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Quote!

Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection
- Mark Twain

NEWS DIGEST

4 LeT Operatives Held In Budgam: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have busted a narco-militant funding module in Central Kashmir's Budgam district by arresting four alleged militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). Younis Manzoor and Mehboob Ahmed Sheikh, both residents of Wathoor and Irshad Ahmad Ganie of Arigam and Muzaffar Ahmad of Parnewa were arrested in a joint operation of police, army's 53 RR and CRPF 181 battalion. **| More on P10**

Bear Injures Four People In Pulwama

SRINAGAR: At least four persons were injured in a bear attack in Tahab and Malpora areas of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Friday. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that a bear attacked and injured two persons in Tahab area of Pulwama who were later shifted to a hospital. He said that among them one was shifted to SMHS Srinagar where his condition is said to be stable. **| More on P10**

J&K Logs 54 Fresh Covid-19 Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir saw a spike in covid-19 cases, reporting 54 new infections in 24 hours—a jump of 30 per cent compared to yesterday—that pushed the overall tally to 454677 while the death toll remained at 4755, officials said on Friday. They said that 32 cases were reported from Jammu, 16 from Srinagar, two each from Doda and Ganderbal besides one Ramban and Pulwama districts respectively. **| More on P10**

NIA Raids Multiple Spots In Kashmir, Kathua

SRINAGAR: National Investigation Agency (NIA) is carrying out raids at several locations in Kashmir Valley and Kathua district, official sources said on Friday. News agency GNS reported that NIA sleuths with the assistance of police and CRPF are carrying out raids in parts of Baramulla, Budgam, Anantnag, Bandipora, Pulwama, Sopore, Srinagar and Kathua. However they did not share further details as regards the case(s) in which the raids are being carried. **| More on P10**

Despite Govt Grants, Royal Springs Golf Course Running in Losses

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: Kashmir's well-known Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC) is running in huge loss despite government grants supporting its expenditure.

As per the data provided by the Public Relation Officer (PIO) of RSGC, Srinagar, through a Right to Information (RTI) filed by Srinagar-based lawyer, Badrud Dujia, the club hasn't earned any profit since 2010.

"In the last twelve years the club has spent Rs. 8874.66 lakhs as expenditure and earned only Rs. 1321.83 lakhs



in return," the data revealed.

The RSGC is a decorated golf course on the foothills of Zabarwan in Srinagar.

To apply for the membership, a non-government

employee has to pay an amount of Rs. 7 lakh as one time membership fee and Rs. 600 as monthly subscription. While a government employee has to

pay just Rs. 2 lakh for the membership and Rs. 1200 as monthly subscription.

Currently, the club has over 700 member subscriptions, majority of them are from the government sector.

In the year 2010-2011, the data reveals, the club only earned Rs. 64.35 lakhs against the expenditure of Rs. 620.33 lakhs.

During 2011-12, against the expenditure of Rs. 545.82 lakh, the club could only earn Rs. 69.37 lakhs.

In 2012-13, the club earned Rs 109.44 against a spent amount of Rs. 576.47 lakhs. Similarly, the **| More on P10**

India To Host G-20 Meetings In J&K Next Year

5-Member Coordination Panel Formed For Overall Coordination



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: In a significant development, Jammu and Kashmir will be hosting the 2023 meetings of G-20, an influential grouping that brings together the world's major economies, with the Union Territory government Thursday setting up a five-member high level committee for overall coordination. This will be the first major international summit to be

held in Jammu and Kashmir after the erstwhile state's special status guaranteed under Article 370 of the Constitution was withdrawn and it was divided into two union territories in August 2019.

In September last year, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20. The Ministry of External Affairs had said that India will hold the G20 presidency from

December 1, 2022, and will convene the G20 leaders' summit in 2023 for the first time.

According to an official order issued here on Thursday, the Union Territory's housing and urban development department principal secretary will be the chairman of the committee which was formed in response to a June 4 communication from the Ministry of External Affairs. "Sanction is hereby accorded to the **| More on P10**

Govt Sacks Nine 'Corrupt' Employees

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday sacked nine government employees, including five officers, on corruption charges.

All the employees have been sacked under 226(2) Article of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations which allows the administration to retire government employees at any time after completing 22 years of service or attaining the age of 48 years, an official said.

They all belonged to the housing and urban development department.

"The charges against the sacked officials were confirmed by the departmental committees and upheld by the designated review committee under article 226(2), including misappropriation of funds, falsification of records and raising fake bills and allowing illegal constructions, and making illegal appointments," the official said.

According to the official, most of the officials have faced probe by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and were also **| More on P10**

AMARNATH YATRA

Ensure Best Facilities For Devotees: LG Tells Officers



Says Devotees In High Numbers Expected To Perform Pilgrimage

Observer News Service

Ganderbal: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday directed all the departments involved in the annual Amarnath Yatra to ensure the best possible facilities as a high number of devotees footfall is expected

for the pilgrimage taking place after nearly three years.

Sinha passed these directions during his day-long tour to Baltal and Pahalgam axis of Amarnath Ji Yatra during which he reviewed the preparedness and response mechanism of all the stakeholder departments during the visit, an official spokesperson said Friday.

The LG, he said, also conducted on-site inspection of facilities on travel routes of Baltal & Pahalgam and chaired review meetings at the base camps **| More on P10**

One Side Of Banihal Highway Opened To Traffic

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: One way of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway was cleared for vehicular traffic late on Friday after it remained closed for a major portion of the fourth consecutive day owing to landslides, officials said.

The 270-km highway was blocked since Tuesday due to



landslides, mudslides and shooting stones at 33 places in Ramban and Udhampur districts.

A 150-foot-long road stretch and an under-construction bridge on the highway **| More on P10**

Northern Army Commander Visits LAC In Ladakh

Press Trust Of India

Leh: Northern Army commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi visited forward areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the eastern Ladakh sector and reviewed operational preparedness of troops, officials said on Friday.

Officials said Lt Gen Dwivedi on Thursday visited forward areas at Lukung in eastern Ladakh and also reviewed induction of new weapons and equipment.

Lt Gen Dwivedi is currently on a **| More on P10**

HYDERPORA 'ENCOUNTER' SC Agrees To Hear Man's Plea To Exhume Son's Body

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear on June 27 a plea filed by a man seeking a direction to exhume the body of his son, who was dubbed a militant and killed in a controversial encounter in November 2021, and hand it to his family for last rites.

A vacation bench of justices CT Ravi Kumar and Sudhanshu Dhulia was told by senior advocate Anand Grover, appearing for Mohammad

Latief Magrey, that a single judge bench of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court had allowed the exhuming of his son's body but it was later stayed by a division bench.

He said that his client has supported the Army all through his life, and the only need to exhume the body was to perform the last rites of his son Aamir Magrey, who was killed along with three others in the 'encounter'.

Grover sought urgent listing of the plea, saying that with **| More on P10**



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How Netflix-Style Algorithm May Help In Personalising Cancer Treatments

IANs

Just as Netflix algorithm generates data to determine the shows one can choose to binge watch next, doctors will soon be able to predict how tumours can behave and thus offer personalised cancer treatments. A typical Netflix-style algorithm analyses data on how frequently a type of programme or film is watched, and whether it's liked or not. Based on the data, new films and TV series are recommended next time. An international team of researchers from the University College London (UCL) in the UK and University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego) in the US have built a similar algorithm that can one day enable doctors to look at a patient's fully sequenced tumour and customise

their treatment, the Independent reported. The study, published in the journal Nature, showed that the algorithm deployed Artificial Intelligence (AI) to follow the changes to DNA from the time a cancer starts to how it grows. The team believes the insights into the genetic traits that the tumour picks up as it grows, will help doctors understand how a cancer is likely to behave. "Just as Netflix can predict which shows you'll choose to binge watch next, we believe that we will be able to predict how your cancer is likely to behave, based on the changes its genome has previously experienced," Dr Ludmil Alexandrov, UC San Diego, was quoted as saying. "Armed with that information, we believe that doctors will be able to offer better and more personalised cancer treatment in the



future," he added. The new algorithm can sift through thousands of lines of genomic data and pick out common patterns in how the chromosomes organise and arrange themselves. It can then categorise the patterns that emerge and help scientists establish the types of faults that can occur in cancer, the team explained.

Using the algorithm, the team looked for patterns in the fully sequenced genomes from 9,873 patients with 33 different types of cancer and identified 21 common faults. These will now be used to create a blueprint researchers can use to assess how aggressive the cancer will be, find its weak spots and design new treatments for it. Of the 21 signatures identified by the algorithm, the scientists found that tumours where the chromosomes have shattered and reformed were associated with the worst survival outcomes. "To stay one step ahead of cancer, we need to anticipate how it adapts and changes. We've been missing the bigger picture of how vast swathes of genes can be copied, moved around or deleted without catastrophic consequences for the tumour," said Dr Nischalan Pillay from the UCL.

فاتحہ خوانی

اخباردہقان کے ایڈیٹر ان چیف سید غلام محی الدین اندرانی ساکن رتنی پورہ پلوامہ حال سری نگر جن کا انتقال 23 جون 2022ء جمہرات کو ہوا۔ اس سلسلے میں مرحوم کی فاتحہ خوانی ان کے مقبرہ واقع بہماہ متصل پولیس سٹیشن میں 26 جون 2022ء بروز اتوار کو انجام دی جائے گی۔ مرحوم کی تعزیتی مجلس محمد شفیع سنائی کے گھر واقع باؤس نمبر 83 نورانی کالونی بہماہ میں منعقد ہوگی۔

سوگواراں

سنائی خاندان

inf

(نوٹ: مستورات سے گزارش ہے کہ وہ کسی کام یا جہاز و مشروبات اپنے ساتھ نہ لائیں)

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Directorate of Agriculture, Lalmandi

www.diragrikmr.nic.in

FRESH e-TENDER NOTICE NO 01/ACCTS OF 2022
DATED: 22.06.2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders are invited under Dual Cover System (Technical & Financial Bid) by the Member Secretary, UT Level Purchase Committee (UTLPC), Agriculture Production Department, J&K, from the Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers/Government undertakings and registered suppliers for supply of Chemicals/Glassware and allied items for Agriculture Chemist, Kashmir Division and finalizing their Rate Contract for one year. The detailed specifications to be supplied in reference to this e-NIT are mentioned in the Annexure attached. –

| S.No | Description of Supply | Earnest Money | Cost of Tender Document | Time of Completion of tendering process | Eligibility criteria of Bidders |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Supply of Chemicals/ Glassware and allied items for Agriculture Chemist, Kashmir Division | 30000.00 | 500.00 | 15 days | Registered supplying agencies |

| S.No | Description | Date DD | MM | YY | Time |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------|----|------|----------|
| 1. | Date of Publishing | 22 | 06 | 2022 | 09 AM |
| 2. | Document Download start date/bid submission start date | 22 | 06 | 2022 | 09 AM |
| 3. | Bid submission end date | 06 | 07 | 2022 | 02.00 PM |
| 4. | Bid opening date | 06 | 07 | 2022 | 03.15 PM |

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tenders documents in shape of treasury challan pledged in favour of ACCOUNT OFFICER, DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE KASHMIR (0401 CH other receipt 800)
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and convey to the bidder automatically through an e-mail message on their mail ID. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of Chairman Departmental Purchase Committee
- The bids for the supply shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of financial bids.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information. Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
 - It is mandatory for all bidders participating to submit all documents in terms of soft copies in e-tendering website and no documents in terms of Hard Copies shall be entertained. However, lowest bidder will be called for submission of Affidavit/ as well as CDR.
 - Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
 - The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
 - Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ download should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
 - Price escalation and all taxes: -The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the supply unless otherwise, specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the supplier on gross amount of the bill as per rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
 - Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on www.J&Ktenders.gov.in portal to store, the required documents as given below
 - Scanned copy of Valid Registration GST issued by the competent authority
 - Proof of having filing the returns of Income Tax for the year 2019-20-2021-22
 - GST return last quarter for the current financial year 2021-22
 - PAN Card
 - Treasury Challan for tenderers
 - Bid Security Declaration
 - Originality of the up-loaded documents is sole responsibility of the contractor.
 - Reasonable and fair turnover of the bidders for last 03 years with reference to the volume and estimated cost of the goods and supplies
 - EMD, Security deposit and performance guarantee clauses as laid down under GFR and as ordered by the Finance Department
 - The SSI units of J&K UT shall have to enclose Existence Certificate (Permanent Registration Certificate/EM-II) issued by GM concerned, DIC to the effect that the unit exists and is in Active production/Operational since last three consecutive years on the date of issue of tender and is entitled to the benefits being provided by the Government of J&K to SSI Unit
 - The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 05 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of Supply
 - The bid(s) shall be opened online on above mentioned date or any other subsequent date in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present.
 - No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders and are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid any technical snags in last hours.
 - Instructions to Bidder (ITB): -All bidders shall upload the following information and documents with their bids: - Copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status with latest renewal, place of registration and principal place of Business, latest GST Registration/pan card.
 - All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
 - The date of start of the supply shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of LOI/ Contract allotment as the case maybe.
 - Penalty for delay in completion: -In case of delay in completion of supply beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty of 10% or more of the contract shall be imposed as per the assessment of the tendering authority.
 - Time extension: - Suitable time extension shall be granted in case of increase in scope of supply and in the event of delay beyond control of supplier to be determined by the department.
 - Advance payments: - No mobilization advance/equipment advance shall be paid.
 - Amendment of bidding document: -Before the deadline for submission of bids the tender issuing authority may modify the bidding documents by issuing Agenda/corrigendum
 - The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
 - Traffic regulations: -The suppliers bound to adhere to traffic regulations as is applicable from time to time and ensure Arrangements of smooth regulation of traffic during supply.
 - Arbitration: -The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the arbitration procedure stated in the J&K conciliation and Arbitration Act No:-xxxv of 1997 issued vide SRO No:-403 vide Notification of J&K Govt., "Law Department" 11th December- 1997.
 - Termination: - The employer may terminate the contract if the supplier causes a fundamental breach of the contract.
 - In case supplied Material as the Tenderer fails to perform good, the losses shall be compensated by the concerned supplier.
 - In case of any dispute between the supplier and the Department, the case shall be referred to the Administrative Department, for arbitration/ settlement, whose decision shall be binding upon both the parties, however, legal proceeding, if any, are subject to the jurisdiction of Hon'ble courts, located in the Srinagar city of (J&K UT).

Accounts Officer
Directorate of Agriculture, Lalmandi Srinagar

DIPK-4693/22

کاظمی خاندان کو صدمہ

بینجرا انتہائی رنج و غم کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ محترم سید امتیاز حسین کاظمی ساکنہ سورہ ٹینگ (سابق) و حالاً ساکنہ کراچی پاکستان مورخہ 24 جون 2022ء بمطابق 24 ذوالقعدہ 1443 کراچی میں رحلت فرما گئی۔

مرحومہ کی فاتحہ خوانی اور مجلس تعزیت کا اہتمام اگلے گھر واقع شری بھٹ (تلہ سر) بروز اتوار 26 جون 2022ء کو ہوگا

مجلس تعزیت کا انعقاد صبح 9 بجے قرار پایا ہے۔

سوگواران

سید الطاف کاظمی سید طفیل کاظمی ڈاکٹر سید مقبول کاظمی

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 Electric 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 and Date for Submission of E-Tender. | Date & Time of Opening of Bid | Class of Contractor |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Internal and External Electrification for 5 Storeyed Girls Hostel at Main Campus | Rs. 219.28 Lacs | Rs. 5500/- | 4,38,560/- | 22-06-2022 to 07-07-2022 (6.00 PM) | 08-07-2022 (11.30 AM) | "AAY" |

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

DIPK-NB-1917/22 Executive Engineer
NIT No: - F(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/20/22
DATED: 22/06/22.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir

Office of the Deputy Director (HQ), Bemina, Srinagar.

Gist of Short Term Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)
EOI No. DHSK/OxyCan/EOI/2022-23/01;
Dated: 23.06.2022

Tender ID: 2022_HME_175760_1
Tender Reference No: 01_DHSK_EOI_2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from Govt. Registered Dealers/ Authorized Dealers or Suppliers of supply of Portable Oxygen Canisters in single cover system for Directorate of Health Services Kashmir:-

| S. No. | Name of Work |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Aluminium oxygen canisters of cylinder capacity ≤ 0.5 litres |
| 2 | Aluminium oxygen canisters of cylinder capacity 0.5 to 1.0 litres |

- The Expression of Interest (EOI) document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 23.06.2022 (05:30 PM)
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 23.06.2022 (05:30 PM) to 28.06.2022 (05:30 PM).
- The EOI uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened online on 28.06.2022 (05:40 PM) in the Office of the Dy. Director (HQ), DHSK, Bemina Srinagar.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (HQ)
DHSK, Bemina, Srinagar.

DIPK-4784/22
No: DHSK/PUR/EOI/01/OxyCan/2022-23/844-45
Dated: 23.06.2022

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE

Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Shabir Ahmad Dar S/o Ghulam Qadir Dar R/o Hazratbal Srinagar (Transferor) and Kasar Ahmad Najjar S/o Gh Hassan Najjar R/o Rampora Chattabal Sgr (Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab carriage route Permit No 4194/MC Covering Vehicle No JK01J- 8155. Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir. Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S STWCO Namely Bagh Hussain

NOJK-RTOK 4019 Sd/-
Dated: 23/06/2022 Regional Transport Office,
fko_r Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 10th class Marks card bearing Roll No: 747238, Reg No: NI2380020044, Session annual regular 2013. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Aglow Public School Nowpora Or JKBOSE Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Arjumand Iqbal Dar fko
D/o Mohammad Iqbal Dar

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No Need To Panic Over Rise In Covid Cases: DAK

Observer News Srinagar

Srinagar: With the rise of Covid-19 cases in Kashmir valley over the last few days, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday said there is no need to panic.

"There is no increase in hospitalization, so the rise in cases should not be a cause of worry" said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said case counts have lost relevance; hospitalization numbers are now reliable markers when it comes to assessing the threat from pandemic.

Daily case count was used as a barometer early in the pandemic because that time a rise in cases inevitably led to increase in hospitalizations.

"But that has changed now," he said.

"With most being immune either by way of vac-

ination or natural immunity, even with a large number of infections we see miniscule numbers in hospitals."

The DAK President said if we continue to highlight only the increase in cases, we run the risk of causing unnecessary public panic.

"The thinking around the pandemic and how we characterize and measure it needs to change," he said. "Covid-19 has entered into the endemic stage and the rise and fall in cases is going to be a routine process," Dr Nisar said.

"What we are seeing in terms of a spike in Covid cases is on expected lines," he said adding the current surge is not a wave but an endemic spike and we expect these fluctuations in future too.

"People need to learn to live with Covid-19 as the virus is going to stay with us," said General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali.

Interaction Session with Specially-Abled Students Held At KU

Agencies

Srinagar: Continuing with its general student interaction programme, the Department of Students' Welfare University of Kashmir on Friday interacted with the varsity's specially-abled students and research scholars.

Dean Students Welfare Prof Aneesa Shafi chaired the interaction session where scores of specially-abled stu-

dents and scholars put forth their concerns and suggestions regarding teaching, research and extension activities.

The interaction session was coordinated by the Disability Resource Centre of the Department of Students' Welfare.

In her introductory remarks, Prof Aneesa said these student interactions are going to be a continuous process to further strengthen the University's connection with its students.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Murtaza Ali Dar S/O Mushtaq Ahmad Dar R/O Ichgam, Budgam hereby through the medium of this notice inform the General public that I am applying for Passport.
Any person having any kind of objection shall approach me personally or the Passport Office Srinagar within 07 days from the publication of this notice.
Contact No. 9541122886



New Terminal At Srinagar Airport To Increase Passenger Capacity To 6.5 Million

Agencies

Srinagar: Authorities at Srinagar Airport are planning to increase the passenger area by around threefold to increase passenger capacity to 6.5 million.

Top officials at Srinagar Airport said that the plans for constructing a new integrated terminal are at an advanced stage and it will be interlinked with exist-

ing buildings.

"With the construction of the new building, the passenger area will increase from 20,226 SM to 64,360 SM besides that the passenger capacity will increase to 6.5 million from the existing 2.5 million," they said.

They added that the multi-level car parking will be constructed for parking of 1,000 vehicles.

Director Srinagar Airport

Kuldeep Singh said that the proposal is still at the initial stage and the annual passenger capacity for the present building structure is 2.5 million

"The tentative cost of the new building and associated works will be Rs.1500 crore," he said, adding that "many new facilities are in pipeline and it will shared only once they are finalized." (KNO)

New Aadhaar Seva Kendra Begins Operations In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) opened a new Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK) in Srinagar for the convenience of the residents to enroll and update the Aadhar details.

The center was inaugurated by Deputy Director General (DDG), UIDAI, Regional Office Chandigarh Ms. Bhawna, Garg in presence of Secretary Information Technology, Jammu & Kashmir Ms. Prerna Puri, and Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar Mr. Mohammad Aijaz.

On the occasion Ms. Garg said that ASK Srinagar offers a single stop destination for Aadhaar new enrolment and updation of demographic and biometric services to

the residents at UIDAI approved rates.

She said that UIDAI is continuously making efforts to increase accessibility of Aadhaar services and the residents of Srinagar and surrounding areas can now conveniently avail Aadhaar services at the newly opened centre.

ASK Srinagar offers a comfortable environment to residents and is open for all seven days in a week from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM. It offers an online appointment system facility available where any resident can book an appointment online. The residents can make the payment at 'Cash Counter' available at the ASK or make online payment at the time of booking online appointment from UIDAI website, ASK officials informed.

The center has a capacity to serve 500 residents in a day and has a seating capacity of 50 persons at any given time in a day. The ASK center has special provisions to serve the elderly and specially-abled persons. The center is provided with CCTV facilities and has a token management system for serving the residents.

Residents are required to bring the original documents for enrolment or to update the details. List of acceptable documents are available on the UIDAI website. The services including change or updating name, gender, date of birth, mobile number, email, photograph and fingerprints can be availed by visiting the centre at Ground Floor, NB House, Commercial Complex, Exchange Road, Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

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**
25- Zil- Qaddah
1443

PRAYERS

| | |
|--------|-------|
| FAJR | 3: 36 |
| ZUHR | 12:33 |
| ASR | 5:33 |
| Magrib | 7:50 |
| ISHA | 9: 31 |

This Day In History

- 253 - St Lucius I begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 524 - Battle of Vézeronce, the Franks defeat the Burgundians
- 841 - Battle at Fontenay: Louis & Charles beat their brother Lotharius I
- 1080 - Wibbert of Ravenna chosen as anti-pope Clements III
- 1096 - 1st Crusade slaughter Jews of Werelingshofen Germany
- 1139 Battle of Ourique: Afonso I defeats Moors 1139- Battle of Ourique: Afonso I defeats Moors
- 1183- Peace of Konstanz signed between Hohenstaufen Emperor Frederick Barbarossa and Italian Lombard League
- 1638- Lunar eclipse is 1st astronomical event recorded in the American Colonies
- 1667-1st blood transfusion performed by French Doctor Jean-Baptiste Denys
- 1672- 1st recorded monthly Quaker meeting in US held, Sandwich, Mass
- 1678-Elena Cornaro Piscopia, a Venetian, is awarded a doctorate of philosophy - first woman to receive a university doctoral decree
- 1900- Russia mobilizes its army in eastern Siberia preparatory to acting against the Chinese, but also in an attempt to diminish the influence of Japan on the Asian mainland
- 1905-Warsaw & Lodz revolt against Russian occupation
- 1919- 1st advanced monoplane airliner flight (Junkers F13)
- 1940- Adolf Hitler views Eiffel tower & grave of Napoleon in Paris, France
- 1941- Finland declares war on Soviet Union
- 1945-Imperial General Headquarters in Tokyo announce fall of Okinawa
- 1948- Harry Truman signs Displaced Persons Bill (205,000 Europeans to US)
- 1949- Presidential election in Syria (some women allowed to vote)

From KO Archives

3 Ikhwanis Taste Their Own Medicine

S RINAGAR: People of Kupwara today witnessed an unusual sight when the senior superintendent of police, Ashkoor Wani, administered a severe beating to three ikhwanis publicly for allegedly kidnapping one Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir of Drugmulla.

About 500 people of the area witnessed the 'summary punishment' as the trio was being beaten.

Reports said that three surrendered militants identified as Muhammad Sadiq Dar of Awoora who calls himself as a commander of Ikhwan Noor Muhammad Wani of Chowkibal and Riyaz Ahmad Mir of Chakbasti Awoora had kidnapped Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir from his home. They worked with Awoora camp of the security forces.

Later talking to Kashmir Observer, Ashkoor Wani said the three had let loose reign of terror in the area and were wanted by the police.

He also asserted that beating of a surrendered Ikhwanis would send the right signal to others involved in extortions, kidnappings and other such acts. He said such acts won't be tolerated in future;

ONS adds from Baramulla

According to reports surrendered trio, working with the security forces, had picked up Rather from his residence and taken him to a security camp where he was given a thrashing. They demanded money from him which he promised to get from his home.

On being let off to get the promised money, Rather straightaway went to Kupwara to lodge a complaint with SSP who got the surrendering arrested immediately. A case has been registered against them at the police station. Sources said the trio had relieved one Mahda Wani of Chowkibal of Rs 6,000 a few days ago.

(Kashmir Observer; June 25, 2000)

SAD DEMISE



We inform with profound grief the sad demise of our beloved father Munshi Nisar Ali. He breathed his last this Friday morning after brief illness.

The congregational Fateha shall be held at his eternal resting place, Baba Mazar Alamgari Bazar on Monday at 6.30 AM. Later on condolence service shall continue throughout the day at our residence, Lane 3 HMT, Srinagar. Inshallah

BEREAVED
Dr Munshi Sarfaraz
Er Munshi Abrar Hussain
Munshi Ashfaq Hussain
Dr Eskander Moladina

SS



Regd. No. A-2586

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Iran Court Orders US To Pay \$4.3bn In Fines Over Murder Of Nuclear Scientists



AGENCEIS

An Iranian court has found the US administration and dozens of American institutions and officials guilty of supporting the Israeli regime's targeted assassinations of Iranian nuclear scientists, ordering Washington to pay \$4.3 billion in compensation.

Families of three martyred nuclear scientists, along with a wounded nuclear scientist and wives of three nuclear scientists who sustained injuries themselves in terror attacks on their husbands had filed a lawsuit with a Tehran court against the US government, institutions and authorities that were in office at the time of Israeli terror acts.

The crimes in question inflicted physical, psychological and financial damages on the families of the victims.

The US was ordered by the court to pay \$4.3 billion in total compensation, including fines.

The lawsuit, the court said, was aimed at countering violations of international obligations and instances of hostile behavior on the international stage through supporting Israel's acts of terrorism.

Those convicted are 37 American natural and legal persons, including former presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former Iran envoy Brian Hook and former Defense Secretary Ashton Carter.

The verdict cited evidence of Israeli involvement in the assassinations and the US financial and military support for the regime, saying Washington have had an "effective" role in estab-

lishing and supporting Israel as a terrorist regime.

The US Congress has also passed several laws in support of Israel, it added.

Several US courts have in the past fined the Iranian government under various pretexts, authorizing the government to pay damages to American plaintiffs from Iran's seized assets.

Over the past years, Iranian nuclear scientists have been the target of the Western and Israeli spy agencies' assassination attempts.

Between 2010 and 2012, four Iranian nuclear scientists — namely Masoud Alimohammadi, Majid Shahriari, Darioush Rezaeinejad and Ahmadi Roshan — were assassinated, while another, Fereydoon Abbasi, was wounded in an attempted murder.

Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who headed the Iranian Defense Ministry's Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research, was assassinated on November 27, 2020.

Following the assassination, Iranian officials said that Israel had acted with US intelligence and carried out the targeted killing of the prominent nuclear scientist.

In the latest terrorist attack in Tehran on May 22, Colonel Hassan Sayyad Khodaei was assassinated by two motorcyclists who shot him five times before fleeing the scene.

The New York Times on May 25 cited an intelligence official as saying that Israel had informed American officials that it was behind the assassination.

It also cited Israeli officials who claimed that Khodaei was allegedly involved in planning cross-border plots against Israelis.

'Complex Multipolar World With No Regard To Rules Now': Air Force Chief

AGENCEIS

New Delhi: The global order is being increasingly challenged with little or no regard to rules and India must reassess its strategic priorities and realign its actions to ensure that it is not left behind, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary said on Friday.

Listing various national security challenges, the Chief of Air Staff also said military strategists must not lose sight of the primary objective of "war-fighting".

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhary's comments at a seminar came in the backdrop of India's lingering border row with China in eastern Ladakh, the situation in Afghanistan and the geopolitical upheavals triggered by the crisis in Ukraine.

Without naming any country, he said "coercion" is the new strategy with cyber, information and space domains becoming the "new battlefield".

"Today, we are witnessing a rapidly evolving international order that is increasingly being challenged by a complex multipolar world with little or no regard to rules or to the traditional processes of geopolitical interplays," he said.

The Air Chief Marshal said diplomacy, economy and information are becoming the "primary tools" of engagement with the military instrument being used as a deterrent.

"Coercion is the new strategy with cyber, information and



space domains becoming the new battlefield. Therefore, we must reassess our strategic priorities and realign our actions to ensure we don't get left behind," he said.

The seminar marked the culmination of the first 'Warfare and Aerospace Strategy Programme' (WASP), which was conducted by the Indian Air Force. The WASP was rolled out with an aim to generate strategic thought and understanding amongst the mid-career air power practitioners.

The Chief of Air Staff hoped that the programme will enable officers to understand the whole-of-government approach and generate independent opinions in dealing with national security issues.

"We believe that such cross-pollination of ideas from multiple disciplines can lead to critical thinking which allows a person to formulate solutions as well as

take more rational and effective decisions," he said.

"At the same time, a military strategist must not lose sight of the primary objective and that is war fighting. Hence our focus should remain on operational level critical thinking and strategy while developing a deeper understanding of the art and science of war fighting," he added.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhary told the participants of the programme that a well-crafted strategy may not guarantee success in dealing with security challenges, but the absence of a coherent and sustainable strategy will surely lead to failure.

The discussions revolved around assessing the role of air power in the ongoing Ukraine conflict and revisiting the doctrinal and strategic precepts about India's air power capability.

Americans Have Right To Carry Guns In Public: US Supreme Court

AGENCEIS

Washington: The US Supreme Court ruled on Thursday that Americans have a fundamental right to carry a handgun in public, a landmark decision with far-reaching implications for states and cities across the country struggling with a surge in gun violence.

The 6-3 decision strikes down a more than century-old New York law that required a person to prove they had a legitimate self-defense need, or "proper cause," to receive a permit to carry a handgun outside the home.

Several other states, including California, have similar laws — and the court's ruling will curb their ability to restrict people from carrying guns in public.

Democratic President Joe Biden denounced the decision, saying it "contradicts both common sense and the Constitution, and should deeply trouble us all."

"We must do more as a society — not less — to protect our fellow Americans," Biden said. "I call on Americans across the country to make their voices heard on gun safety."

Despite a growing call for limits on firearms after two horrific mass shootings in May, the court sided with advocates who said the US Constitution guarantees the right to own and carry guns.

The ruling is the first by the court in a major Second Amendment case in over a decade, when it ruled in 2008 that Americans have a right to keep a gun at home for self-defense.

It was a stunning victory for the



National Rifle Association lobby group, which brought the case along with two New York men who had been denied gun permits.

"Today's ruling is a watershed win for good men and women all across America and is the result of a decades-long fight the NRA has led," NRA executive vice president Wayne LaPierre said in a statement.

"The right to self-defense and to defend your family and loved ones should not end at your home."

New York Governor Kathy Hochul called it a "dark day," while California's leader Gavin Newsom termed the decision "shameful."

"It is outrageous that at a moment of national reckoning on gun violence, the Supreme Court has recklessly struck down a New York law that limits those who can carry concealed weapons," Hochul said.

"This is a dangerous decision from a court hell bent on pushing a radical ideological agenda and infringing on the rights of states to protect our citizens from being

gunned down in our streets, schools, and churches," Newsom tweeted.

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote the majority opinion and was joined by the other five conservatives on the nine-member court, three of whom were nominated by former Republican president Donald Trump.

Thomas said the New York law prevents "law-abiding citizens with ordinary self-defense needs from exercising their Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms in public for self-defense."

"We conclude that the State's licensing regime violates the Constitution," Thomas said.

The ruling comes as the US Senate is considering a rare bipartisan bill that includes modest gun control measures.

Democratic Senator Dick Durbin said the ruling "makes it all the more important for Congress to take actionable steps to protect our kids and communities from this nation's gun violence epidemic."

Turkey, Israel Agree To Restore Ties To Ambassadorial Level

AGENCEIS

ANKARA: Turkey and Israel have begun work on restoring their mutual diplomatic representation to ambassador level, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Thursday as the two countries seek an end to more than a decade of strained ties.

The two countries expelled ambassadors in 2018 and have often traded barbs over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Energy has emerged as a key area for potential cooperation as they strive to mend their relations.

"We will continue the high-level mutual visits in the short term," Cavusoglu said at a joint news conference with his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid. "We have launched work on raising our diplomatic representation to ambassador level."

Lapid was visiting Ankara after months of warming ties but amid worries voiced by Israel that its citizens could come under attack by Iranian agents in Turkey, a Nato member state.

Cavusoglu said he and Lapid were in close contact regarding threats to Israeli citizens. Lapid thanked Turkey for helping foil a suspected Iranian plot to harm Israelis in Istanbul and said the effort was still underway.

Israel has warned its citizens against travel to Turkey, citing suspected assassination or abduction plots by Iran, which has vowed to avenge the May 22 assassination of a Revolutionary Guards colonel in Tehran that it blamed on Israeli agents.

"In recent weeks, the lives of Israeli citizens have been saved thanks to security and diplomatic cooperation between Israel and Turkey," Lapid said. "We are confident that Turkey knows

how to respond to the Iranians on this matter." Cavusoglu visited Israel last month to encourage expanded economic cooperation. It was the first such visit by a senior Turkish official in 15 years.

Through the years of acrimony, Turkey and Israel have maintained trade, which stood at \$6.7 billion in 2021, up from \$5 billion in 2019 and 2020, according to official data.

Lapid is set to take over from Prime Minister Naftali Bennett at the head of a caretaker government, after he and Bennett acted on Monday to dissolve parliament and hold an early national election. Turkey has detained eight people allegedly working for an Iranian intelligence cell that planned to assassinate Israeli tourists in Istanbul, local media reported on Thursday.

The eight, who were not all Iranian nationals, were detained in a raid last week in three houses in Istanbul's popular Beyoglu district, the private IHA news agency reported.

Israel last week urged its citizens to leave Turkey immediately because of "possible" threats from Iranian operatives.

Iran and Israel have been engaged in a years-long shadow war but tensions have ratcheted up following a string of high-profile incidents Tehran has blamed on Israel.

The Islamic republic claimed Israel was responsible for the killing of Revolutionary Guards Colonel Sayyad Khodai in his Tehran home on May 22.

IHA said Iran sent agents disguised as businessmen, tourists and students to Istanbul to assassinate Israelis in retaliation for Khodai's murder and other attacks.

Prayer Lamp Triggers Fire In Noida Doctor's 3-Story Bungalow, 13 Trapped

AGENCEIS

Noida: A lamp lit for a prayer set a doctor's three-storey bungalow ablaze in Noida on Friday with over 13 people, including children, trapped in the building, officials said.

The trapped people were rescued safely. Two firefighters suffered injuries during the rescue operation, they said.

Due to fixtures like PVC panels and false ceilings, the fire gave rise to dense smoke. The blaze was brought under control in around an hour and firefighters had to use special apparatus for the rescue operation, Chief Fire Officer Arun Kumar Singh said.

"Around 10 am, we got an emergency call about a fire in the D block of Sector 20 after which firefighters and four fire tenders were rushed to the spot," Mr Singh said.

The doctor had organised a prayer and a lamp that was lit for the ritual triggered the fire on the first floor of the bungalow where 13 people, including children, were trapped, Mr Singh said.

The fire also spread to the second floor of the bungalow. The billowing smoke, flames and high temperature inside the building made it almost impossible for firefighters to reach the upper areas, the officer said. "It seemed impossible. But



the firefighters showed indomitable courage and by wearing breathing apparatus passed through the thick smoke and heat without caring for their lives," Mr Singh said.

"A total of 13 people, trapped on the first and second floor, were rescued safely through the roof," he said.

Among those rescued were the doctor, his wife, daughter-in-law, granddaughter and his staffers, the chief fire officer said.

"During the rescue operations, two firefighters — leading fireman Mahipal Singh and fireman Nizamuddin — received injuries and were hospitalized as their health deteriorated due to smoke and heat," he said.

"Joint Commissioner of Police Love Kumar reached the Apollo Hospital and wished for their speedy recovery. Police Commissioner Alok Singh also checked on the health of the injured personnel and appreciated their courage," Mr Singh added.

NEWS MAKERS

Chinese City Loses "Civilised" Status After Women Thrashed In Restaurant

AGENCEIS

Beijing: After a group of men assaulted four women outside a restaurant in China recently, the Tangshan city has been stripped of its honorary "civilized" status. The assault on the women had sparked public outrage with many demanding justice.

Footage from the barbecue restaurant's cameras on June 10 showed a man slapping and dragging a woman to the street by her hair after she appeared to reject his advances. Other men then joined in, assaulting her female companions and leaving two women sprawled on the side of the street.

Two of the women remain hospitalised in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), officials said this week, while authorities said they had arrested nine people involved in the attack.

The incident, which was caught on CCTV cameras, also renewed a national discussion on violence



against women in China.

A hashtag on social media site Weibo started doing rounds after the incident in Tangshan in northern Hebei province. Soon after it grabbed the attention of the users, reported NBC News.

The video has been viewed hundreds of millions times. Hundreds of

thousands of people commented after videos of the attack were posted online with many of them demanding action against the accused.

The Civilization Office of the Central Communist Party Committee on Wednesday removed the city from the nation's honorary list of "civilised cities."

UN Says Aljazeera Journalist Abu Akleh Killed by Israel

AGENCEIS

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) says its findings have shown the bullets that killed veteran Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh last month were fired by Israeli forces.

"We find that the shots that killed Abu Akleh came from Israeli security forces," OHCHR's spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told reporters in Geneva on Friday.

"It is deeply disturbing that Israeli authorities have not conducted a criminal investigation. We at the UN Human Rights Office have concluded our independent monitoring into the incident. The shots that killed Abu Akleh and injured her colleague Ali Samoudi came from Israeli security forces and not from indiscriminate firing by armed Palestinians, as initially claimed by Israeli authorities," Shamdasani added.

Stressing that the information came from the Israeli military and



the Palestinian attorney general, the OHCHR's spokeswoman said. "We have found no information suggesting that there was activity by armed Palestinians in the immediate vicinity of the journalists."

Providing further details on the incident, Shamdasani said the OHCHR's investigation had found that Abu Akleh and her fellow journalists had made a concerted

effort to be visible as members of the press to Israeli soldiers positioned further down the street.

"The journalists said they chose a side street for their approach to avoid the location of armed Palestinians inside the camp and that they proceeded slowly in order to make their presence visible to the Israeli forces deployed down the street," she said.

"Our findings indicate that no warnings were issued and no shooting was taking place at that time and at that location. Several single, seemingly well-aimed bullets were fired towards them [the journalists] from the direction of the Israeli security forces."

Shamdasani underlined that bullets continued to be fired at an unarmed man who tried to come to Abu Akleh's aid, as well as a journalist who was sheltering behind a tree.

Abu Akleh, a well-known Palestinian journalist for the Qatar-based and Arabic-language Al Jazeera television news network, was killed on May 11 while covering an Israeli army raid on the Jenin refugee camp in the northern part of the occupied West Bank.

In video footage from the incident circulated widely online, Abu Akleh could be seen wearing a blue flak jacket marked with the word "PRESS" when being shot by Israeli troops, exposing the gruesome nature of the daylight murder.

Former Army General Named Executive-Dir AIIMS, Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government of India has appointed retired top army medico Dr. Anup Banerji as the first executive director of All India Medical Institute of Science (AIIMS) coming up in Kashmir Valley.

The appointments committee of the cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of Department of Health & Family Welfare for appointment of Lt. General (Dr.) Anup Banerji, who superannuated on December 31, 2020, as executive director, AIIMS, Awantipora.

According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Trainings(DoPT), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Lt. General (Dr.) Anup Banerji has been appointed as executive director AIIMS, Awantipora.

An alumnus of the prestigious

Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, Dr. Anup Banerji is an eminent cardiologist and an exceptional administrator.

He held various important clinical and staff positions including Head of the Department of Medicine and Cardiology at MH CTC Pune and Army Hospital R&R, Consultant (Medicine and Cardiology) at CH (EC), MG (Med) MG & G Area, Comdt AMC Centre, and College Lucknow and DGMS (Navy).

On 27 January 2019, he was appointed as President's Honorary Surgeon (PHS). He served as the DGMS (Army), Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services before his superannuation.

The announcement for setting up of AIIMS in Kashmir was made in the Union Budget for 2015-16—(KNO)

Police Reviews Security Of Protected Persons In Kishtwar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Police on Friday reviewed the security of protected persons belonging to Panchayat Raj Institutions in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said.

Kishtwar Senior Superintendent of Police Shafqat Hussain Bhat held a meeting with their personal security officers (PSOs) at district police lines and reviewed the current security sce-

nario, the officials said.

They said necessary briefing and directions were imparted to the PSOs and they were advised to remain with their protectees round the clock. The PSOs were asked to leave their respective protectees only after a proper reliever was provided to them.

"If any protectee wants to change their personal security guard due to any reason, they may report to branch concerned," an officer said.

NITI AYOOG Awards Kupwara With Grant In Aid Of Rs 3 Cr

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Khalid Jahangir on Friday complimented the Lead District Manager (LDM) Kupwara and his team for excellent performance in improving the indicator of financial inclusion under Aspirational District Programme during the month of April this year.

The NITI AYOOG has conferred an award of Rs.3 crore - Untied Grant to District Kupwara for securing first rank under Financial Inclusion and Skill Development theme. The first such initial grant was awarded by NITI AYOOG to Kupwara district 3 years ago in March 2019.

The NITI AYOOG has also congratulated Deputy Commissioner Kupwara and his team for receiving the grant of additional

Rs.3 crore for the excellent performance in the district.

The DC also complimented other officers and field staff of the Administration who are working tirelessly to improve their respective indicators. He said Joint Umbrella Camps, envisaged to ensure 100 percent saturation of financial inclusion indicators, are being held across the district.

He hoped that the officers and functionaries of the district will make concerted efforts to excel in other thematic areas and key performance indicators to lead overall improvement in the ranking of the district.

The DC also expressed gratitude to the UT Government for its whole hearted support to the District Administration in accomplishing the objectives/targets laid under the Aspirational District Programme.

Relief For Schools Functioning On State Land High Court Directs For Maintaining Status-Quo

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has ordered to maintain status quo on a plea filed by the petitioners against closing of schools functioning on State or Kahcharai Land.

The High Court in an order, after hearing learned counsel for the petitioners, the court is satisfied that the petitioners have prima facie made out a case for

ad-interim relief at this stage.

The court stated that subject to objections to be filed by the respondents and till next date of hearing, status quo, as on date, shall be maintained.

It further stated that the case is listed on July-18.

Notably, authorities had directed concerned CEOs to stop schooling ul all those private schools that were functioning from state land or Kahcharai—(KNO)

Govt Notifies Draft Rules Under Central Land Acquisition Act



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday notified draft rules under the Central Land Acquisition Act and sought objections and suggestions, if any, from the people of the Union Territory within a fortnight from the date of publication in the official Gazette.

In terms of J&K Reorganization Act, 2019, the Central Land Acquisition Act. "The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act 30 of 2013)" has been made appli-

cable to the Union Territory of Government of Jammu & Kashmir, an official spokesperson said Friday.

"The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has prepared draft rules in exercise of powers conferred by Section 109 of the said Act which have been published as required under section 112 of the said Act, for information of all persons likely to be affected thereby; and notice is hereby given that the said draft rules shall be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication in Official Ga-

zette," he said

He said that the draft rules are available on the official website of the Revenue Department (<https://jkrevenue.nic.in>).

"Any objection or suggestion which may be received from any person with respect to the said draft rules within the period so specified shall be considered by the Government," the spokesperson said.

He further said that objections or suggestions, if any, may be sent to the Commissioner Secretary, Revenue Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu /Srinagar on Mail ID: psjkrev-ue17@gmail.com.

Govt Sets Up Panel For Appointment Of Chairman JKBOSE, Director JKSCERT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government on Friday constituted a search committee for appointment of Chairman JKBOSE and Director JKSCERT while a separate committee was constituted for selection of Ombudsman under MGNREGA in J&K.

"In suppression of Government Order No. 257-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 07.03.2022, sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of Search Committee for suggesting panels for appointment of Chairman, JKBOSE and Director, JKSCERT," said an order issued by Principal Secretary to the government.

As per order Financial Commissioner (Additional Secretary), Finance Department will be chairman of the committee while as Principal Secretary to the Government, Higher Education Department, Principal

Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department, Principal Secretary to the Government, School Education Department, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu and Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir will be members of the committee.

"The Committee shall continue to be serviced by the School Education Department," it said.

"In supersession of Government Order No.699-JK (GAD) of 2020 dated 14.07.2020 on the subject, sanction is hereby accorded to constitution of the Apex Level Selection Committee, for selection of the Ombudsman under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir," reads a separate order.

As per order Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Agriculture Production Department will be chair-

man, Administrative Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj will be member/convener while as Representative of Union Ministry of Rural Development and an eminent Civil Society Person nominated by the Member Union Ministry of Rural Development will be members of the Committee.

"The Terms of Reference of the Committee shall be to recommend selection of Ombudsman in each district and to recommend termination of Ombudsman from his/her position in case of unsatisfactory performance," it added.

"The quorum for the meeting of the selection Committee shall be considered fulfilled only if either the representative of the Ministry of Rural Development or the representative of Civil Society Organization is present," it said—(KNO)

Cheque Bounce Case: Court Sends Man To 2 Years Jail

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A local court here has awarded two-year simple imprisonment to a man in a cheque bounce case of Rs 5.5 lacs. It has also directed the accused to pay a compensation amount of Rs.11.00 lacs which is double the cheque amount.

While convicting the accused person, F A Dar of Anantnag, Court Of Judge Small Causes Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi awarded sentence of simple imprisonment of two years for the commission of offence U/S 138 read with 142 N.I.Act.

"Accordingly, the accused is convicted and sentenced to a simple imprisonment of two years. Besides, the accused per-

son shall pay a compensation amount of Rs.11.00 Lacs (Eleven Lakhs only) which is double the cheque of Rs 5.50 Lacs," the court said in the order, adding,

"The accused is directed to pay the compensation amount of Rs.11.00 Lacs to the complainant within a period of one month from the date of this judgment failing which the same shall be recovered in accordance with Section 421 Cr.PC and other provisions of law applicable."

The court asked Superintendent of Central Jail, Srinagar to lodge the convict in Central Jail, Srinagar until he completes the sentence of two years and on completion of the sentence, subject to any order as may be

passed in case of any appeal, the convict shall be released.

"However, the sentence shall remain suspended for a period of seven days from the date of this judgment to enable the accused to prefer an appeal which he is intending to," the court said, adding, "However, if no appeal is filed or no order is passed staying this judgment, the Superintendent Central Jail Srinagar shall, on expiry of seven days i.e. upto 30/06/2022, commit the convict to jail for serving sentence." The complaint leading to conviction of the accused and subsequent sentencing was filed by one Mahinder Pal Singh of Pulwama through advocate Abrar Ahmad. (GNS)

Two Juveniles, Parents Arrested In Rajbagh Hit-And Run Case

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday said that two juveniles were arrested in a hit and run case in Rajbagh Srinagar.

"Two juveniles apprehended in hit & run case where one youth from kupwara died in Raj Bagh today," police said in a tweet.

Dr Shamin Bhat and Fayaz Rather, fathers of both juveniles respectively, have been arrested under 191A MV Act for giving vehicle to minors. "Case has been registered at Raj Bagh PS u/s 279,304A of IPC & vehicle seized."

Pertinently 35-year-old namely



Bashir Ahmad Bhat from Drugmulla Kupwara was hit by an unknown vehicle near Rajbagh and died on spot. He was an ATM guard by profession. (GNS)

People Paying Heavy Price For Centre's Kashmir Policy: Dr Farooq

Says Peace In J&K Cannot Be Achieved Through Force

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) President and MP from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah on Friday asked the government of India to shun its stubborn attitude and reframe its Kashmir policy.

NC president was addressing party workers, functionaries and delegates in Central Kashmir's Magam hamlet.

Lamenting the my way or the highway attitude of the ruling party at New Delhi, Dr Farooq, said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly Kashmiris are paying a heavy price for the Center's Kashmir policy.

"While the government and its air dropped administration in Kashmir is busy in its usual pomp and show, the people of J&K continue to suffer from rising unemployment, development deficit, inflation and deepening alienation all at the same time as never before. All the democratic institutions in Jammu and Kashmir have been diluted to fit in the vision of a



particular political party," he stated adding, "There is fear, anxiety, concern, and insecurity everywhere. Our people, particularly our youth, have been pushed to the margins."

The votaries of muscular policy in Kashmir, Dr Farooq observed, need to take a step back and ask themselves if such a policy has succeeded elsewhere in the world. "The post 2019 policy landscape of Kashmir has no space for dialogue. It only relies on obliterating the legacy and icons of the region's constitutional and historical uniqueness. This has to change. There can be no headway without changing this. Peace cannot be achieved through force," he said.

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

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

Name : Mohammad Sami Dar
S/o Abdul Aziz Dar
R/o Watal Pora



Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 121008263 Session /Year 2021

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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
bmg R Sub Office Magam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the Name of my son from Koausar Khursheed to Mohammad Zyan . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tyndle Bisco & Millinson School (Tangmarg) within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Khursheed Ahamad
F/o Mohammad Zyan (New Name)

bmg
R

People Of J&K Hail New Land Laws As Major Step Towards Development, Progress: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The new land laws are being hailed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir as a major step towards development and progress of J&K, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

He said that the historic initiative of the government will revamp agriculture and allied sectors besides ensuring holistic development of all sectors.

He said that the Ministry of Home Affairs, through an order on October 26, introduced amendments to 14 laws of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and repealed 12 others. Key amendments were made to four major state laws that

governed the ownership, sale, and purchase of land in the erstwhile state, like the J&K Development Act, 1970, The J&K Land Revenue Act, 1996, The Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976 and The J&K Land Grants Act, 1960.

"While progressive provisions of the repealed laws have been retained by including them in the modified Land Revenue Act, new provisions have been added to modernize existing laws. There are provisions for setting up of a Board of Revenue, Regional planning for regulating the use of land, alienation and conversion, land lease, consolidation and Contract Farming," he added

According to the spokesperson,

the Board of Revenue comprising senior officers will not only be the Developing Authority for preparing regional plans but can notify a scheme of consolidation of landholdings and also a scheme for restricting and regulating the fragmentation of agricultural landholdings to make agriculture viable.

He said that the designation of land for industrial purposes will open up greater employment avenues for the youth who have always yearned for industrial revolution in J&K so that they can get better employment opportunities.

Recently, Jammu and Kashmir government signed 39 Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the National Real Estate Development

Council to boost employment and per capita income.

"The NAREDCO will train 10,000 workers in various skills of the construction industry, electrical, plumbing, masonry, carpentry and the likes," the Lieutenant Governor said, during the MoU signing event.

He said, "To facilitate transparent and accountable framework in the real estate sector, we have launched many portals — RERA portal, housing portal, integrated auction portal and these initiatives will help both developers and home buyers as one-stop portal for all their needs."

Sinha said there were people who did not want Jammu and Kashmir to develop at par with other parts of India. "They want

industries without giving land for it and development without investments. But we will break all walls that will come in the way of Jammu and Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri during the real estate summit said, "a large-scale infrastructure development, denied to the people of Jammu and Kashmir earlier, is now possible". "By combining rich natural resources with external investment and technical expertise, the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir will now have access to a higher quality of life", he added.

As a major initiative towards good governance and ease of con-

venience to the citizens, the Revenue Department started issuance of trilingual Land Passbooks in Hindi, Urdu and English to the landholders with effect from 19th of February 2022 from the districts of Jammu and Srinagar.

The land passbooks are being issued to every landholder which contain sentry from the Jamabandi in revenue estate so as to enable him to make its use for credit facilities and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The land passbook prescribed by the Revenue Department is true to the record and can be generated online by landholders without visiting a Patwari or Tehsildar or any Revenue office.

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Twitter Talks



“I am once again saying , sweaters and jackets
are cool and all but only pheran understands the
assignment”

@sadia_kawoosa

“COVID is back in Kashmir, (fever, sore throat, cough,
body aches, chills). Stay Alert. Mask-up in outdoors”

@DrSalimKhan

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Flying The Coop

With the curtain about to ring down on the government’s half-yearly sojourn in the summer capital, the somewhat pretentious officialdom, politicos included, of the state is all set to take its soothing ministrations to the more conducive climes of Jammu in a seemingly endless repetition of an ante-diluvian practice. Obviously, the chill descending this side of the Pir Patsal range freezes the creative and innovative currents within our masters, and they need warmer air to keep their beneficent and benevolent souls going.

Jammu and Kashmir has the distinction of being the only state with two capitals with the government migrating between them after every six months. In between, it helps itself with a neat 10-day break as if after a ‘tiresome’ performance in either region even as the drain on public exchequer in the shape of inconsequential touring and resultant expenses on petrol and allowances goes on without any respite. In fact, some kind of a ‘seasonal’ inertia sets in throughout the move offices about a month earlier as the officials begin packing up for the bi-annual trek up and down the highway. The files and records of various move offices are a mute witness to the common refrain during these days: “put up after durbar move.” Thus, by any calculation, the state government remains in a comma for about a month in every six months. It hardly matters if by the same token the government gives an emphatic lie to its own claim of being “a government that works every day”. In the process, the near-empty state exchequer is made to cough up a few crores of borrowed money to sustain a patently primitive tradition of ‘durbars move’ the erstwhile Dogra ruler, Maharaja Ranbir Singh, had initiated 133 years ago, in 1872.

Remember, in the eighties, the then happy-go-lucky chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, had taken a bold decision to dispense with the time-consuming and expensive practice only to spark off massive protests in the winter capital which forced him to lick the dust by withdrawing the order. Apparently, the main argument put forth to retain the practice is that it promotes emotional integration between the Muslim-dominated Kashmir region and Jammu having a substantial Hindu population. Partly, it also contributes a great deal in boosting trade and commerce in Jammu region. Over the decades, however, both the pleas have become almost totally irrelevant. The emotional integration between Kashmir and Jammu is just a farce as the two regions are not away from the same wave length in respect of quite some crucial issues.

The rise and groundswell of regional groups like the Jammu State Morcha has left nobody in doubt that the disturbingly saffronised regional and separatist sentiments are eating into the shrinking secular base, particularly in the two and a half districts of Jammu, Kathua and Udhampur. The growing influence of the RSS and its Hindutva outfits like the Shiv Sena and Bajrang Dal is no music for Kashmiris and certainly cannot even tolerate, leave alone nourish, any emotional bonds between the two regions. It is an open secret the RSS has been organizing regular shakhas in certain areas while the Bajrang Dal distributes trishuls to militarize the Hindu mind against Muslims.

It is no wonder that the Congress and the National Conference, who have lost no opportunity in making a travesty of their secular credentials at the regional and the national levels for the petty profits of power, should hold on to a tenuous artifice, a fig leaf, rather, to flaunt a virtue both have sacrificed time and again for the spoils of office. So, sensing themselves lacking in moral authority in deciding an issue on hard practical sense, they try to compensate by keeping up appearances. As both are deeply compromised in dealing body blows to the foundations of the nation’s philosophy, they have no other option but to keep up outdated notions to avoid having to grapple with hard facts.

Otherwise also, the half-yearly migration of the government out of the problem zones affects its performance rather adversely leaving the deserted areas’ people high and dry. The sooner the practice is abandoned, the better it would be for the entire state and its people. Indeed, in an era when the entire world has been reduced to a global village, the government can evolve a mechanism through which to administer the state quite effectively and efficiently without having to move between two capitals. It goes without saying that most ministers and top functionaries even otherwise keep routinely flying between the two capitals regardless of where the seat of power happens to be.

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

Should Climate Change
Concern Muslims?

Amir Suhail Wani

Have you ever contrasted the sparkling waters of Dal and other water bodies, as seen in pictures from the past , with their present day murky state? Have you ever contemplated the reasons behind this catastrophic and unhealthy change? And for that matter are you observing the change of pattern in our forest cover, conversion of eco-sensitive belts into industrial and residential areas? The emerging repercussions, as they manifest in calamities like extreme weather conditions, shifting of climatic belts and abnormal temperature deviation, must have caught your attention. While these things are happening locally, scientists warn us of much severe climatic concerns that await us and the recurrence of Ice Ages, which wiped out many species from the surface of Earth in its early history may again be around the corner and in one sweep on climatic catastrophe an overwhelming diversity of species may be erased from the planet. Almost every hour, a news item or a research article hits the internet that is directly linked to the environmental change and the consequences thereof – such is the gravity of the issue.

What has been our response to these changes which can threaten our survival, safety and existence? The severity and seriousness may not have dawned upon us yet but the question of environmental stability and sustainability hinges the future course of humanity. Its gradual motion (though it has fast forwarded during the last few decades) deludes us into believing as if all is well, but the melting snow-caps, the fast vanishing glaciers, spiky flash floods and such other visible and tangible parameters awaken us to the deeper mess, the hidden danger and the inevitable tragedy that we might collide with if timely and necessary measures aren’t brought into action without further delay.

The question pertaining to our response to climate challenges follows the top-down trajectory in a colossal problem like environmental degradation and its protection. That’s precisely the reason that international organizations and their affiliated countries have risen to the task and have started adopting and implementing universal policies and methodologies to safeguard the precarious environmental balance and to minimise any further stress on the environment that may ultimately steer it to the point of rupture. As carbon and its compounds called Hydrocarbons are chief miscreants in destabilising the environment and causing temperature abnormalities, the global community has set before itself the primary task of reducing Carbon emissions. Alternatives are being worked upon and efforts are being made to harness the eco-friendly, sustainable and non-polluting energy sources like Solar, Hydel, Geothermal etc. The industrial wastes are being subjected to proper decomposition techniques, residues are ingested to treatment plants and parallels like electric vehicles, solar photovoltaics are explored to meet growing energy demands without compromising on environmental safety parameters.

With all the measures in place and new measures being explored, the question remains: To what extent can an industrial consumerist society cut down its carbon consumption/emissions?

This is exactly where the religious teachings, particularly the teachings of Islam can play an important role, not only by restoring within man the serenity of satiety, but also by awakening him to his responsibilities towards environment. In its ideal, encompassing both the individual and collective attitudes, Islam sees man, not in



Photo courtesy of REUTERS/Parwiz

Islam is not a monastic order commanding distance from and indifference towards the world. It rather shares a pragmatic outlook and positive attitude towards the world of physical order. It emphasises upon its followers and therefore entire humanity to uphold the sacredness of biome and inspires us to work for the well-being and safety of all species

an independent, dispassionate or disconnected way from his environment. It rather endows man with the trusteeship of the world, its resources and its ecosystem.

Environment and natural world is not presented to man as an object of exploitation, which man may rob now and then to meet his legitimate and illegitimate desires. But man is placed in the ambit of accountability towards God for his relation with the environment and is allowed to benefit from the resources of the Earth within earmarked boundaries without subjecting the environment to undue stress.

Likewise, Islam places upon mankind the responsibility of ensuring well-being of other species, not to disturb their habitat and ensure inclusive biodiversity. Azizan Baharuddin writes in his paper,“ Based on these Islamic teachings, a Muslim is able to focus on his goal of resisting extremes in worldly temptations which often translate into environmentally wasteful and exploitative habits. In Islam, nature has its own order and functions (fitrah) that work naturally

within ecosystems wherein the components are mutually dependent on each other. Any single disturbance will affect the balance (mizan) of the greater system and cause harm (fasad) to at least one or more components”.

Islam is not a monastic order commanding distance from and indifference towards the world. It rather shares a pragmatic outlook and positive attitude towards the world of physical order. It emphasises upon its followers and therefore entire humanity to uphold the sacredness of biome and inspires us to work for the well-being and safety of all species.

It was mentioned above that the problem of climate change and environmental sustainability doesn’t stem from a single individual. It is rather an issue operating on a large scale and therefore calling for collective and group oriented response. But that shall not delude us into the false belief that we as individuals have no role to play and we are to be mute spectators.

Instead, we can all, in our individual capacities, play an active and important role in mitigating the challenge of environmental degradation. This change can assume myriad forms like avoiding energy wastage, cutting down our carbon consumption by making use of public transport, pooling for commuting and getting environmental safety of our vehicles ascertained from competent authorities. We also have to mend our basic habits in managing the wastes we produce at home and more importantly not to pollute the water bodies by throwing waste and garbage into them. This shall not be overlooked as moral teaching or preaching, but all these measures are incumbent upon us all if we desire to live further on this planet and share any concern towards preventing any calamity that can arise in absence of these measures.

Eva Morales summed it wonderfully that “Sooner or later, we will have to recognise that the Earth has rights, too, to live without pollution. What mankind must know is that human beings cannot live without Mother Earth, but the planet can live without humans”.

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

The author is a Srinagar based columnist

2008 Recession
A Terrifying History Lesson

Jamal Mecklai

Like everyone else, I have been watching global equity markets lurch lower with terror. Clearly, the Fed has been caught red-handed as the inflation tide accelerates outwards, with markets too high, pumped up on years of cheap money. The declines have been definitive. When will the decline stop? How will we know when it has gone far enough? The only truthful answer is: Nobody knows.

The graphic shows the percentage daily movement of the Dow from the peak (14,088, on October 1, 2007) to the trough (6,547, on March 9, 2009) during the 2008 crisis; I have superposed on it the percentage daily movement of the Dow from its last peak (36,489 on December 29, 2021) to its level on June 15, 2022 (30,669). The parallels are terrifying—in the first five and a half months of the 2008 crisis, the Dow fell by around 15%; we are currently down 16% (and this is before last Thursday’s sharp decline, which took the Dow below 30,000 for the first time since December 2020). The paths have a correlation of 70%, and what is truly frightening is that, in 2008, the market continued to decline for another 12 months and later declines were sharper.

Another parallel is the “tem-

per” of the market—a term I have coined to show how many days the market reacted to the trend by more than 1%. There were 22 days (18% of the last 120 days) when the market jumped higher compared to just 17 times (14%) during the 2008 crisis over the similar period. Incidentally, the classic market lore—that a bear market ends with capitulation, which, I assume, means there are zero up days—was not borne out in 2008; the total number of 1% plus days during that period was 75 out of 370, with the bulk (about half) of these occurring in the last third of the bear market.

Surely, the macro circumstances during the two periods are completely different. Before the 2008 crisis, growth was strong (5% in October 2007), as the economy had recovered strongly from the dot com bust in 2000 under the Fed’s enthusiastic cheap money policy. The ultra-low rates (Fed funds had fallen to 1% in May 2004) and blind regulators led to an explosion of banks selling extremely risky investments into the retail market. By 2007, inflation was rising (peaking at 3.8% in 2008) and the Fed funds rate was climbing (reaching 5.25%). These added to the build-up of risk in every institution, leading to the collapse of Lehman Brothers on September 15, 2007. The economy rapidly closed down with

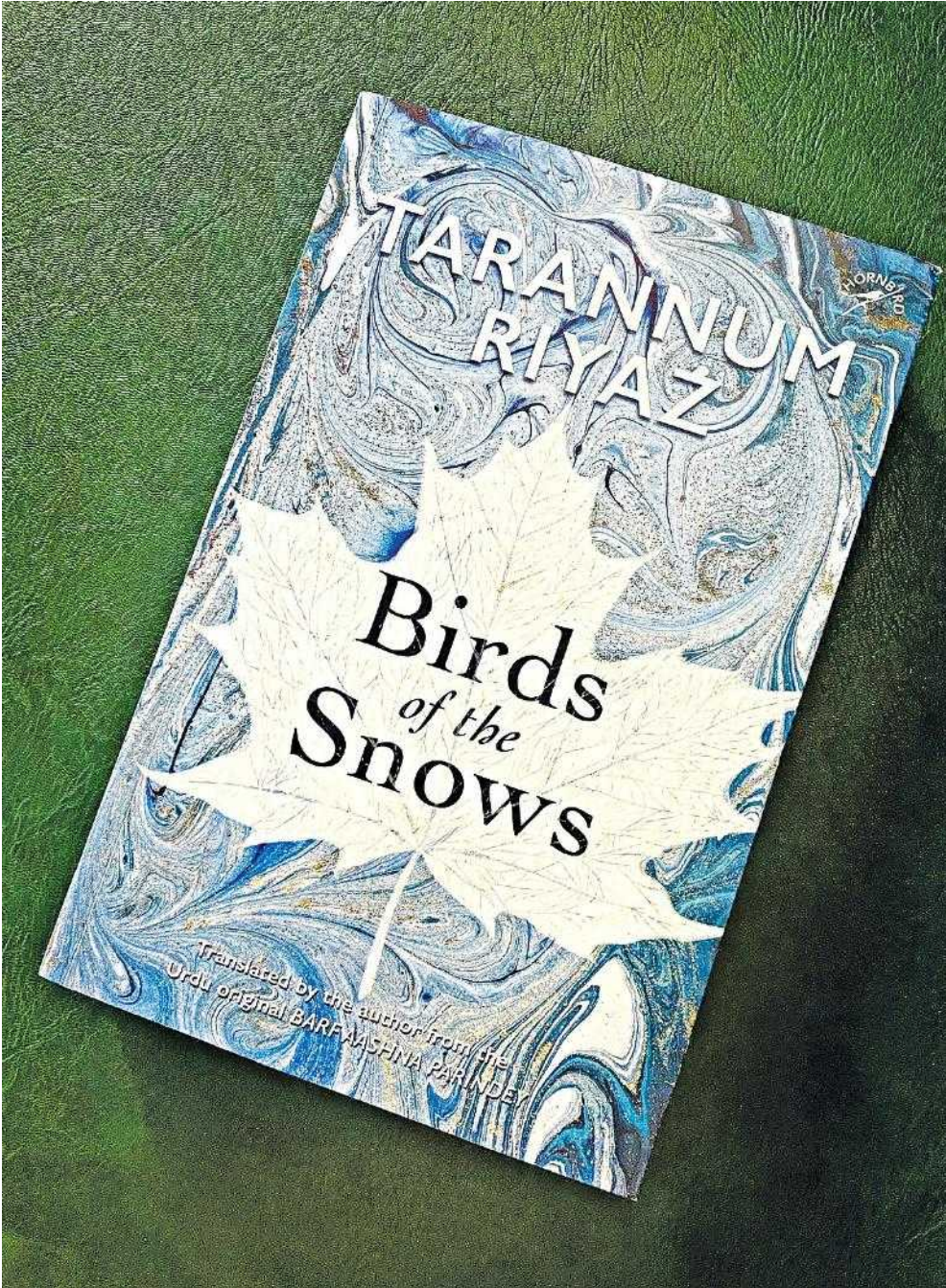
no one willing to lend since nobody knew who was caught in which web of mortgage-backed derivatives. Equities tanked, growth crashed.

The one-trick Fed once again flooded the market with money pushing rates down even more dramatically—the funds rate fell to 0.1% by September 2008. Growth, which had fallen to a low of -2.54% in 2009, picked up the following year and stayed steady (1-2.5%) for several years. However, this was jobless growth with unemployment uncomfortably high (>8%) till 2013; the Fed, of course, continued giving away money keeping rates flat on the ground (0.1-0.15%) for 7 years. This enabled the dramatic equity boom we have enjoyed and, of course, the current blowout of inflation. The entire misadventure ran for a year and a half, and, what is even worse is that the Dow did not recover to its earlier peak (of 14,088) till September 2013, a full four years after hitting bottom.

Circumstances are different today but certainly not comforting. First, as already mentioned, the market has been falling for just 6 months (as opposed to 18 back in 2008). Secondly, growth, which had picked up smartly after the pandemic, is slowing sharply as a result of the Russian invasion, surging commodity prices (particularly oil prices), and continuing supply-chain/Covid difficulties. Third and most significant, US inflation is raging at 8-9% (as compared with a peak of 3.8% back then) and the Fed is in the midst of dramatic monetary tightening—the 75bps hike last week was the highest since 1994, with expectations of more to come. The trauma is not nearly over. All eyes and ears remain on the Fed (and other central banks) that has suddenly awakened to its primary job of controlling inflation. Unfortunately, inflation is like a runaway train, and since it has not been leashed in time, there is no telling where it will go or what damage it will do. Worse yet, it is possible and, indeed, likely, that the only antidote—steadily (or rapidly) raising interest rates and tightening money supply—will crash the economy further.

With zero visibility on the future, except that equities will fall further, the prayer is that history does not repeat itself.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express
The author is CEO, Mecklai Financial



Abbu had once told Sheba that it greatly influenced handicrafts in the Valley, with its fire-spewing dragons, chinar leaves, nightingales, flowers and creepers painted delicately on the papier mâché items in vibrant colours, and also carved painstakingly on wooden artefacts

BOOK EXCERPT

‘BIRDS OF THE SNOWS’:
A Crucial Coming-of-Age Saga

Tarannum Riyaz

There was not a single picture of Ammi in it, but there were many other interesting pictures in the family album. The first page had a picture of the Hazratbal shrine in the Naseem Bagh area. Its pagoda-like architecture looks like the shrine of Hazrat Khawaja Nagshband Sahib. Like many other shrines built in the region, it has a wide square roof covering the whole building. There is a smaller square roof on top of it, which is covered with still another smaller one like that. This beautiful series of roofs continues, and the last one has a short minaret on top of it in the centre. The first roof has excellently carved wooden ornamentation attached to it in all the four corners. They look like lotus flowers hanging upside down.

Abbu said that before reaching other places, Buddhism had reached the Kashmir valley first and flourished there. Kashmiri Nagas accepted the creed, along with their previous symbol of a dragon as they had been worshippers of Naga- the serpent. From Kashmir, Buddhism spread to Gilgit Baltistan, Kashghar, and the kingdom of Khotan.

The ancient kingdom of Khotan was located on a branch of the Silk Road, running along the southern edge of the Taklamakan Desert in the Tarim Basin- the southern area of present-day Xingiang. Buddhism continued further on to China, Korea, Japan, Thailand, and other countries from one side of the Kashmir valley, and to Ladakh, Tibet, Nepal and other Himalayan states from the other; and the pagoda architecture spread far and wide along with it. But it was also thought that the pagoda architecture can be traced to the older Nepalese stupas, which was adopted in Southeast

and East Asia on the one hand, and to the

Kashmir valley through the Ladakh region on the other. Whatever the origin, the style is still very popular in Kashmir. Abbu had once told Sheba that it greatly influenced handicrafts in the Valley, with its fire-spewing dragons, chinar leaves, nightingales, flowers and creepers painted delicately on the papier mâché items in vibrant colours, and also carved painstakingly on wooden artefacts.

The new building in Hazratbal on the bank of the Dal Lake was modelled on the holy shrine in Madina. The Azan from the magnificent minaret next to the green dome seems to be coming from all corners of the sky.

Six-year-old Sheba closed her eyes in devotion, the way Ammi did for the prayers after namaz. The previous scene returned to her eyes once again.

The room became very dark, probably because some lingering clouds from the storm last evening covered the moon. Sheba stared at the ceiling which was almost invisible in the darkness with wide open eyes. The sound of Abu's breath was barely audible now. It resembled the sound of the air passing through the swing, hanging from

the walnut tree in the backyard, as it begins to stop. She was hearing Abbu breathing continuously, as the sound travelled directly from Abbu's window to her. A short while ago she had heard it growing faint; and now, she just could not hear it. Is Abbu dead? She thought in terror and felt as if the rope of the swing had broken and she herself was dying,

having fallen to the ground. She sat up in the bed. Her sister Faheema, older by seven years, poked her in the ribs. Can't you sleep peacefully? she asked irritably and, changing her side, went back to sleep. Baajis bony elbow felt like the joint of the divider in her geometry box. She wanted to tell Baaji that Abbu had died but choking on her own

pain, she could not utter a word. She started crying silently and slowly rose from her bed. She glanced at Ammis bed; Farkhanda was fast asleep with Ammi's arm under her neck like a pillow. Sheba sobbed silently. Whenever she slept with Baaji, she made her cry on some pretext or another. In her imagination, Sheba moved a step back, picked up Baaji along with her bed, and threw her down from the window.

But the next moment, she saw her sleeping peacefully as before. She was enraged, but also laughed at this absurd thought.

A strong gust of wind hit her face as she walked carefully to Abbu's room. Sleeping on his huge bed peacefully, Abbu's huge chest moved slowly up and down, and his nose blew out the same sound as the rope-swing when it's just about to stop. A smile spread on her lips and she returned to her room. She held Ammis left hand very softly, spread it and

put her neck on it. She didn't disturb Ammis sleep at all; Ammi pulled her right arm out from under Farkhandas neck and put it on Sheba's waist. Sheba laughed softly and closed her eyes.

The next morning, the children woke up to such an interesting day that no game could be equal to all the fun. Early in the morning, when their devout parents got up to offer their Fajr (dawn prayer), the care-free children woke up too- but only to go right back to sleep, as it had started raining heavily. But the walnut-pelting rain and clouds

which had been forcefully driven away by the strong winds last evening had given a thorough soaking in the night to all the hills and valleys around, before making a comeback.

Excerpted with permission from Birds of the Snows, Tarannum Riyaz, translated by the author from the Urdu original Barf Aashna Parindey, Nijoggi Books

Traversing Self Worth and Potential Spouses

Rouhi Kateb

My understanding of what was involved in the process of finding a spouse was limited to the classics like Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility. Through Austen's writing, I was emboldened to imagine that matrimony was quite basic, if you remove social classes and beauty that is.

As a South Asian Mulim woman when it comes to finding your other half, the contrast between expectations and reality cannot be more stark. There is undeniably some amount of disappointment attached to this worn-out, traditional practice of finding a spouse in South Asia. Many South Asian women find themselves at the edge of the cliff when they are forced to measure their beauty, a social construct that is absolutely out of their control, in order to find a spouse.

Young women without the genes that would deem them conventionally pretty are expected to forego their dreams in the name of matrimony. Some women are expected to lower their reasonable expectations and compromise simply because their skin tone or appearance is deemed unacceptable for an "ideal wife".

Over the years I have seen how more and more women in my community are advised to compromise their living standards, stuck with partners who are unable to provide them with the same level of comfort they were brought up in, or abusive partners with unmatched moral values. Smart women equipped with the skills to enrich their communities lose their youth, either in the hunt for a partner, or in dealing with the consequences of a bad marriage. In some houses, there are more dreams put to fire than fuel every day.

I come from a household where not being married by twenty-four is the first violation of the sacred notion that women are too old by the time they hit the benchmark of graduation. Much to my grievance, I discovered this at the said twenty-four. So what is it like to be a stay-at-home woman waiting in vain to get hitched, you may wonder? I pray your experi-

ence halts at your curiosity.

I do not blame Austen; she did warn me. I was brought up to believe that we live in a world where people are neither good nor bad, they are either different or the same, a rosy notion that is now fast withering. My experiences as a prospective wife have certainly scarred me for a lifetime. The very calm of the sea that our family lived at the ebb of, now a roaring ocean, waiting for me to get hitched.

Pale skin is an expected mandatory, bi-partisan rule between the woman's and the man's family. One demands, while the other rubs turmeric and other household remedies on her skin until it is raw with pain. Why as a society, have we reduced ourselves to trying to undo the decree of our Creator?

The hypocrisy of our community is so well ingrained that we have come to defend these unrealistic ideals rather than upholding Islamic values. The insolence of how the very people we consider to be our loved loved ones, the same people who were once extremely keen to find us a righteous spouse, but who now attribute all these misgivings to our fate, is remarkable. Every transgression in a society manifests itself in the institution of marriage. It is no surprise that many women find themselves at the pinnacle of their emotional breakdowns either before or in the early years of their marriage.

In a society where a trophy wife is now considered a prerequisite by our men, where then do we find ourselves as women if we do not meet the impossible standards set by them? Why is it that we are quite unconsciously taught to find our worth in our spouse even before we meet him? We are expected to spend hours enhancing our appearance, our ideals, and our household skills; things we may or may not have an interest in. Did our Creator demand this of us? Why do we scrub our skin until we've scrubbed any bit of self-esteem along with it? Why do we starve our bodies until our soul feels dizzy?

From skipping meals to lose any post pandemic weight to smearing retinol over stress acne, I often find myself worrying over the tiniest



“Why is it that we are quite unconsciously taught to find our worth in our spouse even before we meet him? We are expected to spend hours enhancing our appearance, our ideals, and our household skills; things we may or may not have an interest in. Did our Creator demand this of us?”

flaws in my appearance. The anxiety weighs me down.

A question every South Asian Muslim woman needs to ask herself is: How deep-rooted is my disappointment in this system? Where am I projecting it? Have I fallen into this dark pit when none of it is my fault, to begin with?

Our fight against the system turns into a fight against ourselves. We are let down by our families, then some of our friends who seemingly fail to acknowledge the harshness of this system. Over the years, I've been constantly trying to find ways

to quell my anxiety. How do we save our self-esteem in a society where good character is an admirable trait, only when physical appearances also bring pleasure to the eye?

For me, coming to terms with this conundrum and finding an answer to this question required some soul-searching. I have compiled a list of lessons that I learned in this journey that have made an immense amount of difference to me:

1. Take a breather. Accept that every part of your body is the way it is meant to be by the Decree of

Allah. Our focus is so forced into changing something that cannot be changed, that it empowers the people who demand milky white skin or an hour-glass figure. Understand that your physical appearance is in no way a detriment to your finding a spouse. The right one has been decreed for you by Allah all along. Trust Allah, not the process.

2. Have a tête-à-tête with your friend. Voice your insecurities and you'll soon see how frivolous they sound in the bigger picture. Dive into a nostalgic conversation, and remind yourself what you are capable of.
3. Rather than investing your mental energy into the spouse hunting process, set out a time when you remind yourself of the greater purpose of life. This can be quite tricky when you have a marriage-obsessed family around. But remember, every hour you take out for yourself is an investment you make into your future-self, while every hour you spend being anxious is an hour you lose to society's fictional standards.
4. If your anxieties are pushing you into insomnia, make wudhu and spend some time on the prayer mat. Start with tasbeeh if you feel too exhausted and scatter-brained to stand up for qiyam.
5. Join a free Qur'an course, a personal development course, or connect with a life coach. Any amount of constant external positive reinforcement may help you to reclaim your sense of self. Seek professional help, if you can afford it. Work towards your career goals. Some families are downright abusive and force their daughters to give up any such ideas but don't listen to them. Do whatever you can to stay relevant to your field and acquire skills. Most importantly, don't give up on yourself.

If you are someone with friends who are going through this struggle, this is how you can support them:

1. If your friend is struggling and has been courageous enough to share their insecurities with you,

try not to belittle them with flowery compliments. We have all heard some version of, "I'm as dark as you. I'm not that light-skinned." Or "You are not fat, I am!" If you truly care, hear them out, address their concerns, and acknowledge their anxiety. Remind them that being unworthy of love and being unacceptable by prospective in-laws are not the same things.

2. If you have a brother or any male relative seeking a spouse through this process, ask them to be kind. For some women, it takes a lot of patience to sit at home for years waiting to get married simply because of skin color or appearance. Use your influence to make your male relative see that their obsession with light skin or other conventional beauty standards is a character flaw within themselves and not within the women they come across.
3. Remind them of their rights that Islam has already granted them, and provide moral support if the person is having a hard time with their family. Oftentimes, women will compromise just to get out of the pressure put upon them by loved ones which leads to more harm being done than good.
4. Be the one who breaks the tradition. If you are involved in the matchmaking process, make the prospective spouse feel comfortable, ask better questions, and bring up issues that they may feel uncomfortable bringing up. If you think it will not work out for whatever reason, be kind in how you convey your decision.

We have been there in the past watching our aunts suffer the same humiliation, we are here now, with a stoic face as prospective in-laws scathe our self-worth with judgemental glances. The question is will we be there, desensitized to this culture when our own daughters are on the verge of womanhood?

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

Women Are At Greater Risk Of Stroke, The More Miscarriages They've Had

The Conversation

New research shows women who have had a miscarriage or stillbirth, have an increased risk of stroke when blood can't get to the brain, because of a blocked or burst artery. That risk increases with each miscarriage or stillbirth.

Trying to establish this link is difficult because it requires following a large number of women over a long period of time and having reliable data on women's experiences. Our study, published by the British Medical Journal today, is the first to conclusively show the link between pregnancy loss and stroke.

Many women are unaware their experiences during pregnancy can be an early marker of later health dangers. Our findings show their doctors should be alert to their increased risk.

It's possible infertility, miscarriage, and stillbirth could increase stroke risk because of other health issues. These could include endocrine disorders (low oestrogen or insulin resistance), inflammation, problems with endothelial cells that assist in blood flow, psychological disorders, unhealthy behaviours (such as smoking) or obesity.

Heartbreak then stroke risk

Our research is based on pooled data from 618,851 women who took part in eight separate studies in Australia, China, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The women were aged between 32 and 73 when they were first enrolled in the studies and were followed up for an average of 11 years.

The study showed that over the time they were studied, 9,265 (2.8%) women had at least one non-fatal stroke and 4,003 (0.7%) women had a fatal stroke. Overall, 91,569 (16.2%) women had a history of miscarriage while 24,873 (4.6%) had a history of stillbirth.

Among the women who had ever been pregnant, women who had reported a miscarriage had a 11% higher risk



of a non-fatal stroke and 17% higher risk of a fatal stroke compared with women who have not had a miscarriage.

The risk increased with each miscarriage, so that women who had three or more miscarriages had a 35% higher risk for non-fatal stroke (from incidence rate of 43 per 100,000 person years to 58 per 100,000) and an 82% higher risk in fatal strokes (from 11.3 per 100,000 person years to 18 per 100,000) compared with women who had never miscarried.

Stillbirth also significantly increased the risk of stroke.

Among women who had ever been pregnant, women who had a history of stillbirth had a 31% higher risk of non-fatal strokes (from an incidence rate of 42 per 100,000 person years to 69.5 per 100,000) and a 7% higher risk of fatal strokes.

Again, the greater the number of stillbirths, the higher the risk of later strokes, with women who had had two or more stillbirths having a 26% higher risk of fatal strokes (rising from 11 per 100,000 person years to 51.1 per 100,000).

The study is the first to show links with stroke subtypes: stillbirths were linked to non-fatal ischaemic (blockage) stroke or fatal haemorrhagic (bleeding) stroke; miscarriages were

linked to both subtypes.

Our study strengthens findings from a previous systematic review that found similar results but showed limited evidence linked to stroke subtypes.

Of the possible explanations for these links, problems with endothelial cells (which control vascular relaxation and contraction as well as release blood-clotting enzymes) might lead to pregnancy loss through problems with the placenta. These problems also relate to how blood vessels dilate and get inflamed or blocked during stroke.

Adjusting for known risk factors

Our findings were adjusted for many of the known risk factors for stroke: body mass index, whether the women smoked or not, whether they had high blood pressure, or diabetes. The numbers were also adjusted for ethnicity and education level.

By adjusting for risk factors, we can isolate the increased risk likely linked to the number of miscarriages or stillbirths the women.

What should women and their doctors do with this information? When doctors do a heart health check, they look at the risk of cardiovascular disease overall that is, heart disease, heart

failure and stroke. By considering these risks, doctors assess and predict the risk of future disease.

The current Australian guidelines recommend heart health checks should be conducted regularly for people aged 45 to 74, or for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from the age of 30 this is when the risk of cardiovascular disease starts to increase.

The guidelines recommend medication (blood pressure medication and/or lipid-lowering medication such as statins) when the risk of cardiovascular disease is greater than 15% in the next five years.

These guidelines are currently being updated by the Australian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance (which includes the Cancer Council Australia, Diabetes Australia, Kidney Health Australia, National Heart Foundation of Australia and the Stroke Foundation), but more recent international guidelines recommend medication at lower levels of risk.

No matter what your risk of cardiovascular disease is, the best way to prevent having a stroke is by living as healthy a lifestyle as possible: stopping smoking, eating a healthy diet, having a moderate alcohol intake and doing regular exercise.

These lifestyle measures lower risk for everybody, but doctors will try particularly hard to help people do this who are at long term risk.

Our research shows miscarriage and stillbirth are signals a woman is at increased risk of cardiovascular disease. These events occur many years before a woman develops other risk factors, such as high blood pressure, diabetes or high cholesterol.

Women who have experienced a miscarriage or stillbirth should discuss these with their doctor. Knowing you have a higher risk of stroke is opportunity to monitor your health and make lifestyle changes that can help prevent stroke.

GPs need to ask about women's reproductive histories and be aware of recurrent miscarriage and stillbirths as potential predictors of stroke risk.

Four Coral Species Recorded For First Time In Indian Waters



Press Trust Of India

Scientists have recorded four species of azooxanthellate corals for the first time in Indian waters.

The four species named *Truncatoflabellum crassum*, *T. incrustatum*, *T. aculeatum*, and *T. irregulare* were recorded from the waters of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Azooxanthellate corals are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae—unicellular, golden-brown algae. They are found in dark habitats, especially within caverns.

Their distribution is not limited to the upper layer of ocean alone, but are known from the tropical seas to polar seas and from the intertidal zone to over 6,328 metres depth.

The study, published recently in *Thalassas: An International Journal of Marine Sciences*, was carried out in reef ecosystems of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) reported four species of azooxanthellate corals from the shallow water region.

The previous studies carried out on the scleractinian coral resulted in the

documentation of the total of around only 10 per cent of azooxanthellate corals in comparison with zooxanthellate corals from Indian waters.

"The four species named as *Truncatoflabellum crassum*, *T. incrustatum*, *T. aculeatum*, and *T. irregulare* under the family *Flabelliidae* are recorded for the first time from India," the authors of the study noted.

All four specimens were previously recorded from Japan to the Philippines and Australian waters while only *T. crassum* was reported within the range of Indo-West Pacific distribution including the Gulf of Aden and the Persian Gulf, they said.

The study illustrates the morphological features along with the global mapping of zoogeographic distributional ranges of the four species of flabelliids.

A 2016 study by researchers at the Institute for Environmental Research and Social Education, Tamil Nadu reported three species of azooxanthellate corals, for the first time from the rocky outcrops off Goa, mid-west coast of India.

Food Can Be Produced Without Sunlight Via Artificial Photosynthesis

ANI

According to a study by the University of California, scientists have found a way to bypass the need for biological photosynthesis altogether and create food independent of sunlight by using artificial photosynthesis.

The technology uses a two-step electrocatalytic process to convert carbon dioxide, electricity, and water into acetate.

Food-producing organisms then consume acetate in the dark to grow. The hybrid organic-inorganic system could increase the conversion efficiency of sunlight into food, up to 18 times more efficient for some foods.

Photosynthesis has evolved in plants for millions of years to turn water, carbon dioxide, and the energy from sunlight into plant biomass and the foods we eat. This process, however, is very inefficient, with only about 1% of the energy found in sunlight ending up in the plant. Scientists at UC Riverside and the University of Delaware have found a way to bypass the need for biological photosynthesis altogether and create food independent of sunlight by using artificial photosynthesis.

The research, published in *Nature Food*, uses a two-step electrocatalytic process to convert carbon dioxide, electricity, and water into acetate, the form of the main component of vinegar. Food-producing organisms then consume acetate in the dark to grow. Combined with solar panels to generate the electricity to power the electrocatalysis, this hybrid organic-inorganic system could increase the conversion efficiency of sunlight into food, up to 18 times more efficient for some foods.

"With our approach we sought to identify a new way of producing food that could break through the limits normally imposed by biological photosynthesis," said corresponding author Robert Jinkerson, a UC Riverside assistant professor of chemical and environmental engineering.

In order to integrate all the components of the system together, the output of the electrolyzer was optimized to support the growth of



food-producing organisms. Electrolyzers are devices that use electricity to convert raw materials like carbon dioxide into useful molecules and products. The amount of acetate produced was increased while the amount of salt used was decreased, resulting in the highest levels of acetate ever produced in an electrolyzer to date.

"Using a state-of-the-art two-step tandem CO₂ electrolysis setup developed in our laboratory, we were able to achieve a high selectivity towards acetate that cannot be accessed through conventional CO₂ electrolysis routes," said corresponding author Feng Jiao at University of Delaware.

Experiments showed that a wide range of food-producing organisms can be grown in the dark directly on the acetate-rich electrolyzer output, including green algae, yeast, and fungal mycelium that produce mushrooms. Producing algae with this technology is approximately fourfold more energy-efficient than growing it photosynthetically. Yeast production is about 18-fold more energy-efficient than how it is typically cultivated using sugar extracted from corn.

"We were able to grow food-producing organisms without any contributions from biological photosynthesis. Typically, these organisms are cultivated on sugars derived from plants or inputs derived from petroleum - which is a product of biological photosynthesis that took place millions of years ago. This technology is a more efficient method of turning solar energy into food, as compared to food production that relies on biological photosynthesis," said Elizabeth

Hann, a doctoral candidate in the Jinkerson Lab and co-lead author of the study.

The potential for employing this technology to grow crop plants was also investigated. Cowpea, tomato, tobacco, rice, canola, and green pea were all able to utilize carbon from acetate when cultivated in the dark.

"We found that a wide range of crops could take the acetate we provided and build it into the major molecular building blocks an organism needs to grow and thrive. With some breeding and engineering that we are currently working on we might be able to grow crops with acetate as an extra energy source to boost crop yields," said Marcus Harland-Dunaway, a doctoral candidate in the Jinkerson Lab and co-lead author of the study.

By liberating agriculture from complete dependence on the sun, artificial photosynthesis opens the door to countless possibilities for growing food under the increasingly difficult conditions imposed by anthropogenic climate change. Drought, floods, and reduced land availability would be less of a threat to global food security if crops for humans and animals grew in less resource-intensive, controlled environments. Crops could also be grown in cities and other areas currently unsuitable for agriculture, and even provide food for future space explorers.

"Using artificial photosynthesis approaches to produce food could be a paradigm shift for how we feed people. By increasing the efficiency of food production, less land is needed, lessening the impact agriculture has on the environment. And for agriculture in non-traditional environments, like outer space, the increased energy efficiency could help feed more crew members with less inputs," said Jinkerson.

This approach to food production was submitted to NASA's Deep Space Food Challenge where it was a Phase I winner. The Deep Space Food Challenge is an international competition where prizes are awarded to teams to create novel and game-changing food technologies that require minimal inputs and maximize safe, nutritious, and palatable food outputs for long-duration space missions.

PRESS NOTE

DES organises workshop on NSS 79th Round Socio- Economic Survey



Directorate of Economics & Statistics, J&K organised a two-day training programme on National sample Survey 79th Round on 24st & 25nd of June, 2022 under the chairmanship of Regional Director, E&S Kashmir at Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Bemina

Srinagar. This year the survey is earmarked for Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey and Survey on AYUSH.

Mr. Athar Hussain Qadri, Regional Director, E&S Kashmir in his address highlighted the importance of the programme viz-a-viz role of Directorate for collecting the data on the designed surveys. He impressed upon all the field functionaries for collecting reliable and coherent data that will pave way for the making Government policies. Sh. Ashiq Hussain Bhat, Joint Director (Survey), DES, welcomed the participants and briefed them about the survey and encouraged them to take full benefit of training so that quality data could be obtained for the preparation of NSS reports.

The first day of training will be devoted to the discussion on concepts, definitions, listing schedule and schedule on CAMS and on second and concluding day, training will be imparted on AYUSH schedule. A practical training and feedback session will be held for the participants. The training will be imparted by Mr. Mohammad Isamil Bngroo, Assistant Director (Survey), DES and Mr. Tahseen Mustafa, Senior Statistical Officer, NSO, FOD, RO, Jammu.

The training is being attended by Mr. Riyaz Ahmad Ramshoo, Joint Director (Evl), DES, Mr. Ashiq Hssain, Joint Director (Survey), DES, Mr. Gh. Mohammad Dar, Dy. Director (Estates), DES, Mr. Inam-Ul-Haq, Dy. Director (SIU), DES, Mr. Shah Isamil Bangroo, Assistant Director (Survey) DES and all the ten (10) District Statistics & Evaluation Officers (DSEOs) of Kashmir Division alongwith their concerned NSS staff and other officers and officials of Directorate of Economics & Statistics/Regional Directorate, E&S Kashmir related to the survey.

(A.H. Qadri)
Regional Directorate, E&S Kashmir

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Monetary Policy Actions Likely To Be More Moderate Than Other Nations: RBI Dy Guv



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra on Friday exuded confidence that the monetary policy actions will be more moderate than the rest of the world, as inflation is expected to fall below 6 per cent in the January-March quarter of the current fiscal.

The Reserve Bank has already raised the key policy rate by 90 basis points in May and June to 4.9 per cent to tame high inflation, mainly due to supply disruptions on account of the on-going Russia-Ukraine war.

Speaking at a session on 'Geo-Political Spill-overs and Indian Economy' at PHDCCI here, Patra said there are indications that inflation may be peaking.

"As monetary policy works through into the economy...inflation is expected to fall back into the threshold in the fourth quarter of 2022-23 and fall even further in the next year. This is only the baseline scenario," he said, adding that because of initiatives taken so far, the inflation may fall "sooner and faster".

"Therefore, in this world of global inflation crisis, it is possibly better to look at the change

in inflation, not the level," said the Deputy Governor, who looks after the monetary policy department in the RBI.

He is also a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which decides the key policy rate (repo).

The government has tasked the RBI to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent with a two per cent deviation on either side.

While the retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) moderated to 7.04 per cent in May from 7.8 per cent in April, it remained above the RBI's threshold of 6 per cent for the fifth month in a row.

"Against this backdrop, it is our hope that required monetary policy actions in India will be more moderate than elsewhere in the world and that we will be able to bring inflation back to target within a two-year time span. If the monsoon brings with it a more benign outlook on food prices, India would have tamed the inflation crisis even earlier," he said.

Observing that the decline in inflation will be very "grudging", Patra said India will "succeed in bending down the future trajectory of inflation and thereby it will win the war".

'Not Targeting Any Level, But RBI Will Not Allow 'Jerky Movements' Of Rupee'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael D Patra on Friday said the Central Bank is defending the Rupee against volatility and will not allow "jerky movements", though it is not looking at any particular level for the domestic currency against the US dollar.

Patra, who looks after the monetary policy department in the RBI, also stressed that the Indian currency has witnessed least depreciation in recent times.

"We don't know where the Rupee will be. Even the US Fed doesn't know where the dollar will be. But be sure of one thing. We will stand for its (Rupee) stability, and we're doing it on an ongoing basis even as I speak.

"We are there in the market. We will not allow disorderly movements in the Rupee. We have no level in our mind, but we will not allow jerky movements. That's for certain...let it be widely known that we are in

the market defending the Rupee against volatility," he said.

He was replying to a query on Rupee depreciation at an interactive session on 'Geo-Political Spill-overs and Indian Economy' organised by industry chamber PHDCCI.

Patra further said if one looks at the depreciation of Rupee, it is one of the least in the world and that is the power of USD 600 billion dollar forex reserves.

The rupee on Friday slipped 1 paisa to close at its all-time low of 78.33 (provisional) against the US dollar.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 78.20 and finally settled at its all-time low of 78.33, down 1 paisa from its previous close.

During the day, the local unit witnessed an intra-day high of 78.19 and a low of 78.35 against the American currency.

To a question on Rupee-Ruble payment mechanism, Patra said the Reserve Bank will do whatever the government decides.

GST Council May Consider Changes In Monthly GST Payment Form

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The GST Council in its meeting next week is likely to consider a proposal for making changes in the monthly tax payment form — GSTR-3B, which would include auto-population of outward supplies from sales return and non-editable tax payment table, officials said.

The move would help curb the menace of fake billing, whereby sellers would show higher sales in GSTR-1 to enable purchasers to claim input tax credit (ITC), but report suppressed sales in GSTR-3B to lower GST liability.

Currently, GSTR-3B of a taxpayer includes auto drafted input tax credit (ITC) statements based on inward and outward B2B supplies and also red flags any mismatch between GSTR-1 and 3B.

As per the changes proposed by the Law Committee of the GST Council, there will be auto-population of values from GSTR-1 into GSTR-3B in specific rows to establish one-to-one correspondence to a large extent between rows of the two return forms, thereby providing clarity to the taxpayer and tax officers.

The change would minimize the requirement of user input in GSTR-3B and ease the GSTR-3B filing process, an official said.

The tax payment table in Form GSTR-3B will be auto-populated from other tables in the form and will be non-editable, as per the amended form recommended by the Law Com-



mittee of the Council.

Noting that amendment in Form GSTR-3B, as far as feasible, should flow from amendment in Form GSTR-1, with regard to outward liabilities, the Committee suggested that for giving more clarity to the taxpayers, separate amendment table (for liabilities) may be introduced in GSTR-3B, so that any amendment made in Form GSTR-1 gets reflected in GSTR-3B clearly.

Similarly, an amendment table may also be incorporated in GSTR-3B to show any amendment in the ITC portion, the Committee suggested.

Once the changes proposed by the Law Committee gets an in-principle approval of the GST Council, the revamped form will be put in public domain for stakeholder consultation.

The GST Council in a meeting later will then approve the final form.

Currently, taxpayers file

statements of outward supplies in GSTR-1 by the 11th day of the subsequent month, while taxes are paid by filing GSTR-3B between 20th, 22nd and 24th of every month for different categories of taxpayers.

Commenting on the proposed changes in GSTR-3B, AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said tax filings are set to change for e-commerce operators rendering passenger transportation services, accommodation services, housekeeping services, and cloud kitchens.

Such e-commerce players would now be made liable to report supplies on behalf of suppliers in their GSTR -1 and GSTR-3B in separate cells.

"E-commerce players like Uber, Swiggy, Zomato and MMT would see few changes in monthly tax filings that will ensure more data points for the government system for big data analytics," Mohan added.

'Defer Decision On Levying GST On Cryptocurrencies', Suggest Officers' Committee

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The officers committee on GST has suggested the GST Council to defer a decision on taxability of cryptocurrency and other virtual digital assets.

The Fitment Committee in its report to the GST Council has suggested that a law on regulation of cryptocurrency is awaited and it would be essential to identify all relevant supplies associated with the crypto-ecosystem, besides classification on whether they are goods or services.

The committee of officers comprising both from Centre and states, referred to as Fitment Committee, felt that a deeper study was needed on the issues involved in crypto ecosystem. It was decided that Haryana and Karnataka shall

study all aspects and submit a paper before the Fitment Committee in due course.

The committee felt that it was required to identify all relevant supplies associated with crypto-ecosystem which are under the ambit of G S T ;



their nature whether those activities are goods or services and their applicable rate.

Hence, it suggested that the Council, in its next meeting on June 28-29, defers a decision of taxation of cryptocurrency.

The 2022-23 Budget has

brought in clarity with regard to levy of income tax on crypto assets, however, on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) front, classification of cryptocurrency as to whether it is goods or services is still not clear.

From April 1, a 30 per cent income tax plus cess and surcharges, is levied on such transactions in the same manner as it treats winnings from horse races or other speculative transactions. A 1 per cent

TDS on payments over Rs 10,000 towards virtual currencies has also been introduced which will kick in from July 1. The threshold limit for TDS would be Rs 50,000 a year for specified persons, which include individuals/HUFs who are required to get their accounts audited under the I-T Act.

Rupee Settles At All-Time Low Of 78.33 Against Us Dollar



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The rupee on Friday slipped 1 paisa to close at its all-time low of 78.33 against the US dollar amid growing concerns over aggressive monetary policy tightening by central banks and relentless foreign capital outflows.

Positive domestic equities and a weak American currency overseas supported the local unit, forex dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 78.20 and finally settled at its all-time low of 78.33, down 1 paisa from its previous close.

During the day, the local unit witnessed an intra-day high of 78.19 and a low of 78.35 against the American currency.

On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 78.32 against the US dollar.

According to Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, the Indian Rupee depreciated on Friday and remained weak for an 8th straight week on growing concerns that aggressive monetary policy tightening by central

banks to curb inflation could raise the risk of a global economic slowdown.

"The Rupee has weakened over the last few sessions after FPI remained net sellers in the domestic equity and debt markets," Iyer said.

According to the latest data from NSDL, FPIs have sold about USD 5.9 billion of domestic equities so far in June, compared with about USD 5.2 billion in net sales for the whole of May, he said.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.25 per cent to 104.17.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.13 per cent to USD 111.29 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 462.26 points or 0.88 per cent higher at 52,727.98, while the broader NSE Nifty gained 142.60 points or 0.92 per cent to 15,699.25.

Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Thursday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,319.06 crore, as per stock exchange data.

Automobiles In India To Be Accorded 'Star Ratings' Based On Performance In Crash Tests: Gadkari

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: To boost road safety in India, Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said the new car assessment program -- Bharat NCAP, proposes a mechanism wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded 'Star Ratings' based upon their performance in crash tests.

In a series of tweets, Gadkari said the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) will serve as a consumer-centric platform, allowing customers to opt for safer cars based upon their Star-Ratings, while promoting a healthy competition among original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in India to manufacture safer vehicles.

"I have now approved the draft GSR notification to introduce Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Program), wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded Star Ratings based upon their performance in crash tests," he said. The Road Transport and Highways minister stressed that Star Ratings of Indian cars based on crash tests is extremely crucial not only to ensure structural and passenger safety in cars, but to also increase the export-worthiness of Indian automobiles.

The testing protocol of Bharat



NCAP shall be aligned with global crash-test protocols factoring in the existing Indian regulations, allowing OEMs to get their vehicles tested at India's own in-house testing facilities, Gadkari said.

According to him, Bharat NCAP will prove to be a critical instrument in making our automobile industry Aatmanirbhar with the mission of making India the top automobile hub in the world. Bharat NCAP will encourage manufacturers to participate voluntarily in the safety testing assessment programme and incorporate higher safety levels in new car models.

The proposed assessment will allocate Star Ratings from 1 to 5 stars.

The initiative is aimed at making mobility safer amid the country witnessing a total of 3,66,138 road accidents during the calendar year 2020, causing 1,31,714 deaths.

Pakistan PM Sharif Announces 10% Super Tax' On Large-Scale Industries

Press Trust Of India

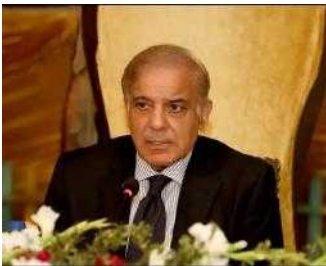
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday announced a 10 per cent super tax on large-scale industries like cement, steel and automobiles, a move he said was aimed at tackling spiralling inflation and saving the cash-strapped country from going "bankrupt."

High net worth individuals will also be subject to a "poverty alleviation tax," Sharif announced after chairing a meeting of his economic team on the federal budget for the next fiscal year 2022-23.

Our first motive is to provide relief to the masses and to reduce the burden of inflation on the people and facilitate them, Sharif said in a video message to the nation.

Our second motive is to protect the country from going bankrupt," he said, adding that it has been devastated due to the "incompetency and corruption" of the previous Imran Khan-led government.

The sectors on which this super tax will be levied include cement, steel, sugar, oil and gas, fertilisers, LNG terminals, textile, banking, automobile, ciga-



rettes, beverages and chemicals, he said.

Sharif explained that other motives included stabilisation of the economy.

These aren't just words, this is the voice of my heart and InshaAllah we will be able to achieve all these targets, he said.

He said history had witnessed that in difficult times, it was the poor people who always made sacrifices.

"Today, it is time for the affluent citizens to do their part. It is their turn to show selflessness. And I am confident that they will contribute fully to play their part," Sharif said.

He said the institutions whose job is to collect tax should take from the rich and give to the poor.

Those whose annual income exceeds Rs 150 million will be

subject to 1 per cent tax; for Rs 200 million, 2 per cent; Rs 250 million 3 per cent; and Rs 300 million will be taxed 4 per cent of their income, he said.

The government has also pledged an increased tax collection from PKR 7 trillion to PKR 7.4 trillion in the next fiscal year beginning July 1.

Sharif said teams will be formed to collect taxes after the passage of the budget bill.

The prime minister expressed the hope that soon Pakistan will come out of the economic crisis and announced to provide relief to the poor segment of society.

He recalled that the government had two options when it came to power --- call fresh elections or take tough decisions and tackle the sinking economy.

"It would have been very easy to leave the public in crisis and become silent spectators like others," he explained.

Sharif made another appeal for a "grand national dialogue" to end the country's current economic travails.

"It is never too late. Today we have to demolish the walls of poverty, unemployment and hatred. We have to give birth to flowers of love and end thorns.

Gold Declines By Rs 70; Silver Falls Rs 621

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices declined by Rs 70 to Rs 50,557 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, according to HDFC securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 50,627 per 10 grams.

Silver prices also declined by Rs 621 to Rs 59,077 per kg from Rs 59,698 per kg in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24-carat gold in Delhi fell by Rs 70 reflecting overnight fall in COMEX gold prices," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,828 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 20.97 per ounce. Spot gold prices were up 0.33 per cent at COMEX, Patel added.

Markets Gain For 2nd Day; Sensex, Nifty Climb Nearly 1% Amid Firm Global Trends



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rose by nearly 1 per cent on Friday, extending gains for a second day on the back of buying in banking, financials and energy stocks in line with firm global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced further by 462.26 points or 0.88 per cent to settle at 52,727.98. During the day, it rallied 644.15 points or 1.23 per cent to 52,909.87. The Nifty gained 142.60 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at 15,699.25. Sensex and Nifty had recovered nearly 1 per cent Thursday.

From the Sensex pack, M&M, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Indus-

tries and Tata Steel were the major gainers.

On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, HCL Technologies, TCS, Wipro and Sun Pharma were the laggards.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong and Shanghai ended with sharp gains. European markets were also trading in the green in mid-session deals.

The US markets had ended with gains on Thursday.

"Mirroring a firm trend in the global market and in response to declining commodity prices, the domestic market maintained its positive trend. The up-move was supported by broad-based buying except in IT," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Forex Reserves Dip By USD 5.87 Bn To USD 590.588 Bn

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 5.87 billion to USD 590.588 billion in the week ended on June 17, the RBI data showed.

In the previous week ended on June 10, the reserves had dropped by USD 4.599 billion to USD 596.458 billion. In the reporting week, the forex reserves fell due to a dip in foreign current assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves, and also in gold reserves, the data showed.

FCA decreased by USD 5,362 billion to USD 526.882 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement, released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves fell by USD 258 million to USD 40,584 billion.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) dropped by USD 233 million to USD 18,155 billion in the week ended June 17.

Rahul Gandhi's Office In Wayanad Vandalised By SFI activists, Kerala CM Assures Stern Action Against Culprits

Wayanad: A protest march of the SFI, the students wing of ruling CPI(M), against Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's office here on Friday turned violent as a group of activists allegedly entered the Lok Sabha member's office and vandalised it, prompting Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to strongly condemn the incident and warn of stern action against the culprits.

Strongly condemning "the act of violence" by SFI at its top leader's office at Kalpetta in Gandhi's LS constituency Wayanad, the Congress party staged a statewide protest, which turned violent in some regions.

The incident occurred when the Students' Federation of India (SFI) activists held a march to Gandhi's Office alleging his inaction in the issue of buffer zones around forests.

The activists of the Left outfit allegedly barged into his office, vandalised it and attacked three Congress workers who were present there before police intervened to prevent them from the violent acts, the Congress alleged.

While the main opposition party claimed that the attack happened with the knowledge of the Vijayan, the chief minister, in a strongly worded message, said this land ensures space for freedom of expression and democratic protest but it was a wrong practice if it turns into violence.

CPI(M) General Secretary, Sitaram Yechury, also denounced the attack.

"Strongly denounce and condemn what happened in Wayanad, Kerala today, Kerala state CM has already condemned it. Police has initiated measures against those responsible," Yechury tweeted.

Police said around eight people were taken into custody following the ruckus in front of the MP's office and six police officials including a woman civil police officer have been injured in the attack.

"As of now, eight of the protesters have been taken into custody and brought to the station. A few policemen, including Kalpetta SI, were injured in the stone pelting following the march," police told PTI.

Congress leaders claimed three staff members in the office got injured in the "attack" by SFI. Gandhi has spoken to them over the phone and enquired about their health, the party said.

Television channels aired visuals of persons entering the

office, creating ruckus.

Hitting out at the Left government and its workers for targeting their top leader over the buffer zone issue, the Congress organised a statewide protest and in some places including in Kottayam, it turned violent after Left party workers attempted to disrupt the march.

Senior Congress district leaders were injured in the violence occurred in Kottayam.

AICC General secretary K C Venugopal strongly criticised the attack and alleged that the office was vandalised with the knowledge of the CM.

Venugopal said the police who witnessed the attack "remained a mute spectator" aiding the "SFI criminals" to vandalise the office of the senior Congress leader.

"Instead of fighting the BJP government at the Centre, the CPI(M) was attacking the Congress in the buffer zone issue. The Chief Minister is answerable to this violence planned by SFI criminals. The party strongly condemns the attack," he told reporters at the KPCC office in Thiruvananthapuram.

Denouncing the attack, CM Vijayan said, "strongly condemn the attack against Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's office at Wayanad. This land ensures space for freedom of expression and democratic protest but it is a wrong tendency to turn such protests into a violent one."

"The government will take stern action against the culprits," he assured.

KPCC president K Sudhakaran welcomed the Chief Minister's assurance but doubted his sincerity.

Sudhakaran alleged that the attack was with the knowledge of the CPI(M) leadership and sought action against the police officials who allegedly "aided" the protesters.

"We welcome the chief minister's statement condemning the issue. But we doubt his sincerity. Action should be taken against those police officers who failed to take action against the attackers. If CPI(M) fails to control their workers, the Congress will be forced to take a strong defensive stand. We also know how to retaliate," Sudhakaran said.

Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan also reacted sharply to the incident and said the attack showed lawlessness and goondaism.

10 More Die In Assam Floods; Silchar Under Water For 5th Day



Press Trust of India

Guwahati: Ten more people died in Assam's devastating floods that affected 33.03 lakh people in 28 districts on Friday, while Silchar town in Cachar district remained submerged for the fifth consecutive day, official sources said.

On Thursday, a population of 45.34 lakh in 30 districts had been affected by the deluge, according to the bulletin of the Assam State Management Disaster Authority (ASDMA).

The rivers are showing a receding trend though the Brahmaputra at Dhubri and the Kopili in Nagaon are still flowing above the danger mark.

After the death of 10 more people - two each from Barpeta, Dhubri, Karimganj and Udalguri districts and one death each from Cachar and Morigaon, the toll due to floods and landslides reached 118 since mid-May.

The state government announced that it has engaged additional resources to the severely affected districts, especially Cachar and the two other districts in Barak Valley.

Two drones have been deployed in Silchar for carrying out the flood inundation mapping as well as to provide relief materials to the affected people.

Eight NDRF teams from Itanagar and Bhubaneswar

Two drones have been deployed in Silchar for carrying out the flood inundation mapping as well as to provide relief materials to the affected people. Eight NDRF teams from Itanagar and Bhubaneswar along with a team of the Army from Dimapur in Nagaland have been deployed in Silchar.

along with a team of the Army from Dimapur in Nagaland have been deployed in Silchar.

In addition, 10 personnel of the CRPF and four of the SDRF with boats have been airlifted to Cachar to rescue the stranded people, an ASDMA official said.

After making an aerial survey of Silchar town on Thursday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that additional columns of the Army will be sent to Silchar to evacuate marooned people.

The state government also launched helpline numbers 0361-2237219, 9401044617 and 1079 (toll-free) for the affected people of Cachar district.

The state government has airlifted 85.2 metric tonnes of relief materials from Jorhat and Guwahati to Silchar.

A population of nearly three lakh has been facing an acute shortage of food, clean drinking

water and medicines as almost the entire town has been submerged in flood waters.

Packets with food, drinking water bottles and other essential items are being airdropped in the town by Indian Air Force helicopters and this will continue till the situation improves, an official said.

The three districts of Barak Valley - Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj - were severely affected by the rising water of the Barak and the Kushira.

Other major flood-affected districts in the state are Barpeta with 8,76,842 affected people, followed by Nagaon (5,08,475), Kamrup (4,01,512) and Dhubri (3,99,945), according to the ASDMA bulletin.

Urban flooding was reported in Cachar, Karimganj and Morigaon districts.

The floods, caused by incessant rainfall, have affected 93 revenue circles and 3510 villages, while 2,65,788 people have taken shelter in 717 relief camps, it said.

The floods have also damaged 168 roads and 15 bridges while three embankments were breached in Nagaon district.

Crop area of 91,658.49 hectares and 25,99,756 animals have been affected in the current second wave of floods. Large-scale erosion was also reported from a number of districts,

Govt Panel Recommends Emergency Approval For SII's Covovax For 7-11 Year Olds

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: An expert panel of India's central drug authority on Friday recommended granting emergency use authorisation to Serum Institute's Covovax for children aged 7 to 11 years, official sources said.

The recommendation has been sent to Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for final approval.

The application for emergency use authorisation was submitted by Prakash Kumar Singh, director (government and regulatory affairs) at Serum Institute of India (SII) on March 16.

"The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on COVID-19 of the CDSCO deliberated on the EUA application of SII and recommended granting emergency use authorisation for Covovax for children aged 7 to 11 years," an official source said.

The expert panel in its last meeting in April had sought more data from the Pune-based firm over the application.

The DCGI had approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28 and in the 12 to 17 years age group subject to certain conditions on March 9.

The country began inoculating children aged 12-14 from March 16.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 last year with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. Vaccination of frontline workers started from February 2 last year.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced on March 1 last year for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions.

India launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1 last year. The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 years of age to be inoculated against the viral disease from May 1 last year.

The next phase of vaccination commenced from January 3 for adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years.

India began administering precaution doses of vaccines to healthcare and frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities from January 10. Precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccines for all aged above 18 years began at private vaccination centres from April 10.

Ukraine-Returned Medical Students Stage Protest, Seek Admission In Indian Medical Colleges

Agenceis

New Delhi: Students who were evacuated from war-torn Ukraine staged a demonstration here on Friday, seeking admission to medical colleges across the country. They have urged the government that the students be accommodated as a one-time measure to prevent academic year loss.

The MBBS students and their parents from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, gathered outside the National Medical Commission here and staged a protest.

"As all students are future doctors, online education is not a good option for them. Our demand is to accommodate all the students in Indian medical colleges," said a statement issued by

the Parents' Association of Ukraine Medical Students.

R B Gupta, President of the association said. "We are gathered here to seek government help in accommodation of our children. My child is a second-year student who is studying in Ivano. We are just requesting the government that these children should be accommodated as a one-time measure."

Meanwhile, the students said they were worried about their future as the war in Ukraine is still raging on.

"We dont know when this war will end. Our studies are getting affected. Our parents have invested so much money and many have also taken loans, all will go to waste if we will not be able to continue the study. So the government should accomodate us," said a 5th-year MBBS student, who did not wish to be named.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

India To Host

constitution of a committee for overall co-ordination of G-20 meetings to be held in the Union Territory of J&K,"the order issued by Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi said.

The members of the committee include Commissioner Secretary (Transport), Administrative Secretary (Tourism), Administrative Secretary (Hospitality and Protocol) and Administrative Secretary (Culture).

"Further, principal secretary to the government, housing and urban development department is also nominated as UT level nodal officer to coordinate the arrangements for G-20 meetings in the Union Territory of J&K," the order said.

Prime Minister Modi has been leading India's representation at G20 summits since 2014. India has been a member of the G20 since its inception in 1999.

According to the MEA, India will be part of the G20 Troika (preceding, current, and incoming G20 Presidencies) from December 1, 2021 till November 30, 2024.

G20 brings together 19 of the world's leading economies and the European Union, with its members accounting for more than 80 per cent of global GDP, 75 percent of global trade and 60 percent of the global population, according to the MEA.

e G20 member nations are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Govt Sacks Nine

suspended by the government.

Those sacked include senior building officer Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Mehraj-uddin-Buja, Executive officer Municipal council Anantnag, Ghulam Mohi-uddin Malik, Assistant Sanitation officer Municipal Committee Shopian, Shabir

Ahmed Wani, Sanitary Supervisor MC Doda, Zakir Ali, Head Assistant MC Banihal, Abdul Latief, Senior Assistant MC Doda, Sukesh Kumar, Incharge secretary Urban Local bodies Kashmir, Gowhar Ali Tugoo, Secretary Urban Local Bodies Kashmir, Shagufa Fazil and Electrician MC Reasi, Thakur Dass, official said.

As per the official, a majority of them have been involved in cases of corruption, illegal appointments and embezzlement.

Article 226(2) is essentially invoked to remove dead wood from the government services under which the employees can be retired after being given three months' notice or three months of pay and allowance in lieu of the notice, the official added.

Ensure Best

which discussed lodging, health care, communication network, sanitation, water supply, weather forecasting, emergency response, fire safety and all other basic necessities.

"Better coordination among various agencies is of utmost importance for better facilities, seamless journey and spiritual experience for Yatris. All the departments involved in Yatra Management to ensure the best possible facilities as a high number of devotees footfall is expected for the annual pilgrimage," Sinha said.

During his visits, the spokesperson said that the LG interacted with the Camp Directors, officials of Police and other security agencies and sought the status of the Yatra arrangements.

Sinha, he said, also instructed for fire audit at all vulnerable places and directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to hold regular joint meetings of all stakeholders including security agencies.

The Lt Governor also complimented all stakeholders for their efforts in completing the assigned tasks on time. He further called for better co-ordination among all the departments involved in yatra management for the safe and successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

Earlier, the LG inaugurated

70-bedded fully-equipped DRDO hospital for quality healthcare services to yatris at Baltal.

The Hospital, funded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, will house the facilities like X-RAY, General ward, OPD, ICU, Oxygenated ward, Pharmacy, Laboratory and Ultrasound.

Pertinently, the LG on Wednesday chaired meeting of top brass security and reviewed the security arrangements and preparations for the annual pilgrimage scheduled to begin next week amid heightened security.

The high-level Unified Command Meeting was attended by senior security officers from the Home Department, J&K Police, Army, Intelligence Agencies, CRPF, BSF and others, an official spokesperson said.

According to the spokesperson, the officers in the meeting apprised the LG about the overall security situation while threadbare discussions were held on various arrangements related to the yatra.

One Side Of Banihal

were also washed away due to flash-floods triggered by heavy rains.

On Thursday evening, officials were upbeat about clearing the approximately 1,300 stranded vehicles on the highway by this evening, saying the road clearance work was being carried out on a war footing.

However, it took a major hit this afternoon as a fresh landslide occurred on the hill top, bringing the restoration work at Dewal bridge near Samrol to a halt, officials said.

According to an advisory issued by the traffic department on Friday evening, trucks up to 10 tyres are advised to use Mughal Road between Jammu and Srinagar.

"To safeguard people from shooting stones at Panthyal, the National Highways Authority of India has been directed by the government to repair the steel tunnel," it said.

Because of these necessary repairs, the traffic will remain suspended at Panthyal, it added.

Further, it said traffic movement will be completely blocked on

Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road every Friday in view of maintenance and repairing on Zoji La axis.

Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam, who is personally monitoring the road clearance operation at various places on national highway, appealed to the commuters to contact traffic control rooms before starting their journey on the highway.

Northern Army

four-day visit to Ladakh to review the operational preparedness of troops.

SC Agrees

every passing day, it would get more difficult to exhume the body and that he has several judgements of the top court in his favour.

The bench said it would hear the petition on June 27.

On June 3, a division bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh stayed the single bench order for exhuming the body of Aamir Magrey and handing it to his family for last rites.

On May 27, the single judge bench had directed the Jammu and Kashmir authorities to make arrangements for exhuming the remains of the deceased from the Wadder Payeen graveyard in the presence of Latief Magrey.

The court, however, had said if the body is "highly putrefied and is not in deliverable state or is likely to pose risk to public health and hygiene, the petitioner and his close relatives shall be allowed to perform last rites as per their tradition and religious beliefs in the graveyard itself".

In that situation, the state shall pay petitioner Mohammad Latief Magrey a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for deprivation of his right to have the dead body of his son and give him a decent burial as per the family traditions, religious obligations and faith which the deceased professed when he was alive, the single judge bench order had said.

Bodies of two more civilians, Altaf Ahmad Bhat and Dr Mudasir Gul, who were killed in the controversial

Hyderpora encounter, were exhumed and returned to the families following an outcry days after the gunfight.

Four people were killed in the alleged encounter on the outskirts of Srinagar on November 15, 2021.

While the police said all of them were militants and buried their bodies in Kupwara in North Kashmir, the families of the victims said that they were innocent civilians.

Despite Govt Grants

club during the year 2013-14 clocked the earnings of Rs. 110.54 lakhs against the spent amount of Rs 699.18 lakhs.

In 2018-19, the club had spent Rs 1090.66 lakhs as expenditure, however only Rs 125.95 lakhs were realized. In 2021-22, the club spent Rs 1027.14 lakhs and earned only Rs. 151.06 lakhs in return.

Javed Bakshi, Secretary RSGC, told Kashmir Observer, that the club mostly runs on the grants provided by the government for attracting tourists.

"There are a number of interventions to maintain the club and every intervention is being executed and consulted with the experts," Bakshi said.

"The club is a huge, vast, expensive asset to maintain. We have special machines for maintaining different levels of grass. Also, to generate the revenue, we are also auctioning thousands of fruit trees in the 2600 kanals of the golf course at the end of the year."

The club has recruited over 160 staff members to maintain the golf course. They have also hired a number of laborers.

4 LeT Operatives

a police spokesperson said Thursday. Preliminary investigation, he said, revealed that the arrested militant associates were involved in providing logistic support to LeT by distributing proceeds of narcotics to active militants and operatives of the outfit.

"Investigations also revealed that module has been working on the directions of terror operatives for collection of narcotics and subsequently distributing the proceeds of narcotics among

YSS Holds Inter Zonal Cricket, Chess & Sports Quiz Activities



Observer News Service

KUPWARA: In an endeavour to promote sports activities and to follow the annual calendar of activities framed by the Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K in letter and spirit, the Department of Youth Services and Sports carried out Inter Zonal District level competitions in the disciples of Sports Quiz and Chess at Govt. Degree College for Women Sulokot here.

The competitions were organised for girls of all age groups (AAG) on 22nd and 23rd of the current month respectively. In both the programmes/competitions students from all the zones of the district participated with enthusiasm and displayed sportsmanship spirit. Pertinently, these competitions are being carried out to provide an opportunity for female players to hone and groom their hidden talent in the respective disciplines.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer Kupwara Jatinder Singh while sharing his views with the participants highlighted the importance of games and passed-on good wishes to the

participants for exhibiting discipline during the course of the programmes. At the culmination of the events prize distribution ceremony was also held. The winners were appreciated and the lesser performers were encouraged.

Simultaneously sports events are in full swing at different districts of the winter capital of J&K. District Level Inter-Zonal competitions for U-19 age group student players of the district were inaugurated at Sports Stadium, Doda. An impressive inaugural ceremony was organized at sports stadium Doda

District Youth Services & Sports Office Doda Jaffer Haider Sheikh declared the tournament open in the presence of field staff of the Department. DYSSO advised the players to play the game for the sake of the game. The student players drawn from nine zones of District Doda are participating in Inter zonal District Level Competitions in the discipline of Cricket Under-19.

In this tournament about 130 students are participating. The selected players will participate at Divisional level inter-district competitions.

DC Kick-Starts 1st Ever Tennis Cricket C'ship At Bandipora



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Friday kick-started first ever District Tennis Cricket Championship Bandipora at S.K Stadium, here. The DC was accompanied by Padma Shri Awardee Faisal Ali Dar.

The championship is being organised by District Tennis Cricket Championship Association in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora, District Election Office Bandipora and Ali's Sports Academy Bandipora.

In the three days championship, 34 teams from across the district are participating in senior and junior category including 08 teams from girls' category.

The championship is aimed to select 04 teams, two from boys and two from girls' category to participate in UT level competition at Srinagar.

The programme also witnessed voter awareness under SVEEP

(Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) by District Election Office Bandipora.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Owais said that Bandipora has proved its mettle in sports in previous years. He highlighted the importance of sports and encouraged the participants to make best use of such platforms to display their talent.

He also appreciated the role of organisers for identifying the budding talent.

While interacting with the players, the DC said that the District Administration is keen to develop sports infrastructure in the district and urged the youth to participate in such programmes enthusiastically.

To encourage the participation and enrolment of 18 years above age group in the electoral process motives of SVEEP programme was also highlighted by the DC.

Among various facets, the programme was meant to spread electoral awareness under SVEEP.

VFI President Dr Achyuta Samanta Discusses Popularising Volleyball At Manila Meet



Observer News Service

BHUBNESWAR: The President of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) Dr Achyuta Samanta on Thursday met top officials of the International Volleyball Federation in Manila, Philippines and discussed measures to popularise the game in India in a big way. Dr Samanta represented India as the president of the VFI for the first time at the invitation of the Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF).

Dr Samanta, who took over as the President of VFI in 2020, met the President of the Federation of International Volleyball Mr Ary Graça during the annual national meeting of the worldwide volleyball governing body there and

discussed at length initiatives to develop a country-wide passion for the game and its appeal.

Dr Samanta, during his day-long visit, also met the General Director of FIVB Mr Fabio Azevedo at the gathering that is being attended by federation heads from 222 countries. Dr Samanta was assured by both Mr Graça and Mr Azevedo of all support to popularizing and developing Volleyball in India.

The Manila meeting is coinciding with the 2022 FIVB Volleyball Nations League (Men - Week 2), being held from June 21-26, 2022 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City. He is being accompanied by the Joint Secretary of VFI and Secretary of Odisha Volleyball Association Dr Gaganendu Dash.

PCB To Challenge IPL's Proposed Extended Window At ICC Meet

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: Feeling "short-changed", the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to challenge the proposed two-and-a-half month expanded window for the Indian Premier League.

PCB chairman Ramiz Raja said that the issue will be raised at the next ICC conference.

"There has been no announcement or decision as yet on the IPL window being increased. I will give my views on this issue at the ICC conference," Raja said during a media conference here on Friday.

"My point is clear: if there is any development in world cricket that means we are being short-changed, we will challenge it in a very forceful manner and put our point across strongly in the ICC," he said.

The PCB's decision to officially challenge the decision comes weeks after BCCI secretary, Jay Shah, in an exclusive interview to PTI said that the Indian board will be getting an extended window for the IPL in the ICC's



next FTP cycle starting from 2024 till 2031.

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

Raja also said that while Pakistan is keen on playing India, the political equation between the neighbours continues to act as roadblocks.

"I have spoken to Saurav (Ganguly) on the sidelines on this and I told him that presently there are three former cricketers heading their cricket boards and if they can't make a difference who will?," Raja said.

"Twice Ganguly has invited me to attend the IPL finals last year and this year and cricketing wise it made sense to go, but then, because of the situation, we had to look at the fallout of accepting the invitations," he added.

Ireland T20Is: Surya, Sanju Set To Be In Playing XI



Press Trust of India

MALAHIDE: Dashing stroke-players Suryakumar Yadav and Sanju Samson will be returning to the India playing XI in place of Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant in the two-match T20I series against Ireland starting Sunday.

While chief coach Rahul Dravid is in Leicester with the Test squad, National Cricket Academy (NCA) head VVS Laxman, who is in charge of the T20I side for this particular series, is expected to follow the template set by 'The Wall'.

With Iyer and Pant in the Test team, Surya, who is making a comeback from a wrist injury, and Samson, who is looking to make use of what could be his last chance to prove his worth, will be sure-shot starters.

Surya has been a regular in the Indian T20I side for the past one year and will only get his place back.

But as far as Samson is concerned, his alternative could be Deepak Hooda, who can also bowl a couple of overs of handy off-spin, besides possessing an ability to hit the ball hard.

However, if one looks at coach Dravid's philosophy, he doesn't believe in casting his net too wide and exploring too many options. He also needs to close in on spots by the time India play the Asia Cup.

While Ruturaj Gaikwad has not been very successful, the Chennai Super Kings opener might just get two more chances against a weak Ireland side, against whom he can score some runs and get his confidence back.

Ishan Kishan, who has all but sealed the reserve opener's slot for the next few months, will continue in his role for the time being and will open with regular skipper Rohit Sharma in the England leg of the T20Is also.

Stand-in captain Hardik Pandya, who batted at No. 5 in the last series, is expected to continue in that position with Dinesh Karthik coming a slot below him.

However, with Karthik being assigned a specific role, he could also come ahead of Pandya, depending on the situation.

But it is still not clear if Dravid or Laxman will try out 'Jammu Express' Umran Malik or block-hole specialist Arshdeep Singh in this series, or continue with Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Avesh Khan, with Axar Patel and Yuzvendra Chahal as the spinners.

Madhya Pradesh Close In On Maiden Ranji Title

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Unheralded Yash Dubey and Shubham Sharma made the biggest stage of Indian domestic cricket their own with well-crafted centuries, that pulled the rug from under heavyweights Mumbai's feet as Madhya Pradesh took a giant leap towards their maiden Ranji Trophy title, here on Friday.

Mumbai's first innings score of 374 looked reasonably good on the second day but Dubey (133, 336 balls) and Sharma (116, 215 balls) added 222 runs for the second wicket to take MP to a solid 368 for 3 at the end of day three.

Madhya Pradesh now need only seven more runs to take a decisive first innings lead and unless they suffer a collapse in the fourth innings, the title is theirs for taking.

MP had lost to Karnataka when the last time they competed in a Ranji Trophy final in the 1998-99 season.

The duo took the sting out of Mumbai attack with some 'kha-dooos' (stubbrown) batting straight out of Chandrakant Pandit's coaching play book as 245 runs were scored through the whole day but more effectively, they ran Mumbai attack ragged with their solid game plan.



Rajat Patidar, one of the heroes of RCB's campaign in the IPL, then used his new-found confidence to score an unbeaten 67 with 13 boundaries.

MP would certainly want to stretch their innings as much as possible so that Mumbai have no chance to make a comeback in the game.

That Dubey (613 runs) and Sharma (578 runs) have been standout performers for MP this season was evident in their on-field communication, where they would tap the ball towards mid-on or mid-off to steal those quick singles.

People remember boundaries but Dubey and Sharma ran 76 singles between them in their double-hundred plus partnership.

Save Arman Jaffer missing a regulation catch of Sharma at short point, Mumbai hardly created any chances although Mohit Avasthi (20-5-53-1) could be credited for bowling one channel.

Some of their appeals were outrageous and once Shaw was seen gesturing to umpire Virender Sharma as to why he couldn't hear a nick when re-plays showed that clearly there wasn't one.

Dubey in fact after scoring his hundred did repeat the 'Sidhu Moosewala' celebration (thigh thump and index finger pointed towards sky) but it was more about driving home a point for Sarfaraz Khan, who was sledging the duo.

Rashid To Miss White-Ball Series Against India For Hajj Pilgrimage



Press Trust of India

LONDON: England will be without the services of Adil Rashid in next month's white-ball series against India as the leg-spinner has received clearance from the country's cricket board (ECB) to make Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca.

Rashid, a practising Muslim, will fly to Saudi Arabia on Saturday, which means he will also miss the latter stages of Yorkshire's T20 Blast campaign.

"I've been wanting to do it for a little while but I've found it pretty difficult with the timings. This year, I felt as though it was something that I had to do, and something I wanted to do as well," Rashid told ESPNcricinfo.

"I spoke to the ECB and to Yorkshire about it and they were very understanding and encouraging, like: 'yes, you do what you've got to do and then come back when you can'."

"Me and the missus are going and I'll be there for a couple of weeks," he added.

Rashid was part of England's recently-concluded tour of the Netherlands, where the visitors comfortably bagged the three-match ODI series 3-0.

"It's a massive moment: each faith has got their own different thing but for Islam and being a Muslim, this is one of the biggest ones," Rashid said.

"It's a big thing for my faith and for myself. I knew that I needed to do it while I'm young and strong and healthy. This is something that I really committed to myself that I would do."

India take on hosts England in a white-ball series, including three T20Is and as many ODIs from July 7 to 17.

Rashid is expected to miss all six games as he is likely to return in mid-July, ahead of England's white-ball series against South Africa.

PCB Introduces Separate Red-Ball, White-Ball Contracts



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday introduced separate red ball and white ball central contracts for its players with increased retainers but would discourage its elite players from competing in foreign leagues, for which it is ready to pay them compensatory money.

The PCB said that the Board of Governors meeting has approved an annual budget of 15 billion rupees for the fiscal year 2022-23 with 78 percent allocated for cricket activities.

"As part of its strategy to incentivise, reward and encourage its high-performing elite cricketers, as well as to narrow the gap in salaries compared to players of other countries, the BoG has approved changes in the men's central contracts structure," the PCB said in a statement.

From July 1, separate red and white-ball contracts will be given with increased retainers.

The number of centrally contracted players has been increased from 20 to 33.

The Board announced a 10 percent increase in match fees

across formats and also an increase in match fee for non-playing members from 50 percent to 70 percent of the overall match fee.

A captaincy allowance has also been introduced to compensate the team leader for the additional responsibilities that come with that role.

PCB Chairman, Ramiz Raja also announced at a media conference in Lahore that the Board has also set up a special fund for current players who get offers for playing in foreign leagues.

"We want to discourage our elite players from signing up for additional off-season events. We feel the players are better off not going to these leagues. We will pay them 50 to 60 percent of the contract amount they are offered where required."

"This is a very important season for us we don't want our players to be tired or burnt out. We want them to be ready and fresh to go for national duties."

He also said a Pakistan Cricket Foundation has been created to support retired cricketers, match officials, scorers and ground staff facing severe financial hardships.

FIFA Tells AIFF To Hold Elections To Avoid Ban

Reuters

MUMBAI: World governing body FIFA has told India's football association to complete changes to its constitution and elect new office bearers by Sept. 15 to avoid being banned, officials said.

India's highest court disbanded the All India Football Federation (AIFF) executive committee last month after it failed to hold elections on time and amend its regulations in line with rules stipulated by the national sports code.

The court then appointed a three-member committee to run the body, amend the AIFF's constitution and conduct elections that have been pending for 18 months.

FIFA statutes say that member federations must be free from legal and political interference in their respective countries and the world governing body has previously suspended other national associations over similar cases.

FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation sent a team led by AFC General Secretary Wind-



son John to meet Indian football stakeholders, including sports minister Anurag Thakur, on a three-day visit that concluded on Thursday.

"The meetings concluded that the next steps should be the ratification of the AIFF statutes in line with FIFA/AFC principles of good governance and the holding of an electoral congress to choose the next AIFF leadership," the AFC said in a statement.

"This would be based on a timeline agreed by AIFF stakeholders."

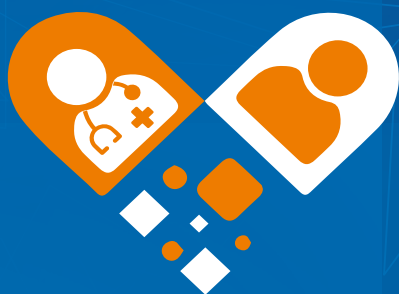
Shaji Prabhakaran, chief of the Delhi FA and former FIFA regional development officer, said on Twitter the AIFF had been given a deadline of July 31 to amend its statutes and Sept. 15 to conclude its election.



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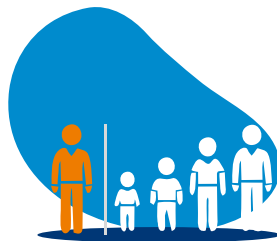
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