint Mary's Hospital in Paddington, where he was put on oxygen support.

One of the most elegant batters of his time, Abbas had contracted COVID-19 while travelling from Dubai to London. He had complained of pain and was diagnosed with pneumonia after arriving in the British capital.

"He is currently on dialysis and the doctors have advised him to refrain from meeting people," Geo News quoted sources as saying.

Abbas, who made his international debut in 1969 against New Zealand, was one of the finest batters of his generation. He

amassed 5062 runs in 72 Tests, and scored 2572 runs in 62 ODIs.

In first-class cricket, he accumulated 34,843 runs in 459



matches, which included 108 centuries and 158 fifties.

After retirement, he also served as an ICC match referee in one Test and three ODIs.

He was also inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame in 2020 alongside Jacques Kallis and Lisa Stahlekar.

Wishes have been pouring in for the legendary cricketer on social media.

The likes of Mohammad Hafeez, Alan Wilkins, and many of his ardent fans have expressed their concerns and wished him a speedy recovery.

Bayern Munich Completes Signing Of Sadio Mane From Liverpool



Agencies

MUNICH: Bayern Munich completed the signing of Senegal forward Sadio Mané from Liverpool on Wednesday.

The Bavarian powerhouse said the 30-year-old Mané had signed a contract with the club through June 2025.

"There are very few players like him in the world," Bayern chief executive Oliver Kahn said. "We're sure that Sadio Mané will delight our fans in the coming years with his spectacular style of play. He's ambitious and eager to win more titles. This package is very strong."

A person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press last Friday that it was worth up to 41 million euros (\$42.9 million) with Liverpool receiving 32 million euros (\$33.5 million) up front, with a further 6 million euros (\$6.3 million) due when he meets a specified appearance clause and an additional 3 million euros (\$3.1 million) based on individual and team

achievements.

Mané's arrival will fuel speculation that Poland star Robert Lewandowski is set to leave Bayern. Lewandowski, who scored 312 goals in 384 Bundesliga games for Bayern and former club Borussia Dortmund, has been pushing for a departure since last season ended.

Mané just completed what was arguably the best season of his career, converting the clinching penalty in a shootout to win the African Cup of Nations for Senegal, helping his country qualify for the World Cup, and starting for Liverpool in a campaign where the club nearly achieved an unprecedented quadruple of major trophies.

He won every major honor with Liverpool — the Champions League and Club World Cup in 2019, the Premier League in 2020 and both the FA Cup and League Cup in 2022. He has also scored 31 goals in 89 appearances for Senegal and was named African Footballer of the Year in 2019.