

25th year OF PUBLICATION

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Quote!

Poverty is the mother of crime
- Marcus Aurelius

NEWS DIGEST

Pampore Teenager Dies In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: A teenage student from Pampore area of Pulwama district slipped to death near famed Mughal Garden at Shalimar here on Saturday. 13-year-old Mir Zeeshan, a student of government middle school Dusoo Pampore slipped into water at Shalimar when he was on picnic with his school, reports said. The teenager was taken to SKIMS Soura for treatment by his teachers, where he breathed his last.

Two Held For Attacking Student

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday arrested two youth for allegedly attacking a student with a sharp edged weapon in Parraypora area of the city outskirts. "Two youths apprehended for attacking and grievously injuring a student with a sharp edged weapon in Parraypora area of Srinagar. Case registered in Sadar Police station and investigation taken up," police tweeted.

Four Timber Smugglers Held In Baderwah

JAMMU: Four alleged timber smugglers were arrested on Saturday in a major drive in the Baderwah area of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, a senior official said. One of the arrested smugglers, Masood Ahmed of Batara village in Phigsoo tehsil, was booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) and lodged in district jail Baderwah, Divisional Forest Officer, Baderwah, Chandher Sheikhhar told PTI. **More on P6**

Cars Collide In Rajouri, 4 Injured

RAJOURI: At least four persons were injured in a road accident that took place at Salsui on Rajouri-Kalakote road on Saturday evening, officials said here. An official said that an Ecco vehicle collided with a car at Salsui crossing, resulting in injuries to four persons. He said that all the injured were shifted to Community Health Center Kalakote. However, one among them was referred to GMC Associated Hospital Rajouri. He added that from Rajouri hospital, he was referred to GMC Jammu for **More on P6**

Traffic Restored On Banihal Highway

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Two-way traffic resumed on the 270-km-long Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on Saturday after remaining suspended for four days due to landslides, officials said.

Hundreds of vehicles stranded on the national highway since Tuesday evening were cleared after landslide debris was removed in Samroli area of Udhampur district late Friday evening, the officials said.

"Fresh traffic was allowed from both sides (Jammu and Srinagar) this morning and is moving smoothly," a traffic department official said.

The highway was blocked at nearly three dozen places by landslides and mudslides, mostly in Ramban and Udhampur **More on P6**

65 More Test Positive As Covid Cases Spike

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Coronavirus cases continue to show an upwards trend as 65 more people in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday tested positive for the virus while no fresh fatality was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir Valley detected 19 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while the remaining 46 were reported from various districts of Jammu division, taking the number of people infected by virus in the UT to 454742.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 18 new cases of virus while a single case was detected in Baramulla district. No new cases of Covid-19 were reported from other eight districts of the Valley.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 38 new cases of infection, **More on P6**

Take Every Measure To Restrict Virus Spread: CS

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday directed health officials to take every measure to restrict the spread of Coronavirus in the Union Territory as the daily cases of infection continue to rise. The directions to the health officials were passed by the Chief Secretary, **More on P6**



Beating The Heat: Boys taking a dip in a stream in the outskirts of Srinagar on Saturday: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Hosting G-20 Summit Privilege For J&K: Sinha

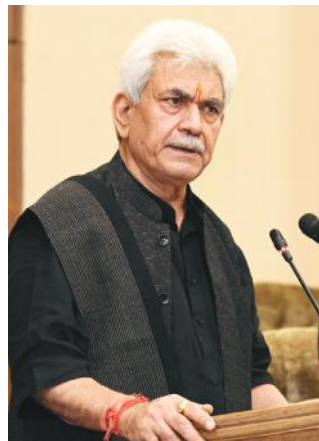
Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said it was a matter of privilege for the union territory to host the G-20 summit in 2023 and asserted that the administration would put in every effort to make it a grand event.

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 administration on Thursday setting up a five-member high-level committee for overall coordination.

This will be the first major international summit to be held in J&K after its special status guaranteed under Article 370 of the Constitution was withdrawn and the erstwhile state was divided into two union territories in August 2019.

It is a very good beginning. It is a matter of privilege for us that we will get the opportunity



to host the G-20 summit. We have framed a committee and we will put in all our efforts to make it grand, Sinha told reporters here.

Earlier in the day, the Lt Governor said the development in the UT can happen only in a peaceful environment.

If there is no peace, then rest assured no power on earth can bring in development to the place. There are some people

who do not like this. They do not want peace here, they want violence. J-K's welfare is in this, we can progress and come closer to or overcome other nations only when there is peace here,' he said.

Sinha said if J&K returns to the phase of strikes and shutdowns and violence, then those days which were very painful, may have to be seen again.

I appeal to people to remain cautious of these elements. They are not your friends, they want to create hurdles in the way to peace on the directions from the outside. There is a very less number of such people and I want to tell you that our administration and security forces are committed to protect the common man. We will not touch the innocent, that is our policy, but it is our policy as well that the culprits will not be spared in any way, he said.

The LG appealed to people to stand with the government to take J&K on the path to peace and prosperity. **More on P6**

Meets Industry Leaders From J&K

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday met Industry Leaders and representatives of various Industries Associations from across Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting deliberated on enhancing ease of doing business and support to local industries, an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said, asserted that certain measures of business revival package-2020, yet to be saturated across industries will be implemented within a time-frame to cushion the shock of pandemic. "It has been the constant endeavour of the UT **More on P6**



Relative, Two Others Held For Police Officer's Killing

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Saturday claimed to have solved the case of a police sub-inspector killing by arresting three accused, including a close relative of the deceased officer.

In a handout issued here this evening, a police spokesperson said that during the course of investigation into the killing of Sub-Inspector, Farooq Ahmad several suspects were called for questioning. However, the

three suspects were zeroed in and their role in the case was proved.

He identified them as Arsalaan Bashir alias Faisal, Tawkeer Manzoor and Owais Mushtaq, all residents of Samboora Pampore were subsequently arrested.

Pertinently, the SI was shot dead last week inside his paddy fields in Samboora in Pulwama district, just a walking distance from his home

According to the

spokesperson, during the course of investigation it surfaced that the accused trio had hatched a criminal conspiracy with a militant Majid Nazir Wani of Ladhoor, who was killed in an encounter on June 21, and had extended corroborated support to Wani in execution of the murder.

"All the three accused involved in the killing are very close neighbours of the martyr SI Farooq Ahmad. While as accused Tawkeer **More on P6**

Police Cautions Jammu People About Sticky Bombs 'Check Your Vehicles Before Turning Them On'

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Concerned over militants using sticky bombs to target public transport, the police has advised residents of Jammu and Kishtwar to thoroughly check their vehicles before turning them on.

A North Korean drone sent from Pakistan with a payload of seven magnetic or sticky bombs and an equal number of under barrel launcher grenades was shot down by the Jammu and Kashmir Police in the Tali Hariya Chak area close to the International Border on May 31. "We advise people to thoroughly check their vehicles before starting them,"

senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Chandan Kohli said.

He said drivers and conductors of passenger vehicles should also check their vehicles thoroughly before starting them.

There is high degree of threat perception in view of the smuggling of sticky bombs from across the border, he said.

In view of the present security scenario, SSP, Kishtwar, Shafqat Hussain Batt also visited the bus-stand in the district and interacted with drivers of commercial vehicles.

The SSP advised the drivers to take all precautionary measures, including undertaking frequent checks of their vehicles, before and after **More on P6**

Massive Security Put In Place For Yatra

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Security forces have made unprecedented security arrangements for Amarnath yatra as it apprehends a higher threat perception to the pilgrims this year, a senior Army official said here on Saturday.

The Army officer, who did not wish to be identified, said security personnel three to four times more in strength have been deployed around the yatra as there is credible intelligence of a likely militant strike.

There is an increased threat perception to the Amarnath yatra this year. We generally receive inputs about militants targeting the yatra every year,

but this year, there are more such inputs, the officer said.

He said the administration expects the number of yatis to go up this year especially since the pilgrimage is taking place for the first time in four years -- it was cancelled midway in 2019 with the Centre's revocation of J-K special status, and suspended in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID pandemic -- and also because of the increased number of tourist arrivals.

The security preparations have also been made keeping these factors in mind, the officer added.

We are expecting an almost two to three times increase in the number of **More on P6**



Search Operations Along IB

Security forces on Saturday carried out a massive search operation along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir to detect cross-border tunnels and prevent any infiltration attempts by militants during the Amarnath Yatra, officials said. **More on P6**

WE ARE EXPECTING AN ALMOST TWO TO THREE TIMES increase in the number of yatis. A lot of preparations have been put into place. The number of security forces personnel deployed on the ground for the smooth conduct of the yatra is three or four times more than the previous years."

KP Employees Continue Protest For Relocation

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Hundreds of Kashmiri pandit employees on Saturday staged another demonstration here urging Lieutenant Governor Manoj Singh-led administration to accept their demand to relocate them outside of Valley.

The protesters assembled under the banner of 'All Migrant Employees Association Kashmir' outside the Jammu Press Club and said that they reject the government's proposal to relocate pandits in safe zones within the valley. Nearly 4,000 Kashmiri Pandits

are working in different departments in the Valley after they were selected under the Prime Minister's employment package announced in 2008. However, several of them have returned to Jammu following the killing of their colleague Rahul Bhat, who was shot dead inside his office in Budgam district of Central Kashmir on May 12.

"The Kashmiri pandit employees have been on protest for the past over 40 days over their legitimate demand of relocation due to the most horrifying and life threatening conditions in **More on P6**

LAC STALEMATE

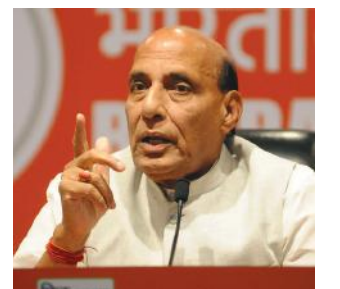
India Will Not Cede An Inch Of Land To Anyone: Rajnath

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said India will not cede even an inch of its land to China and hoped that the remaining issues relating to the eastern Ladakh border standoff between the two countries will be resolved through dialogue.

Singh also said that India will give a befitting reply to anyone threatening its unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity as it no longer remained a "weak" country.

"Our political opponents keep raising certain questions without fully knowing the facts," he said referring to the



opposition's criticism of the government on the eastern Ladakh standoff.

"I do not want to go into what happened during the 1962 Sino-India war. But I want to assure the country as its defence minister that not an inch of land can go to China's **More on P6**

Militants Trapped In Shopian Gunfight

An unspecified number of militants are trapped in south Kashmir's Shopian district, where an encounter broke out on Saturday evening after government forces launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) Police, army and the paramilitary CRPF personnel laid a siege around Shirmal village of the district on Saturday evening on the basis of information about the presence of militants, a police official said. The hiding militants, he said, fired upon the search team **More on P6**



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KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Srinagar | Sunday | 26-06-2022

2

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son Mohammad Tafheen Lone has wrongly been mentioned as Tafheen Imtiyaz in the Official records of Al-Hayat Hospital Anantnag. Now is want to correct name and am in need of correct D.O.B certificate in favour of my son. In this connection if anybody has any claim or objection, he may contact office of Al-Hayat Hospital Anantnag within 7 days. After that no objection with in accepted.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Lone.
S/O Gh.Nabi Lone.
Fatehpura Ang.

rma

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject:- Grant of Registration of Paying Guest House/Home/stay Under the name and Style "Doodpathri Lodge" Situated at Raiyar (JCH).
Whereas, I Ms Salika Abrar Wani D/o Mr. Abrar Ahad Wani R/o Peer Bagh Sgr, Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for the Registration of my proposed Adventure Tour Operator Unit under the name and style "Doodpathri Lodge" situated at Raiyar (JCH) Srinagar, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit an Adhar card/ Address Proof, Reference letter from the Bank on its Letterhead regarding the firm's Bank Account with address and telephone no. including Minimum Balance of Rs. 10000.00, Bank Balance certificate (Min balance 10,000), Minimum size of Unit (10' x 10' for Jammu / Srinagar and 10' x 15' for other areas), Promotional/publicity activities, undertaken, Permanent Resident Certificate, Qualification Certificate (Minimum 12 th), PAN Card / GST / ITR, Experience Certificate (Min 5 Years), Character Certificate (Police), Copy of the First-aid and CPR Certification By Red Cross or equivalent body or any other, First-aid Training conducted By District Administration, Site Plan of Shop, Undertaking of Non Conviction Affidavit as per Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011 in original to be attested by First Class Magistrate, Detail of Ownership of Office premises, whether located in commercial or residential area with accessibility to Toilet and Reception area, Partnership Deed / Rent Deed / Lease Deed duly Authenticated by Competent Authority, Detail of staff giving Names, Education Qualifications, Technical Qualification in Adventure Sports and Experience in Tourism/Adventure Activities(Copy Of Certificates to be enclosed), Newspaper cutting regarding No objection from general Public within 15 days, Photographs of Unit, Details of Guide(s) / Instructor(s) with names, Educational and Technical Qualification or Experience of 3 years (copies to be enclosed) and Photograph of the applicant. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration, TRC Srinagar, Kashmir (e-mail Id:- ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules.

MEDIA LINE

In The Court Of 3rd Additional Munif Srinagar

In case of:
Vodafone Tower Care Takers
Union Through
Sheikh Irshad Javaid S/o Abdul Gani
R/O Zaldagar, Khanawari, Srinagar

Versus

Applicant

1. ATC Telecom, Infrastructure Pvt Ltd Corporate Office Gurugram, Haryana
2. Managing Director M/s United placement and security services Pvt. Ltd. Raj Bagh, Srinagar
3. Managing Director M/s B.D Security C/o Al-Aziz Building Natipora, Srinagar (Non-Applicant)

In the matter of:
Application for restoration of the above .titled suit dismissed in default on 17.02.2020..

ORDER

Whereas the applicant has filed an application for restoration of the suit dismissed in default on 17.02.2020, before this court seeking and has made the prayer that the application be allowed and the suit may kindly be restored to its original position and number.
Now, therefore, the public in general and nonapplicant No. 2 and 3 to this application in particular shall be notified through print media having wide circulation in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and in daily "Taamili Irshad and Kashmir Observer" to appear before this court in person or through attorney for objections. The objections be filed within five days (05) before this court. The publication shall be done on the expenses of the Plaintiff
ako

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

On the occasion of International Drug De-addiction Day.



Mental Health awareness programme
Conducted by : Healthy minds in collaboration with Civil Society Alamgari Bazar, Srinagar

Theme 2022 : Strengthen action and co-operate in achieving a world free of drugs.

Speakers:

Allama Aga Syed Mudasir Rizvi
Chief Guest

Dr M Muzafar Khan
Consultant Psychologist & Director YDRC.

Ms. Sehar Anjum
Mental health counsellor

SAY NO TO DRUGS



Venue

Community hall Alamgari bazar (khomei hall)



Date & Time

27 June 2022

Sunday

3 PM - 5 PM

“Drug addiction reduces a man to a mindless and ridiculous thing, and creates social parasites and criminals.”

Dr. T.P.Chia

Healthy Minds team provides mental health counselling on the premises at 27 Gogji Bagh Srinagar. Online counselling facility is also available. Contact # 9469807321 / 9070130280

www.Kashmer.org
info@Kashmer.org
+91 - 9469811096

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bandipora.

FAX: 01957-225533.

e-mail: ee_rnb_bandipora@yahoo.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No: (67) of 2022-23 DATED:-23-06-2022.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Civil registered with Union Territory J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works.

SNo	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of Tender document (IN Rs.)	Earnest money (IN Rs.)	Time of completion	Time & Date of opening of Bid	Class of contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Construction of Public Park at Ward No.11 at Kaloosa Bandipora by way of earth filling.	5.60	300 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	11200.00	20 Days	28-06-2022 at 4:30 PM	DEE/CEE	14 th Finance Commission (Major)
2	Strengthening of Road Berms to Newly Macadamized Approach Road to District Police Lines Bandipora.	0.77	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	1540.00	03 Days	28-06-2022 at 4:30 PM	DEE	C&T

Position of AAA= Accorded

1.The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information , eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	23-06-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 23-06-2022, 6:40 PM
3.	Bid Submission Start date	23-06-2022, From 6:40 PM
4.	Bid Submission End date	28-06-2022 upto 04.00 P.M.
5.	Last Date for receiving the hard copy (Original DD & EMD)	Hard copies shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as lowest bidder (L1) at the time opening of tenders. The cost of tender document will be collected through e- Challan/Treasury 0059. However the successful bidders will submit the same after the opening of Bids online. Note:- All bidder must upload EMD in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora @ 2% of advertised Cost.
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (online)	28-06-2022 at 4:30 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora.

Note: The Bidder will mention the Contact No. and Bidder Name in the BoQ

2.Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents under MH-0059 in shape of Treasury Receipt favoring to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (tender inviting authority). Indicating S.No of Nit, Name of work and Earnest Money / Bid Security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B Division Bandipora (Tender receiving authority).

3. The bidder who is declared as L1 shall deposit 3% Performance security of the allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR Pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora (Tender inviting authority) and the 2% EMD shall be Released in favour of the successful bidder only after the receipt of 3% performance security.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

6. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if :-
 - a. Any bidder/ tendered withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - b. Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - c. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.
 - b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate" (DSC) as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get Digital certificate from any approved vendor.
 - c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in para -1.
 - e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original/ photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically/ by registered post/ through courier before the date specified in para-1
8. The bidder who is declared as L1 shall deposit 3% performance security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora Tender issuing authority and the 2% EMD shall be released only after the receipt of the same.
 1. If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the rate list/ quantity schedule, cost of such item/ items shall be deemed to be part of the overall/ total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item/ items in the allotment of contract.

Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Bandipora

No: EE/R&B/Bandi/
Date: 23-06-2022

DIPK-4805/22

Email: director-fundskmr@jk. gov. in Phone: 0194-2313548

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JOINT DIRECTORATE OF FUNDS ORGANIZATION KASHMIR HAFT

CHINAR SRINAGAR

CIRCULAR

Subject: Final Refund /Payment Of GPF balance to NPS Employees.

Attention of all the Drawing and Disbursing Officers is invited towards Government Order NO/153-F of 2021 Dated:05/05/2021 read with Circular issued by Director General J & K funds Organization Srinagar vide NO/DGF/COMP/901-907 Dated: 24/05/2021.The Drawing and Disbursing officers through the medium of this circular are informed to provide list of the NPS subscribers on their establishment who have not yet received their First/Second Installment of NPS payments on the prescribed format to the concerned District Fund Offices for release of their NPS Payments up to 31st of July, 2022.

DIPK-4888/22

Sd/=

Joint Director,
J K Funds Organisation,
Kashmir Division.

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

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

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money In Rs.	Time of completion	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	Manufacturing and Installation of Library Almirahs in the library cum Conference Hall of Department of Zoology at Main Campus University of Kashmir.	12.75Lacs	Rs.600/-	25,500/-	02-Months	24-06 -2022 to 04-07-2022 (6.00 PM)	05-07-2022 (11.30 AM)	"BEE" "CEE" & "DEE"

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

DIPK-NB-1980/22

NIT No: - F (UCD)(E.tend)/KU/21/22
DATED: 24/06/22.

Executive Engineer



3 Pickpockets Arrested In City: Police

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Saturday said it arrested three pickpockets in Srinagar and recovered stolen cash and documents from their possession.

A police spokesman in a statement said that Police Post Hazratbal received a written complaint from Sarfraz Ahmad Haroon, son of Nazir Ahmad Haroon of Dhooghi-gat Hazratbal to the effect that some pickpockets had stolen his cash and some essential documents.

Accordingly, a case under FIR number 85/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered in

Police Station Nigeen and investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation, police said that investigating team by using all available means were able to arrest three pickpockets who have been identified as Bilal Ahmed Panoo son of Gh Mohd Panoo resident of Palhalan Pattan, Fidah Ahmad Khanday son of Gh Mohd Khanday resident of Parihaspora Pattan and Bilal Ahmed Sofi son of Bashir Ahmad Sofi resident of Dal Colony Bemina.

Police said stolen cash and documents have also been recovered from their possession.

Factory Involved In Illegal Manufacture Of Beer Sealed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police along with civil authorities sealed a factory in Khunmoh area of Srinagar on Saturday in a bid to act tough against illegal manufacture and processing of Beer.

Police acted on specific information

received from reliable sources that a factory registered in the name of M/S Zainab Textiles situated at Phase-2 Khunmoh was involved in illegal and unlawful activity of manufacturing, processing of Beer.

A Police party of Police Station Pantha chowk under the su-

pervision of SDPO Pantha chowk along with officials from Excise department, Revenue department and Food department raided the suspected spot.

“During search, a large quantity of beer bottles was recovered and was accordingly seized on the spot. The machine used in the

manufacturing process has also been seized” Police in a statement said.

In this regard a cased vide FIR No. 64/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Pantha Chowk and investigation has been initiated.

Highway Closure Triggers Increase In Prices Of Essentials

Agencies

Srinagar: The skyrocketing prices of vegetables and other consumables due to continued closure of Srinagar-Jammu Highway have levied an additional burden on the common people who have been battling elements after recent incessant rains.

The prices of vegetables, fruits and other eatables have increased during the past few days after the continuous closure of national highways for four days.

“Almost all major vegetable and fruits prices have been increased because of less supply due to the continued closure of national highways” said Bashir

Ahmed who sells vegetables at Habba Kadal.

Another wholesale trader in Khanyar market, who buys vegetables from other states voiced similar views.

“One of the main reasons behind the rise in vegetable and fruit price is the jump in transportation costs after reaching here and that too after a days gap we have to pay an extra charge due to which rates in markets have increased” he said.

He said that authorities should put their efforts to make Jammu Srinagar highway functional so that people associated with many businesses would not suffer.

A tray of eggs is selling at Rs

200. The consumers are finding it hard to purchase groceries due to skyrocketing prices.

Nazir Ahmed a fruit seller in Amira Kadal market said that the fruits are from different parts of India and we have to struggle a lot to bring them here especially during this highway closure.

“Once we will get smoothly here on genuine charges obviously rates will be normal and when we are paying double the rates then rates will be a little bit increased”, Ahmed added.

Pertinent to mention here that almost after four days' gap, loaded trucks were allowed to move forward due to which prices of vegetables, fruits skyrocket in Kashmir. (CNS)

Mirror Of Kashmir Chief Editor Bereaved

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The wife of Er Ghulam Hassan Kaloo, editor-in-chief, The Mirror of Kashmir and maternal aunt of Editor Kashmir Canvas & JK Media Guild, President, Mir Aijaz Ahmad passed away on Saturday morning after a brief illness.

Journalist fraternity of Kashmir has expressed condolences with the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul.

Kashmir's Media Fraternity prayed for the eternal rest to the deceased and prayed to the Almighty to give the entire family courage to bear the irreparable loss.

SANJY-2022:

Officers Imparted Training For Smooth Conduct Of Yatra

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To ensure greater coordination and co-operation among various government departments detailed for providing services to yatries during ensuing Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2022 (SANJY-2022), an extensive training workshop was held on Saturday at Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC) HMT, Srinagar.

During the session, officers of all the yatra related departments were briefed through a detailed PowerPoint presentation regarding their

roles and responsibilities for providing the services and to facilitate pilgrims.

The officers were provided necessary training regarding the management of influx of yatries at camps to avoid crowd and stampede, maintaining the regular supply of essentials including food, water, power, availability of medicine, oxygen cylinders, besides informing yatries about civil facilities available at the camp sites.

On the occasion, a mock drill to track and trace yatries, service providers and officials through RFID card was also

held to showcase sophisticated surveillance for smooth conduct of yatra and its proper management.

Besides, officers were asked to establish regular communication with ICCC for surveillance, tracking of service providers, yatries and for instant directions, requirements, help and response.

It was emphasized that all the officers, officials, service providers, labourers and yatries shall necessarily obtain RFID cards for tracking and tracing their movement and location.

DC Stresses On Strengthening Of Infrastructure In Revenue Deptt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With a view to strengthen the infrastructure of the Revenue Department, the Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Saturday chaired a meeting of all Revenue officers of the District.

Aijaz took a detailed review of Revenue offices at Tehsil, Nayabat and Patwar levels. He was given Tehsil wise appraisal of present office accommodations. He also reviewed the status of other office facilities including furniture, computers, Power backup, Leaselines and Internet connectivity facilities.

He said all possible measures are being taken to further strengthen the infrastructure of

Revenue Offices in the District besides equipping them with all modern facilities so that people visiting these offices do not face any inconvenience and the officials working there are also provided with a better office atmosphere.

The DC directed the Superintendent Engineer, R&B Department to prepare the DPRs for construction of 5 Tehsil Offices and 10 Model Patwar Khanas within 5 days as per the requirements and specifications submitted by the concerned Revenue Officers. He further asked him that DPR should include all required facilities like furniture, computers, Power back up, leased line phone and Internet connectivity facilities, besides provision for compound walling around the office.

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
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- PDD: 0194-2450213
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- BIJBERA: 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
26- Zil- Qaddah
1443

PRAYERS

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

This Day In History

- 363 - Roman Emperor Julian is killed during retreat from the Sassanid Empire. General Jovian is proclaimed Emperor by troops on the battlefield.
- 684 - St Benedict II begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1409 - Council of Pisa selects Petros Philargi as 3rd Pope: Alexander V
- 1483 - Duke of Gloucester succeeds as King Richard III of England after Parliament declared Edward V illegitimate
- 1498 - Toothbrush invented in China using boar bristles
- 1630 - Swedish troops under Gustaf II Adolf lands at Peenemunde
- 1714- Spain & Netherlands sign peace/trade agreement
- 1794- Battle of Fleurus: major victory by forces of the First French Republic under General Jean-Baptiste Jourdan over the Coalition Army (Great Britain, Hanover, Dutch Republic, and Habsburgs) first use of reconnaissance balloon
- 1843- Hong Kong proclaimed a British Crown Colony.
- 1879- Ismael Pasha resigns as khedive of Egypt
- 1894- Karl Benz of Germany receives US patent for gasoline-driven auto
- 1900- Japan mobilizes 20,000 troops to help put down the Boxer uprising - but also advance long-term interest in gaining land and power in mainland Asia
- 1900- The Russian Tsar orders that Russian must be the official language of Finland, despite growing unrest within Finland and increasing international concern over Russia's behavior there
- 1902- Aga Khan III is appointed Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire
- 1911- Nieuport sets an aircraft speed record of 83 mph (133 kph)
- 1914-The Indian Relief Act, passes after a protracted period of Passive Resistance led by Gandhi; it abolishes a £3 tax imposed on Indians who had not renewed their indentures and recognizes "the validity of Indian customary marriages"
- 1917- 1st US Expeditionary Force arrive in France during WW I
- 1924- After 8 years of occupation, US troops leave Dominican Republic
- 1927- Comet 7P/Pons-Winnecke approaches within 0.0394 AUs of Earth
- 1934- Germany & Poland sign non-aggression treaty
- 1941- Finland enters WW II against Russia

From KO Archives

‘Malnutrition In J&K Lowest In Country’

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Union Minister of State for Women and child Development Mrs. Renuka Choudhary Monday lauded the state government for achieving distinction in the country in bringing down malnutrition level among children in the state.

“ In the entire country we are struggling to lower the level of malnutrition which is telling upon the health and lives of children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers, however, it is heartening that in Jammu and Kashmir the level of malnutrition is on a considerable decline”, she added.

Addressing media persons here this afternoon Mrs. Choudhary said that Union Women and Child Development Ministry has approved additional 1500 anganwari centres for Jammu and Kashmir. She said over 13500 anganwari centres have already been approved for the slate under first two phases.

She announced two projects of aromatic herbs production and mushroom cultivation for the state, saying it would benefit over 8000 women and give host to the efforts of government for empowerment of women. Five hostels for working women have also been approved by the Union Ministry for Jammu and Kashmir, she said and added that two out of these have already been completed while other three are under execution.

(Kashmir Observer, 26 June, 2007)

Government Medical College, Srinagar

10-Karan Nagar, Srinagar Kashmir, 190010
Phone No. 0914-2504114 Fax No 0194-2503115

Subject: selection of Registrar/Demonstrator (an in-servicecandidate) in the various Departments of Govt. Medical College, Srinagar

Reference: This office advertisement notice No. 01 of 2022 Dated: 25-02-2022
OFFICE ORDER NO:243 -RA Of 2022.
DATED: 23 -06-2022.

Pursuant to the recommendations of Selection Committee which met on 5th, 6th May 2022 and verified Character and antecedents from Criminal Investigation Department (CID), of below mentioned doctors, an In-service candidates who are applied for the post of Registrar/Demonstrator in various Departments of Government Medical College, Srinagar is provisionally engaged as Registrar/Demonstrator, initially for a period of one year which is extendable upto (03) years on basis of good performance to be certified by the Concerned HOD.

S. NO.	Name of Candidate	Qualification	Discipline	CID Verification received Vide their Letter No. & Date
1	Dr. Abdul Roof	MD	Social & Preventive Medicine	CIDA/B/2022/FINAL/29566-578/HLT dated. 21-06-2022
2	Dr. syed Karar Hussain	DM	Psychiatry	CIDA/B/2022/FINAL/29618-630/HLT dated. 21-06-2022

The appointment of the above doctor is further subject to the following terms and conditions:-

1. Before joining the Department, the selected doctor shall submit an affidavit duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate/First Class Magistrate to the effect that:-

a. He will not participate in any kind of strike during the period of his tenure engagement, in the event he proceeds on strike, his tenure engagement shall be terminated without any notice as this service is covered under ESMA Act.

b. He shall remain disciplined during the tenure period, any kind of misconduct make him liable for termination without any prior notice

c. He is not involved in any criminal activity or there is no FIR pending or registered in any criminal department or police station against his.

2. He shall not claim any experience certificate in case he leave Registrarship/Demonstratorship before completion of first year.

3. He will not indulge himself in any private practice, in case he is found doing private practice his appointment shall be terminated without any notice.

1. The appointees is required to join within (21) days from the date of issuance of this order failing which the order shall be deemed to have cancelled.

The appointee shall paid as per his LPC issued by his parent department.

No; RA-MC/R/D/908-12/MC
Dated 23-06-2022

Principal / Dean
Govt. Medical College Srinagar

DIPK-4845/22

Regd. No. A-2586

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Twitter Talks



“Its a humble appeal to parents please take control and reprimand your child dont spoon feed them. Keep a check on their friends the pocket money and their behavior. Save your child for God's sake”
@rjnasirkashmir
“International politics is much more than about Wall Street. Defeat in Ukraine exposes NATO as paper tiger & US as rather stupid (esp. within year of Afghan retreat.) This can only accelerate US' loss of credibility & clout, be it in Asia, Africa - or even Europe”
@bhadrapunchline

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Affront To Amarnath

Officials of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) appear to have messed up massively in regulating pilgrim inflow for the sacred annual journey to the holy cave in the Kashmiri Himalayas, turning this year's yatra into a case study of mismanagement, chaos and confusion. It is incredible that huge numbers of unregistered pilgrims should have got past the authorities, particularly when an extensive and elaborate network of registration counters exists specifically to avoid the disruption of painstaking government arrangements made at huge public expense.
There is nothing inadvertent in the fiasco this year – it is a wilful and calculated plan to bring the Board chairman, governor NN Vohra, into disrepute. Packed as it evidently must be with the protégés of the former incumbent, Lt Gen SK Sinha, who had turned the holy journey into a two-month-long money-spinner for sangh parivar operators, the Board has struck back viciously at Mr Vohra for slashing the duration of the pilgrimage by a fortnight.
It should not be forgotten that not too long ago the SASB had boasted of mendacious bureaucrats like Arun Kumar whose infamous vituperation against Kashmiris voicing justified concern at the adverse environmental impact of Gen Sinha's unconscionable expansion of the scale of the pilgrimage remains, to this day, a classic example of saffronite spite against the valley. Evidently, the Board continues to be dominated by the acolytes of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad which specializes in defiling the sacred by exploiting the pure and simple faith of devotees.
If any more proof were needed of this, one has only to be reminded of how powerful lobbies sidelined Mahant Deepinder Giri who had insisted on strict adherence to holy scripture in conducting the yatra, particularly in determining its timing, duration and route. Obviously, the sacred word has little significance for the Vishwa Hindu Parishad which has threatened a nationwide agitation to oppose any change in the extended pilgrimage schedule. Surely, the VHP would have been more heedful of sacred texts were it genuinely and sincerely concerned about upholding and promoting religious and spiritual values and practices.
Governor Vohra's exemplary record as an officer and administrator is under severe test in his chairmanship of the SASB. Granted that he, ostensibly, has the much bigger headache of negotiating Kashmir's tricky political terrain to worry about, but as head of the Amarnath Board he is duty-bound to take serious note of the disaster his predecessor, Lt Gen Sinha, has created for Kashmir both by extending the yatra and engineering an unsustainable influx for the pilgrimage to help dharm thekedaars to add to their already-overflowing coffers.
The governor would have justified his regular helicopter sorties over the yatra route if he took the trouble to set foot on the ground as well, not in orchestrated official visits, but surprise and impromptu inspections of the pilgrimage trek for a first-hand view of the high environmental costs of pushing hundreds of thousands of human beings along hitherto pristine streams and rivers, and into hitherto unspoilt meadows and mountains.
It is more than likely that a direct experience of the human waste and refuse littering what nature had meant to be inviolate and unpolluted would convince the governor about the dire need to scale the yatra down drastically in duration as well as magnitude. It would also help to have environmental experts conduct a real-time evaluation of the pilgrimage (while the yatra is still underway) rather than bring them in when the highly fragile ecological zone in undisturbed by massive human intrusion.
As the chairman of the SASB, Governor Vohra is the guardian of the sanctity of the pilgrimage as well as the ecological health and well-being of the vast tracts of natural assets it encompasses. His predecessor has severely compromised both by pandering to the greed and avarice of ruthless operators who have turned faith into filthy lucre besides using religion to advance their political agenda.
Kashmir looks to the governor to restore the Amarnath Yatra to its innocent and pure past, when politics, money and venality had no role, and the pilgrimage was a symbol of simplicity and devotion, posing almost no threat to the environment. Mr Vohra must use his immense experience and wisdom to convince India about the deadly import of having hundreds of thousands of people flocking fragile and endangered mountain zones for weeks on end. A reasoned and cogent exposition of the case before the masses would certainly neutralize the sangh parivar's venomous and false propaganda over any demand to revert the pilgrimage back to its original and religiously-sanctioned form.
Given the credibility he enjoys in the country, Governor Vohra is placed best to puncture the VHP's sanctimonious balloon, and keep its poisonous influence out of the Amarnath Yatra.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on October 11, 2011



What Caused a Floody-February Wednesday in June?

Faizan Arif

Both Kashmir and Jammu regions had been experiencing rather unnerving wet weather since the 18th of June. Emblematic of the weather unpredictability, people were quick to wear their best unpredictable gears. In Kashmir, the age-old Kashmiri truism of keeping the Pheran ready by the hook, on-the-go, had new takers. Higher reaches recorded heavy snowfall, at the same time, plains were lashed by heavy spells of rain. Temperatures dropped untypically. The quiet Jhelum went tempestuous, bringing with it the currents of the turbulent memory of the 2014 floods.
These switches from high to low temperatures, from spring's sprint to summers and from uncanny rains to unbearable sun - what explains these volatile fluctuating temperatures?
In today's day-and-age, weather models developed by scientists help in knowing the future weather in advance. However, regarding the recent spell, weather models were divided in the forecasts.
As the weather event got closer, ambiguity continued among weather models. However, it got clear that Jammu and Kashmir was in for a major spell. Models had also forecasted a significant drop in day temperatures.
On 21 June, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 15.0 degrees Celsius, which was 14.2 degrees below normal. In 2015, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 15.2 °C. This broke the previous record as Kashmir registered the coldest June day since atleast 1975. Temperatures remained similar in other parts of the Valley. In

Kupwara, the maximum temperature was 15.5 degrees below average. A temperature of 15.0 degrees Celsius is common in February in Srinagar. So temperatures were quite comparable to a sunny day in Chillai-Khurd — a period of 20 days after Chillai-Kalan, the 40-day harshest period of cold.
As the evening of 21 June set in, it started pouring heavily. By the morning of 22 June, water levels of several Nallahs had crossed the 'danger mark'. Jhelum, later in the day at Sangam and Ram Munshi Bagh crossed the 'Flood Declaration' mark. From a drought-like situation a few days ago, it turned out to be a Floody Wednesday.
Drought, cold and flood are seemingly incongruent. They don't get along and can rarely ever appear together. But climate change has made the impossible possible. Directly or indirectly, such weather events are linked to climate change.
In 2014, Kashmir witnessed one of the worst floods in its history. In 2015 again, the water level of Jhelum crossed five times above the 'flood declaration' level. On the complete opposite side of the pattern, in 2016, a prolonged dry spell lasted for 4 months.
Precipitation patterns have also been haywire. The otherwise driest of November is turning out to be the wettest month. The wettest season, Spring, this year saw the lowest rainfall in the last 2 decades.
In 2018, it snowed heavily in the first week of November. In 2019, it snowed even more heavily in November. Last year, on 23 October 2021, it snowed in south Kashmir plains. All these events caused a huge loss to people, especially people associated with the agricultural and horticultural sectors.

Drought, cold and flood are seemingly incongruent. They don't get along and can rarely ever appear together. But climate change has made the impossible possible. Directly or indirectly, such weather events are linked to climate change

Climate change isn't measurable. However, it is quite tangible when we look at climate changes over years and compare the weather we used to see in the 1980s and the weather we are experiencing from the last 10 years. Climate change isn't confined to bringing hot and warm weather only. It can bring the worst floods, extreme cold, unseasonal snow and the list goes on. Don't be surprised if it snows in the plains on a June day sometime in the future.
Climate change is directly linked to how humans have treated and are treating this earth. The carbon dioxide emissions are rising, heating the world and thus the world is witnessing never-before-seen events.
Such things were never the norm in Kashmir's climate history. Not only are these extreme events going to happen again but their frequency is also going to increase. Keeping financial losses aside, this also puts the lives of everyone in

danger. The weather events that climate change could trigger won't care for anyone's luxuries or privileges — they're coming for all of us.
There's a lot that needs to be done at the level of policy decisions. The global community needs to be more alert and adept at tackling climate change issues. Developed nations have to take responsibility and do their share to discourage production patterns that aggravate climate change.
They say personal is political; in the case of climate change, indeed, the political is personal. Climate change is going to come for us all. Its effects aren't going to be restricted to only one community. Therefore, we must all mobilise and advocate for climate sensitive policies. The government of Jammu and Kashmir must ensure that environmental concerns don't remain restricted to the events and seminar alone. They must be taken up in spirit especially in an eco-sensitive place like Kashmir which has the burden of tourist influx and rapid industrialisation. Climate change advocacy must be instilled in the young and the fresh.
We need to make our voices heard by those in power. It will make the government take action and spend more on reducing the effects of climate change. Awareness programs, TV debates and workshops on climate change should be organized. This will help people to learn and understand better about it.
However, we also have an active role to play to mitigate the climate crisis. To begin with, we need to educate ourselves. Today we have Google on which thousands of articles regarding climate change are available. One needs to go through some of them and learn about the dangers of climate change and the things that are triggering it. The knowledge gained must be shared with others.
Instead of using private transport every time, public transport should be used or one can do cycling or go for a walk. Not only will it help in reducing carbon emissions but will also improve the health of every individual. Lights and appliances should be turned off when there is no need. Planting more trees can help in absorbing carbon dioxide.
Taking short showers and turning off the tap while brushing teeth can save a lot of water. Saving water reduces carbon pollution because it takes a lot of energy in pumping, heating and cleaning of water. Such small measures by an individual can help in mitigating the deadly effects of climate change. Better act now than tomorrow.
Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The author is an independent
Weather Forecaster, better known as 'Kashmir Weather' across social media

Fresh Perspective

A. Raghuramaraju

Is the plea for sustainable development feasible and sustainable? More importantly, is it possible to keep it sustainable within the current socio-economic format? Integrating sustainable development into our lives is both urgent and inevitable. However, is the present strategy of conducting empirical case studies on the dangers of development an effective way of addressing this urgency? Unlike any other peril the world has faced so far, the present untenable form of development poses a danger that is as unpredictable as it is absolutely catastrophic in nature. It affects not only individuals but also entire societies. Not confined to any particular time or to a region, it threatens to destroy the entire world as we know it.
Harmful developmental practices are so pervasive and intricately interwoven with different aspects of human life at present that replacing them seems almost impossible. They operate outside the purview of freedom and choice. In fact, the majority of people are not aware of how they are unwittingly caught up in using the products of and contributing to the current form of development. Even products such as solar energy or electric vehicles that are offered by those advocating sustainable development use a lot of resources from hardcore elements of development, especially the hardware. There is a wide chasm between the implacable pace of development and the plea for sustainability, with the latter's chances of success looking increasingly bleak. However, people are not sufficiently convinced about the immediacy of the dangers. There is an urgent need to present a comprehensive picture of the extensive range and reach of irresponsible developmental practices and to correlate them with the effects on our daily lives and with the near future.
We are stuck between the inescapable need for sustainable development and the impossibility of at least reducing the scope of the present harmful practices. Those advocating for sustainable development have made seri-

ous attempts to highlight the dangers of global warming and the ensuing ecological crisis and demonstrated the utter ruin that they will bring about. Despite this, neither the empirical evidence of the dangers of uncontained development nor the scary picture presented of the inevitable destruction has been able to convince either the producers or the consumers to change their ways. Unless people are convinced about the imminent need for action to avert the looming crisis, there is no hope for survival.
Although the potential threat is massive and global, most empirical studies, by their very nature, focus only on specific aspects. However, compiling various specific studies does not lead to a complete picture of the impending catastrophe. For instance, chemical fertilisers are used to increase agricultural production, pesticides for protecting the crops, and preservatives to prevent spoilage during storage and distribution. Despite the wellknown hazards of using these chemicals, which are dangerous both to soil and human health, people still continue to depend heavily on them in modern agricultural practices. It is disheartening to see that even the most educated and enlightened sections of society are not able to envisage the catastrophic danger to humanity due to the consumption of chemically-contaminated food, or the havoc wreaked by global warming on the climate, leading to devastating natural calamities, or the dangers of air and water pollution. The list is rather long.
The empirical studies that are used to show the dangers of development arise from empiricism, a dominant school of philosophy formulated by Francis Bacon. Interestingly, it was Bacon who also provided the foundational ideas for what ultimately evolved into the modern form of development. He rejected the classical formula where knowledge is related to liberation and instituted an alternative formula where knowledge about nature is for use and exploitation by human beings. So using empirical case studies to critique modern development may not accrue desirable results. Scientists and social scientists, who are actively working for

sustainable development, need to explore non-empirical and non-modern resources to present a strong critique of unsustainable development. It is possible to explore, in a selective manner, non-modern, traditional philosophies consisting of both classical and folk theories that present a non-exploitative attitude to nature. Such rich imaginative accounts can help in effectively presenting before the people the massive, unprecedented calamity and irreversible damage caused by development. There is a need to veer away from using empirical methods to critique development, which is itself a product of empiricism, and move towards non-empirical and metaphysical theories to present the critique.
How was it possible to sustain during pre-modern times what is now threatened by modern development? Exploring this need not be tantamount to endorsing the social evils justified and legitimised in non-modern theories and societies. On the contrary, this can lead to identifying the intellectual resources available in non-modern societies that allowed them to both sustain and nurture nature while also legitimising social evils like untouchability and slavery. Similarly, there is a need to recognise that while modern societies have endangered nature, they have also managed to eradicate many of the earlier social evils.
In this new debate, both virtues and vices of the modern and the premodern are critically evaluated. Both the empirical and the transcendental provide an alternative basis for the formulation of the critical discourse on sustainable development for nature and society. This critical scrutiny and assessment of the empirical and the non-empirical would explore the manifold aspects, extending the purview of the present debate on sustainability. This can provide a basis for relaunching sustainable development.

The author teaches philosophy at the Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati. The article was originally published by The Telegraph India

Tears, Hiccups and Lots of Questions

Can we teach children to love first and compete later?

“

Competition is essential, but collaboration is paramount. We all have unique special skills, and we can run this engine together. And for that, teachers and schools need to do away with this system which breeds divisions. We need to create a system where everyone is a winner



Aldhries

Zeeniya cried a lot yesterday while talking to me on the phone. Not for her doll or her chocolates, but for her studies. Hiccups followed by questions as her mom tried to make sense.

The six-year-old can't make sense of her world these days. Her school exams have started, and so have her tears. She probably, like others, is struggling with her reading skills. She lost three years of schooling to the COVID-19 pandemic and Article 370 and finds it difficult to read.

She has no difficulty speaking not one but two languages and understanding the third one. But when it comes to the reading, she finds it challenging to add words and make them into sentences.

Her support all these months has been Eshal. "Eshal Saleem". Zeeniya always corrects me. She is her life. The little ones exchange greeting cards for each other. Each

card is done so meticulously that you can only envy their love, trust and faith for each other.

When either of them is absent, their day turns sombre. Zeeniya took tiny crackers to school to show to Eshal. I found out that in the evening when she came from school. "Eshal ko dikhaya bas," she said non-chalantly.

All these months, Eshal has been Zeeniya's support in reading those languages. Helping her write and sometimes attempt Zeeniya's worksheets in the classroom. Zeeniya, in turn, is assisting Esha in speaking and making Eshal understand those English and Urdu lines. Courtesy YouTube, Zeeniya is a pro at speaking languages.

Their bond is beautiful, and they feed on each other's strengths and insecurities. Love, compassion, empathy, sharing and kindness are virtues of their bond.

Today things changed. It was Zeeniya's first term exams, and

the six-year-olds had to sit according to their roll numbers. Suddenly Zeeniya, after months, was sitting with a stranger she hadn't interacted with before.

She cried, requested and cajoled her teacher into allowing her to sit next to her beloved Eshal, but they didn't bend. After all, they are following rules. The system has been laid down out for years.

That stranger had behaved like a snob. All boys are snobs at that age. He had hidden his answer sheet and not showed Zeeniya anything. And Zeeniya wasn't looking at him because "Mam said. No cheating". A new world for the little one. She learnt a new behaviour today. 'Not sharing'

She hadn't performed well as per her expectations and had come home in a bad mood. She was crying and questioning why she couldn't sit next to Eshal.

All evening she was trying to make sense of roll numbers.

"Will 15 sit after 16 and 4 after 3, and 12 after 11". She tried all her permutations, but Eshal still sat very far away. Breaking into tears every time, she tried different numbers only to get disappointed again.

Those tears and questions tore into me. They still are tearing into me as I write this. For parents, daughters are special and seeing them crying isn't lovely. It isn't pleasant.

Why couldn't she sit next to Eshal? I wanted to ask her teacher. She is just six-year-old, and even if a fellow student helped her in her writing, how would that have harmed her or any child's future in that classroom.

This gets me thinking, and I ask a larger question.

Why do our educational and grading systems initiate competition and not collaboration early on? Why can't friends or all children sit next to each other and solve problems together? Why

can't we teach children to love, compassion, kindness, and empathy from an early age?

No wonder you have seen so many people in offices around you that don't think twice to demeaning and be vile to move ahead on the corporate ladder. They don't think twice because they have been taught to compete, not collaborate. They have been taught to be unkind and not share.

And how will you create a collaborative and kind work atmosphere when you are taught from a young age to slit the throats of the competition for you to move ahead in life.

This schooling system is at complete odds with our present and future work culture, where working together is not a luxury but an absolute must. All this month, in my office, my boss has constantly been talking about working as a team, and we see virtues and results in that. It can never be us versus them, but we work together to find a solution.

This individualistic notion of "I will win at the cost of everyone else" must be old school and should have no place in our work culture.

From the beginning, we must teach children that we must be friends, be kind, have empathy and work together to find a solution.

Competition is essential, but collaboration is paramount. We all have unique special skills, and we can run this engine together. And for that, teachers and schools need to do away with this system which breeds divisions. We need to create a system where everyone is a winner.

The early years are critical, setting the framework for children's behaviour and determining their worldview. We can always teach them to be competitive later in their lives. To start, teach them to be kind, empathetic and collaborative.

Tomorrow Zeeniya has another paper.

She will cry again. I imagine her looking toward her teacher and saying, Can I sit with Eshal? "Eshal nahin. Eshal Saleem."

And the teacher wouldn't even understand the Zeeniya's plea. She had to follow the archaic system. Zeeniya will learn another behaviour tomorrow. To be unkind.

In Pursuit Of Confidence

Rashmi Nandkeolyar

Do you wonder what personal attributes your mother wished for you before you were born? And what would you ask for if a genie suddenly appeared and magically granted you a gift, against which all others pale?

I know what the 'yet-to-be-born'-me, would whisper in my mother's ear; I am also unequivocal about what I would ask my personal genie.

Hands down, the attribute of confidence would get my vote!

That is, in my opinion, the golden currency of success, the elixir of personal strength and courage, the cornerstone of optimism, the charismatic cloak that imbues the recipient with the bounty of self-fulfillment and happiness.

When we were children, my sister was the shyest creature one could imagine. Skinny and taciturn, she would, most often, be found with her nose deeply buried in a book or immersed listening to a favourite tune on the radio.

She preferred to keep to herself, rarely engaging or offering an opinion. Our mother was her strength and succour, and my sister would be happiest around her. The outside world was a hostile place in her perception, and so she preferred her own little haven.

CAPTIVATING AN INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE

Fast forward many years, and her personality is entirely different. Picture this: there she is on a dais, resplendently elegant, multilayered pearls embellishing a colourful sari; captivating an international audience as she eloquently and expertly talks about contemporary Indian art.

The transformation is extraordinary, especially to me, as I know her so well. When asked how she metaphorized herself, she admits candidly that

though people don't really change, maturity and learnt skills does make the effort less burdensome.

Moral of the story: the caterpillar can transform into a butterfly if one has the courage and perseverance to break out of the cocoon of habit and diffidence. Worldly success and shining talent, undoubtedly, fuel self-confidence. Success begets more success and resultantly, more confidence. Effort, grit and a growth mind set are the stepping stones to the golden grail of confidence.

Contrarily, there are those who seem blessed by the rosy glow of confidence, regardless of their personal circumstance. I know a gentleman who has chosen to live a bohemian life, often bending societal rules. Having veered away from the well trodden path of conventionality, he faces a battery of censure, disrespect and professional losses.

And yet, he exudes an air of supreme self-confidence and serenity. I watch enviously as nothing penetrates the bubble of personal joy that floats around him. He says, "I carry my wealth with me!" And "I don't allow others or circumstances to steal my power- It's my life, and I will lead it my way."

I am gobsmacked at the self-assurance!

NATURE OR NURTURE?

Is this a gift bestowed by nature or by nurture? Is this something a few lucky souls inherit, wired into their DNA: a legacy of their sunny ancestors, a blessed gene pool or simply a quirk of fortune? Alternately, perhaps their primary caregivers lavished so much care on them as infants, that they laugh their way through life.

Many parenting workshops, wellness books, psychologists push the idea that if children are nurtured with enough love, care and attention,

self-esteem and self-confidence will flower automatically. I agree that this certainly makes it easier.

Self-confidence and self-esteem are inextricably bound together, like Siamese twins. These golden attributes are the precursor of a successful life. Such persons are more likely to be living the life they desire and have meaning and purpose in life. They are at peace, having slayed the dragons of self-doubt.

They have the courage to take risks, are undaunted by failure and much more likely to stand up, even after a beating by life. The incense of peace, dignity and self-containment emanates from them, drawing people to them.

For lesser mortals like me, the doubters, the stomach churners, the gnawers of nails, the victims of palpitations; I have a formula: I use my insecurities as fuel to work harder, my passion for perfection to work the minutest detail and when I finally succeed, (effort gets rewarded), I use the success to strengthen my confidence.

This is my mantra. Am I always successful? No, but I try. In the meantime, I have my bag of little tricks. My job profile necessitates that I often need to address an audience. Even after years of practice and thousands of such speeches, when I address a large audience, I am all a tremble.

My patent technique is to insist on the school choir performing before my speech in the order of events. This calms my quivering nerves and it seems I am usually not found out! One day, I hope to make the cut of being one of the golden ones who carry their weather with them.

Rashmi Nandkeolyar is the Principal and Director of Delhi Private School Dubai and the author of several books for children. The article was originally published by Gulf News



KODAK MOMENTS



A quaint withering house looks over the bazaar surrounding Khanqah-e-Maula.

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Guj Police Take Teesta Setalvad In Custody, Arrest Ex-DGP Sreekumar For 'Fabricating Evidence' Day After SC Upholds SIT Clean Chit To Modi

Press Trust of India

Ahmedabad: A day after the Supreme Court upheld the clean chit given by an SIT to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 2002 riots cases, Gujarat police on Saturday arrested former Director General of Police R B Sreekumar and took in custody social activist Teesta Setalvad for allegedly conspiring to falsely implicate innocent persons.

The First Information Report, based on a complaint filed by an Ahmedabad crime branch official, also named former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt, who is already in jail in another case.

Setalvad, who was picked up from her Mumbai residence, claimed her arrest was illegal and apprehended threat to her life.

She will be arrested once she is brought to Ahmedabad, police sources said. Bhatt is sentenced to life imprisonment in a custodial death case, and in another case he is accused of planting contraband to frame a lawyer in a false case.

Setalvad was detained from her house in the Juhu area of Mumbai and later taken to Santacruz police station for informing the local police about her detention, sources said.

"She has been taken by the Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad.... we were not informed in advance about the case. They barged into the house and assaulted her before taking her with them," alleged her lawyer Vijay Hiremath.

But a local police official denied that Setalvad was assaulted.

Setalvad, Bhatt and Sreekumar "conspired to abuse the process



of law by fabricating false evidence to make several persons to be convicted in an offence that is punishable with capital punishment," said the complaint filed by inspector D B Barad of Ahmedabad crime branch.

They instituted "false and malicious criminal proceedings against innocent people with intention to cause injury to several persons, and prepared false records and dishonestly used those records as genuine with the intention to cause damage and injury to many persons," as per the complaint.

The complaint drew on various submissions made before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by the Supreme Court to investigate the 2002 Gujarat riots cases and submissions made by the accused before the Justice Nanavati-Shah Commission of Inquiry.

The FIR was registered earlier in the day under sections 468,

471 (forgery), 194 (giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of capital offence), 211 (institute criminal proceedings to cause injury), 218 (public servant framing incorrect record or writing with intent to save person from punishment or property from forfeiture), and 120 (B) (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code.

"Setalvad conjured, concocted, forged, fabricated facts and documents and/or evidence including fabrication of documents by persons who were protective witnesses of the complainant (Zakia Jafri)," as per the complaint.

Setalvad and her NGO were co-petitioner with Zakia Jafri in the petition filed against then chief minister Narendra Modi and others in the Supreme Court. Court dismissed the petition on Friday and upheld the clean chit given to Modi and

others. The complaint also accused Setalvad of influencing and tutoring witnesses and making them depose on pre-typed affidavits. Even Zakia Jafri was tutored by Setalvad, as was clear from her statement before the Nanavati Commission on August 22, 2003, it said.

IPS officers Bhatt and Sreekumar -- who was additional DGP of Armed Unit during the 2002 Godhra riot, and intelligence DGP soon after -- had made several depositions before the Nanavati Commission of Inquiry that were against the Gujarat government, the complaint said.

Bhatt allegedly forged various documents mailed to the SIT and also falsely claimed he attended a late night meeting on February 27, 2002, called by the then chief minister (Modi) at his residence, it said. Sreekumar's nine affidavits before the Nanavati-Shah Commission were the source of

many of the allegations in Zakia Jafri's petition, it claimed.

In its judgment passed on Friday, the Supreme Court had observed that "At the end of the day, it appears to us that a co-alesced effort of the disgruntled officials of the State of Gujarat along with others was to create sensation by making revelations which were false to their own knowledge. "The falsity of their claims had been fully exposed by the SIT after a thorough investigation ... As a matter of fact, all those involved in such abuse of process, need to be in the dock and proceed in accordance with law," the court order said. In its judgment, the apex court had also noted the objections raised by the respondents on Setalvad joining as petitioner number two in the plea after Jafri. The respondents objected on the grounds of Setalvad's "antecedents" and also for her "ulterior design by exploiting the emotions and sentiments of appellant-Zakia Jafri, the real victim of the circumstances." However, no direct role of Setalvad was mentioned in the court verdict.

Jafri's husband and former Congress MP Ehsan Jafri was killed during the riots.

A police officer in Mumbai said Setalvad handed a written complaint to Santacruz police station (when she was taken there), and "they are processing it." Setalvad's complaint alleged that Gujarat police "barged into" her compound, did not show her a copy of the FIR or warrant against her, and there was a "big bruise" on her left hand.

"I fear seriously for my life," her complaint added.

Maha Crisis: Cops Deployed At Offices Of Political Parties, Leaders In Mumbai; Prohibitory Orders Till July 10

Agenceis

Mumbai: With tempers running high among Shiv Sena workers following the rebellion by party leader Eknath Shinde, the Mumbai police have deployed its personnel at the city-based offices of various political parties and leaders, including ministers, MLAs and MPs, and their residences as a security measure, an official said on Saturday.

The instructions to remain alert and to provide security was taken at a meeting chaired by Mumbai Police commissioner Sanjay Pandey, where senior officials including the joint police commissioner (law and order), additional commissioners and zonal DCPs were present, he said.

The prohibitory orders issued by the city police under section 37 of the Mumbai Police (MP) Act in the first week of June, ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections, will continue to remain in place till July 10. It bans the assembly of five or more persons at one place.

A police official clarified that he had referred to the section 144 of the CrPc earlier in the day by mistake, but later clarified that the prohibitory orders are in place as per the section 37 of the Act.

On Saturday, cadres loyal to the Thackerays staged protests against the rebels by defacing their banners, hurling stones, and vandalising the office of an MLA in various parts of the state.

Majority of Shiv Sena MLAs have shifted their loyalty to minister Eknath Shinde and

are camping in Guwahati, plunging the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government led by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who heads the Sena, into a crisis. A few incidents of attack on the offices of rebel MLAs have taken place in parts of the state.

"The city police personnel have been asked to remain alert and maintain law and order situation in the city. They have been instructed to coordinate with the local leaders of political parties and get in advance the information related to their programmes, movement and deployment of bandobast during the meetings and political events," the official said.

Officials of the special branch have been asked to monitor the social media platforms and take action against those persons who are found posting objectionable content, messages, videos, police said.

"The police personnel have been asked to ensure that the workers of political parties do not take law into hand, indulge in violence or damage public property. The officials have been asked to take stringent action against the violators," he said.

The police staff has also been asked to ensure that no objectionable banner and hoarding comes up anywhere, the official said.

The prohibitory order issued earlier this month by DCP Operations, prohibits the assembly of five or more persons in view of the likelihood of breach of peace and disturbance of public tranquillity.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Traffic Restored

districts, on Tuesday evening following incessant rains, leaving over 2,000 vehicles, mostly trucks, stranded.

All stranded vehicles were cleared during the night hours, paving the way for resumption of normal traffic movement, the official said, adding that road clearance work is in progress at many places.

He said the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) was also undertaking repair work of the steel tunnel at Panthiyal which was damaged by shooting stones from the hillock overlooking the highway.

"The repair work, necessary to safeguard the lives of commuters from shooting stones, is being done between 0430 hours and 0800 hours daily," the official said.

65 More Test

Samba 5, Udhampur 2 and one new case of infection from Poonch district.

"Moreover, 21 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 16 from Jammu division and 05 from Kashmir division," the officials said.

Also, they said that no new Covid-19 related fatality was reported in J&K during the last 24 hours. So far, 4755 persons—2330 in Jammu and 2425 in Kashmir—have died due to the virus.

Take Every

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta in a high level meeting convened to review the Covid-19 scenario in the UT in view of rising cases in some states of the country, an official spokesperson said on Saturday.

Mehta, he said, stressed upon the health officers to intensify the tracing, testing and inoculation of precautionary dose to people especially to those with comorbid conditions.

"Dr Mehta impressed upon the officers to adopt prescribed level of random testing of those traveling from outside. He directed the health authorities to issue advisories to people so that the people remain safe and cautious. He asked them to encourage people to adhere to the Covid-19 protocols," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the Chief Secretary advised them to remain vigilant and use social and other media to create awareness among people so that no rumor mongering occurs.

Mehta, he said, also asked them to create digital health records of patients visiting hospitals and integrate the same with Rapid Assessment System (RAS) for quality feedback of public.

"The Chief Secretary also maintained that the health infrastructure of the UT was upgraded to a larger extent during past few years. He reminded them it is for this reason that in the past the UT faced no major problem dealing with the pandemic. He suggested them to work for promotion of medical tourism here as the UT is set to establish medical cities in both the divisions here," he added.

As per the spokesperson, the MD,

NHM briefed the CS about the current scenario of the Covid-19 in the UT.

"He gave out that there is no major reason of concern for the people. He revealed that the health infrastructure available throughout J&K including isolation beds, oxygen supply and medicines are enough to deal with any situation and J&K faced no uneven occupancy of beds in recent times," he said.

"It was further made out that the positivity rate in J&K in the past 24 hours is just 0.5% as compared to 1.2% at national level. It was stated that the overall recovery rate of patients in J&K is 98.9% as compared to 98.6% at the national level. It was also mentioned that the infections are less severe than in the past due to full vaccination of the whole population of J&K," he added.

The spokesperson further said that in the meeting it was said that gene sequencing of hospitalized cases and assessment of bed occupancy is monitored continuously.

"Further the testing of travelers and checking their vaccination certificates would also be carried out to weed out chances of spread of the infection, the meeting was informed," he added.

During the meeting, the spokesperson said suggestions from participants were taken and the preparations made at their end were also taken note of.

"It was ascertained during the meeting that there is no threat currently but following of precautions like wearing face masks and frequent hand washing needs to be adopted strictly to be safe and avoid any loss of life," he added.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Director SKIMS; Mission Director, NHM, DG Health & Family Welfare; Director Health, Kashmir/Jammu; Principles of GMCs, State Surveillance Officers, Jammu/Kashmir and Chief Medical Officers.

Several officers including Jammu based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Hosting G-20

I assure you that we will not rest till we make J&K a progressive region, he added.

Meets Industry

Government to boost the investment climate, fulfill Prime Minister's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and we have undertaken multiple key initiatives to establish a transparent system to attract capital and harnessing local entrepreneurial potential," Sinha said.

"Development and blossoming of businesses is possible only in peace. Those trying to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere are the biggest enemies of industrial and socio-economic growth of J&K," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG said that at the core of the government's industrial policy is providing opportunities and assistance to local industries, economic growth and generating employment for the youth.

"The government is sensitive to the issues of the Industries and Business

sector and committed to provide all assistance. A committee comprising of Industries & Commerce department and entrepreneurs is being constituted as an institutionalized mechanism to hold regular interactions with the Industry representatives, Chambers of both the divisions to resolve the issues and challenges confronting the businesses," the LG said.

The spokesperson further said that the LG highlighted the technological interventions and online services introduced for extending completely transparent and hassle-free government services to the business and industry sector.

Sinha, he said, further informed that the administration is working out a policy for separate industrial estate for Startups.

The spokesperson said that a similar interaction will be held in Jammu with representatives of Chamber and Industries soon.

Pertinently, many representatives of Chamber and Industries Association from Jammu region were unable to attend today's meeting due to closure of Jammu-Srinagar Highway.

During the interaction, the representatives of various associations including FCIK, KCCI, PHDCCI, KPO, TAHAFUZ, KCC, Confederation of Indian Industry, Hydel Power Association, Kathua Industrial Association, Industrial Estates etc projected their issues and concerns and sought Lt Governor's intervention for their early redressal.

Massive Security

yatris. A lot of preparations have been put into place. The number of security forces personnel deployed on the ground for the smooth conduct of the yatra is three or four times more than the previous years, he said.

The heightened security measures also come in the backdrop of a recent spurt in target killings, including those of workers belonging to the minority community.

Despite the administration's efforts to ensure a safe and secure yatra we cannot say that we have made it 100 per cent foolproof, the officer said.

Apart from the deployment, drone surveillance and RFID chips will also be part of the three-tier security arrangements for the pilgrims.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar had on June 14 said that three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants, who were killed in recent encounters, were sent from Pakistan to attack the annual Amarnath Yatra.

Of the three slain militants, two were Pakistanis and one was a local, he said.

On July 10, 2017, seven people were killed and 11 others injured when militants attacked a bus carrying Amarnath yatris in Botengo on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway.

The Yatra is scheduled to start on June 30 and will culminate on August 11.

Search Operations

The search operation was jointly

carried out by Police, CRPF, and BSF in the forward villages in Samba, Kathua, and Jammu districts, the officials said.

The 43-day-long Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to start on June 30 from two routes -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan in south Kashmir's Pahalgam and a 14-km shorter route from Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal -- after a two-year break forced by the COVID pandemic.

Various intelligence inputs suggest that militants are planning to infiltrate from across the border to disrupt the yatra, Deputy Superintendent of Police (operations), Samba, G R Bhardwaj said.

Bhardwaj, who was leading the joint search operation, said that about 8-km area from Suchetgarh border to Regal was combed by the joint forces with a focus on detecting any possible cross-border tunnel which might have been dug from across the border by militants to infiltrate.

He said the forces searched all unattended areas during the operation, which is part of the unprecedented security arrangements made for the upcoming yatra.

We are alert to the threat and have stepped up area domination patrols, search operations, and night vigils to thwart any attempt by militants to disrupt the yatra, Bhardwaj said, adding that additional checkpoints have also been set up to strengthen the border and highway grid.

Officials said the searches were also carried out in RS Pura sector in Jammu district and Hiranagar sector in Kathua district to keep an eye on any suspicious movement.

KP Employees

Kashmir, one of the protesters, A K Bhat, told reporters.

He asked the government to accept the demand of the protesters without any further delay.

"The Pandit employees are only meant to serve in Kashmir is a wrong notion created by certain people in the administration. There are other districts in Jammu where there is also a need and they can work far better there in the interest of the society, he said.

Bhat saluted the "peaceful" way of protest and said, "We will not budge till our genuine demand of relocation is accepted."

Shushant, another pandit employee, said that there was no assurance from the government till date.

"We have a lot of expectations from this government and are optimistic that it will accept our demand sooner than later," he said.

Abhinav termed their protest successful and thanked the people from all walks of life for their "moral support".

"We have put our demand before the government and will continue our protests in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions," he said.

Relative, Two

Manzoor is the martyr SI Farooq Mir's cousin brother's son," he said.

"Incriminating materials, 01 Pistol and other ammunition have been recovered from their possession. Further investigation into the matter is in progress," he added.

The spokesperson quoted IGP Kashmir appreciating the role of Awantipora & Pulwama Police for jointly solving this "heinous terror crime".

Militants Trapped

when they were approaching towards the suspected spot.

"The search team returned the fire triggering off an encounter. The exchange of fire is going on," the official said.

The official further said that the cordon has been tightened around the village to foil any attempt of the holed up militants to escape from their dragnet under the cover of darkness.

A local news agency quoted a source as saying that two to three militants are believed to be trapped in the village.

Police Cautions

boarding of passengers, so that militants by way of sabotage may not succeed in carrying out their evil designs.

He said any suspicious activity should be reported to the police or officers on real time basis for immediate action.

The SSP asked them to remain vigilant so that drug peddlers do not succeed in transporting of narcotics substances.

The senior officer informed them about sticky bombs, which an is an easy way to plant bombs in vehicles and asked them to remain extra cautious.

India Will Not

occupation when we are there (in the government)," Singh said at an event organised by the Zee News.

He said the NDA government will never compromise on the country's pride and reputation at any cost.

The defence minister also said that the Russia-Ukraine conflict has shown that if war takes place in any part of the world, it will have to be fought between the parties engaged and no third country would get involved easily.

The eastern Ladakh border stand-off began in early May 2020 following violent clashes between Indian and Chinese troops in the Pangong Tso area.

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

However, the face-off continues in certain friction points.

The defence minister said friction between troops of the two sides takes place largely because of China's perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"Discussions have taken place on certain issues and we have succeeded on some of them. Discussions are underway on one or two issues. I am confident that we will achieve success on them as well. There is no need to get disappointed as yet," he said.

Singh said India is now a powerful country and will deal with those who threaten its sovereignty and territorial integrity

"India has not remained a weak country like before. It has become a powerful country. India has neither attacked any country in the world nor it has captured an inch of land of others... But I can say, India will give a befitting reply if anyone attempts to threaten its unity, integrity and sovereignty," he said.

India has been insisting on the restoration of the status quo ante prior to the standoff in eastern Ladakh.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC were key for the overall development of the bilateral ties.

About the ceasefire with Pakistan along the Line of Control, Singh said it has been in force for over a year.

"Earlier, Pakistan used to violate ceasefire after entering into it earlier. It has been over a year since the ceasefire came into force but Pakistan has not been able to muster the courage to violate it. It is working," Singh said while talking about India's stature.

The defence minister also said that the Left-wing extremism is in its lowest level now.

The cycle of violence has almost come to an end in the North Eastern region as well.

Four Timber

He said Ahmed, who is the first timber smuggler arrested under the PSA in the Jammu province, was named in several FIRs over the past 10 years.

His dossier was prepared and sent to deputy commissioner Doda who passed the orders for his detention under the PSA, the officer said.

The PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

In another operation, Sheikh said three more timber smugglers were arrested from the Thathri area of Doda.

We have inputs that scores of smugglers are trying to escape the crackdown into the neighbouring Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. We are after them and they will be arrested soon, he said.

The DFO said a total of 45 mechanical cutters have been seized and two dozen offenders booked in the past one month for violating a ban imposed by Deputy Commissioner, Doda, Vikas Sharma on the sale, purchase and use of portable chain saw on May 5.

Sheikhar said some persons from the Tanta area of Chirala range and Bhalessa range of Forest Division were also indulging in timber and minor forest produce (MFP) smuggling.

We have prepared half a dozen dossiers and strict action against them is also on the cards, he said.

Cars Collide

advanced treatment.

The injured have been identified as Ajay Kumar, Hardesh Sharma (50), Ajay Singh (23) and Khushi (17)—all residents of Rajouri—(KNO)

Mehbooba Questions Govt's 'Crackdown' On Schools

Urges Youth To Shun Path Of Militancy

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Following the government's decision to close private schools operating on the 'state land', the People's Democratic Party (PDP) president, Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday questioned the administration for the crackdown on educational institutions saying that the decision will sabotage career of thousands of students, teachers and Kashmir.

"Since abrogation of Article 370, J&K Government has introduced several changes that have disempowered J&K and its people. The biggest attack has been on our identity. Our Jobs and Land have been literally put up for sale. The First preference is given to non-locals and second, to industrialists. Why hasn't the Government set up any industry in Kashmir after consistently boasting about developing Kashmir post 2019," Mehbooba said.

The former Chief Minister noted that the administration's decision to close private schools operating on state land is another attempt to sabotage Kashmir's future.

"Earlier they banned FAT affiliated schools and now this new decision is another form of atrocity inflicted on people of J&K to destroy their future. The Government has banned FAT schools raising objections that it was an affiliate of Jamaat-e-Islami but I want to ask what's wrong with Jamaat. Do they carry weapons, Trishuls or any other weapon to threaten peace?" Mehbooba said.

The PDP President further added that the administration is brazenly transferring J&Ks grazing land to security forces. "And now they've come for our educational institutions."

She also underlined the need to get united and "resist" alleging there was "a danger that they will try to erase take away our rights akin to what Israel did to Gaza".

"Unless we get united and resist, there is a danger that they will try to do much worse to us



than what Israel did in Gaza," she said.

She added that the Centre was making tall claims across the world that everything is fine in J&K after revoking Article 370, but the ground situation has not improved.

"If everything is normal in Kashmir then the Government should tell us about the whereabouts of our children to have been detained by agencies," The PDP leader noted.

About the Kashmiri pandit protesting relocation outside the Valley, she said that the Government is ignoring their demands. "In my tenure as a CM, no pandit was killed but we still paid salaries to KP employees who had their apprehensions in joining offices. But, this government is barely paying heed to the pleas of the protesting KP employees," Mufti said

Commenting on the active militancy in Kashmir, PDP president noted that the local recruitment is increasing at a rapid pace. "Everyday there's news about the killing of 2-3 local militants. This means, the local recruitment is increasing rapidly. I just want to request these young boys to leave arms as they're the future of Kashmir. Today, we need their support more than ever," Mehbooba said, adding that the Government has fortified Yatra in such a vicious manner that it gives a perception that Yatriss are coming to Kashmir for the first time.

Mehbooba also said that the agencies should take a notice of the corruption going on in Kashmir. "People from outside are coming to J&K and taking away dozens of cash-filled suitcases," she said.

Police Needs Society's Support To Eradicate Drug Menace: ADGP Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A senior Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Police officer on Saturday sought the support of every section of society to eradicate drug menace and protect the youth.

Addressing an event here to mark the World Drug Day -- observed annually on June 26 -- Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh said drug abuse is one of the most dangerous and threatening challenges before humanity.

Neither police nor society alone can face this menacing challenge which is destroying our younger generation, Singh said at the event organised by Team Jammu, a non-political organisation, while emphasising on the need for a joint fight by police and society.

He exhorted the society to remain vigilant against drug mafia and inform police as soon as

possible in case of spotting any suspicious activities.

Your support is must to eradicate this menace from the roots, the ADGP said.

The officer asked Team Jammu to intensify its efforts as drug abuse was increasing at a threatening and dangerous level in Jammu.

Some victims of drug abuse, whose identities were kept secret, also spoke on the occasion and shared their pain and agony due to the addiction and their experience in rehabilitation centres.

Chairman, Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jambwal asserted that the drug mafia has to be dealt with iron hands to save the younger generation.

Members of Jammu and Kashmir Tawi Trekkers, NGO Samvedna, volunteers of Parivartan Foundation, Jammu, noted Dogri writers, artists, singers, musicians and NCC cadets also participated in the programme.

Kashmir Valley Witnessing Exponential Hike In Tourist Influx: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir valley is witnessing an exponential increase in the tourism flow due to the successful campaigns of the J&K Government to attract maximum tourists towards the region, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

According to statistics J&K tourism department, March 2022 broke the 10-year tourist arrival record in Kashmir, signalling that the tourism industry is finally on the path to recovery.

As per Union tourism ministry, around 1.42 lakh tourists visited J&K during February alone, breaking the seven-year record.

Remarkably, on April 4th this year, the Srinagar International Airport recorded busiest day ever in history, with 15,014 people travelling on 90 flights in and out of Kashmir. Notably, for the first time, the Ministry of Civil Aviation approved the five flights a week between Srinagar-Sharjah.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had inaugurated Go First's Srinagar-Sharjah flight on October

Situation In Kashmir Under Control: Senior Army Officer

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The overall security situation in the Kashmir valley is better and "very much under control", and attacks on soft targets are taking place as militants are under pressure and have been pushed to the wall, a senior Army officer said on Saturday.

"The situation is better. There is nothing to worry," the officer, who did not wish to be identified, said.

Describing the current phase in the valley as "sensitive", he said many things have been brought under control by the security apparatus in the Union territory.

The officer said peace cannot be achieved by only killing militants as "there are other things which have to go along with kinetic operations and on which we have to work".

"But the overall situation is very much under control," he added.

Referring to the recent spurt in targeted killings in the valley, especially of members of the minority community, the Army officer said a person does such things when he comes under pressure, is pushed to the wall, and feels he is losing control.

"There are a few aspects as to why they are happening. Either it is to provoke the se-

curity forces or bring a fear factor among the people that their (terrorists) writ still runs large or because they are soft targets," he said.

Attacks on soft targets, especially Kashmiri Pandits, shakes up the entire country, the Centre and the state administration, the officer said. "They (militants) also know, in terms of their capacity, which is the weakest link as they (Kashmiri Pandits) are working in the society, roaming around in the society and it is easy to target them," he said.

The officer, however, said protecting every individual or providing round-the-clock security cover to them was not possible.

'150 Militants Ready To Sneak Into J&K'

SRINAGAR: There are about 150 militants present at the launchpads across the Line of Control (LoC) ready to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir while 500 to 700 more are undergoing training at eleven militant camps there, a senior Army officer said on Saturday.

He said security forces have successfully thwarted infiltration attempts by the militants along the LoC in the Valley.

There are about 500 to 700 people at the 11 training camps at Manshera, Kotli and Muzafarabad across the LoC, the Army officer, who did not wish to be named, said.

As per the intelligence inputs, he said, there are about 150 militants at the launchpads in Pakistan controlled Kashmir ready to infiltrate into J and K. The officer said there has been no successful infiltration along the LoC in the valley so far this year.

Till May end, everything has been taken care of. There was a particular group which had come and you are aware that it got killed at Bandipora and Sopore, he said, referring to the killing of foreign militants in encounters with the security forces.

The Army officer said militants are now focusing on other infiltration routes other than those that have been identified.

I am not saying that we have put in place a system that ensures

zero infiltration. Yes, there is a possibility of infiltration taking place here, but in recent years, the way we have made the fence stronger, the way the deployment has been made including the surveillance equipment, the success rate of infiltration has gone down.

As a result, what happens is that when there is pressure on one side, they try other sides, the alternate routes. They (militants) are now trying the Rajouri-Poonch routes, the areas of the south of Pir Panjal. The infiltration here (in Kashmir valley) has gone down compared to other routes, he said here.

He said the focus of infiltration has largely now shifted to the south of Pir Panjal. In fact, there are inputs that some people may have also trickled in via Nepal, he added.

The officer said the militant numbers were the lowest figure that we have in the last few years at all levels but the numbers will keep on changing. We have the kinetic domination on the ground.

We have eliminated more than 50 (terrorists) in the last 40-42 days. Their overall lifespan is negligible, but, yes, it remains a curse for the society. It remains a challenge and a security hazard. So, that is what we are working on.

Be it 100 or 150, these numbers will continue till the time the

people do not understand the futility of what is happening, till the people do not understand what is right and what is wrong. Till there is the support base, they will remain, but once they (people) shun them, then they will have no way to go, and you will automatically find this entire concept getting killed or the numbers coming down, he added.

Asked whether the Army sees any negative impact of Pakistan's exit from FATF, the senior Army officer said he does not think any state-sponsored activity will take place which can pull the country back into the grey list.

It is not yet fully out as there is a team yet to come to ascertain things on the ground. If after coming out of it, it again gets involved in such activity, it has the propensity to be pulled back into the grey zone, which will be a big dictating factor.

I think, having gone into the ceasefire understanding, and seeing what the country is going through at this point in time... there is a lot of turbulence, turmoil, and economic condition does not give them this idea to indulge once again. So, I do not think any such state-sponsored activity will take place, but it can happen at the local level with the ISI's help, especially with a focus on developing leadership as there is none here (in Valley), he said.

LG Inaugurates Sozni Cluster In Magam



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday inaugurated the Sukhnag Sozni Embroidery SFURTI Heritage Cluster of J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board in Magam area of central Kashmir's Budgam district.

According to an official spokesperson, the LG said that that SFURTI Cluster will deliver a holistic approach towards development of Sozni craft from production to marketing stage while catering needs of at least 500 artisans.

"The Government has taken various steps to make handicraft sector more competitive, boost exports and give a fillip to village industries, a repository of creative tradition. We are determined to ensure capacity building, foster innovation, best in class infrastructure, easy access to credit and market," Sinha said.

"We have implemented policies to ensure that the artisans get an opportunity to showcase their products at national and international expo and receives better price for their products," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG observed that the 'Vocal for Local' initiative has exposed J&K's cultural and artistic heritage to the world.

"Handicraft sector faced many challenges due to Covid but it certainly has the potential

to take UT's economic growth to a higher trajectory and to provide employment to a large pool of our youth," the LG said.

Sinha, he said, emphasized that the creativity of all the craft-artists will be more productive in future with Government's focused investment in skill development, modern technology, innovative business practices which will directly contribute to the increased earnings of craftsmen.

Highlighting the role of artisans who represent the rich traditions, customs and cultures, the LG, as per the official spokesperson made a special mention of Bashir Ahmed Bhat, an award winning artisan from Beerwah, who had been doing notable Sozni embroidery work.

According to the spokesperson, the LG assured all possible support in the form of financial assistance, skill development, capacity building, etc. to the youth who are inclined to start any entrepreneurial activity related to the handicrafts sector.

Sinha, he said, also observed that the Industries Department has also started the Export Incentive Scheme in which an incentive of 10% is being given on the total volume of GI-certified products in order to promote the export of handicraft products.

"The Lt Governor also mentioned the QR code launched for the world famous carpets of Kashmir, besides several im-

portant steps taken for GI certification, testing, labeling and training to promote Kashmiri carpets. A project on innovative and economical packaging of handicraft products has also been completed in association with NIFT Srinagar to expand the reach of niche handicraft products," he added.

The spokesperson further said that the LG asked the concerned departments to continuously review all the schemes launched for the benefit of weavers and handicrafts.

"The Khadi and Village Industries and Handicrafts Department to work together on innovative marketing strategy to ensure better prices for J&K crafts," The LG said.

The LG, as per the spokesperson reiterated administration's resolve to provide facilities like better market linkages for handicraft products, maximum employment opportunities, door-step financial assistance, design support, skill development, capacity building of clusters without any hassle.

"The society should not get trapped into the nefarious conspiracy of the enemies and their handlers. All they intend is to push J&K back into the dark phase of violence," the LG said.

On being apprised about the issue of promoting Homestays in Budgam, the LG as per the spokesperson said that issue would be taken up with the concerned quarters for appropriate action.

AMARNATH YATRA

Sadhus Upbeat, Say Militant Threat Non-Issue' For Them



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Scheduled to start next week after a break of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Amarnath Yatra is expected to witness large participation of devotees including sadhus and sadhvis who have started arriving here from different parts of the country.

Hundreds of the holy men and women are camping at the base camp Ram Mandir in the old city's Purani Mandi area and are upbeat over the resumption of the pilgrimage to finally have darshan' of Barfani Baba', pointing to the naturally formed ice-shivlingam at the 3,880-metre holy cave of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas.

The 43-day-long yatra is scheduled to start on June 30 from the twin routes -- traditional 48-km Nunwan in south Kashmir's Pahalgam and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal. The first batch of pilgrims including sadhus will leave for the twin base camps of Kashmir from Bhagwati Nagar and Ram Mandir in Jammu, a day ahead of the start of the yatra.

Unprecedented security arrangements have been put in place at the base camps and all along the route from Lakanpur -- the gateway to J-K -- to the cave shrine to thwart any attack and ensure peaceful yatra.

Staying in small groups inside a large hall at the temple complex and chanting praises of the Lord Shiva like Bham Bham Bhole' and Har Har Mahadev', the sadhus who have renounced the worldly life are least bothered about the militant threat and said it is a non-issue for us.

We only know dharma (religion) and our dharma is Sanatana which teaches us to love everyone. We are on a religious journey to meet our lord and we are only concerned about it and nothing else, Shri Raja Giri, a mahant from Assam, said.

Accompanied by 12 disciples including women, he said religion is above politics and it is pol-

itics which is dividing the people.

We have nothing to do with politics, Azan' (Muslim call for prayer) controversy or terror threat (to Amarnath pilgrims). We are all one and should respect and love each other, he said.

Another Sadhu Suraj Khuria, who had come from Indore about two weeks ago, said they have come for darshan' and do not fear militants.

We only fear our lord and pray to him that we do the right things on his earth till our last breath this is my only concern, he said.

Expressing similar views, Sadhvi Sapna Dass from Siliguri in West Bengal said she is going to meet the baba' and seek his blessings for the entire world.

I need nothing for myself but will seek blessings for the countrymen and the people around the globe. We will also pray for good sense to the terrorists who are taking innocent lives, she said.

Full of enthusiasm, Mahant Ram Giri Raj Rajashree Naga from Rajasthan said it was for the first time he was visiting the cave shrine.

We are happy to be going there and are satisfied with the security and other arrangements. We are hopeful of completing the pilgrimage without any trouble, he said.

For Shergiri Maharaj from Sukhdev Ashram in Uttar Pradesh, he has missed the darshan' for the past two years and is dying to reach the cave shrine in the first batch.

Most of the sadhus and sadhvis have performed the yatra over 15 times and they all are eagerly waiting for the day to be part of the yatra. However, many of them suggested that the government should run special trains to facilitate sadhus to reach Jammu from different parts of the country.

Mahant Rameshwar Dass, the head of the temple having a capacity to accommodate over 4,000 sadhus, said all necessary arrangements are in place to ensure that there is no inconvenience to the holy men.

Jt. Dir Info Kashmir Condoles Demise Of Wife Of Ghulam Hassan Kuloo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Joint Director Information Kashmir, Inam Ul Haq Siddiqui has expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of wife of Ghulam Hassan Kuloo, Printer, Publisher and Editor in Chief of Mirror of Kashmir who passed away on Saturday.

The Joint Director offered his deepest condolences to Ghulam Hassan Kuloo and his family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul besides courage for the bereaved family to bear

this irreparable loss.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Director (PR) Kashmir, Bilal Mukhtar, Assistant Director/ FPO, M Aslam Khan, Cultural Officer Burhan Hussain and other officers and officials of Information Department Kashmir have also extended sympathies to Editor in Chief of Mirror of Kashmir and prayed for peace to departed soul and courage for family to bear this loss.

They also condoled the demise of wife of M Shafi Simnani, Printer, Publisher and Editor in Chief of Daily Zamindar.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE PULWAMA

Caveat No. _____ of 2022

IN THE CASE OF:

M/s BuildTech Industries through Safdar Ali Wani S/o Mukhtar Ahmad Wani R/o Hawal, Srinagar

(Caveator)

Versus

Public at Large

(Caveatees)

In the matter of: Caveat application under sec 148-A of C.P.C on behalf of Caveator.

May it please your Honour,

The application is submitted as under.

- That the Caveators are running a business of manufacturing steel at IGC Lassipora for last many years.
- That the Caveator is apprehensive that the Caveatees may file a suit against the Caveator through representatives or attorneys and may succeed in getting an ex-parte order for the same.
- That in case the Caveatee succeeds in getting an ex-parte order against the Caveator, the same may cause great hardship and irreparable loss to the Caveator as well as the employees of the unit.
- That the copy of this application has been sent for publication in a local newspaper for communication to the public at large. (Copy of newspaper will be submitted within one day time)

In the premises it is therefore prayed that in the interests of Justice, the Caveator may be given an opportunity of being heard before an ex-parte Injunction/Order is passed by The Hon'ble Court on the presentation of suit by the Caveatee against the Caveator.

Caveator

FIRDOUS-KD

National Rowing C'ship: J&K Win Bronze In Sub Junior Category

Div Com Kashmir congratulates J&K Team



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Rowing Team on Saturday clinched its maiden medal at the concluding day of the National Rowing Championship held at Dal Lake here.

On the final day of 23rd Sub-Junior and 5th Inter State Challenger National Rowing Championship, J&K team clinched Bronze Medal in sub junior category.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole while congratulating the J&K team for bagging the medal said J&K has unlimited scope in water sports activities and in this direction the government is making its every effort to develop several water bodies.

During his speech at the concluding day of the championship, Pole expressed his satisfaction over the successful conclusion of the event and said it gave a huge opportunity to the region to display its natural water resources.

He added that J&K has water resources in abundance for which the government is mak-

ing all its efforts to develop water bodies for different water sports activities.

He observed that J&K has Alpine lakes which can be tapped for water sports activities for national and international water sports championships.

The Championship witnessed the participation of around 700 players and officials belonging to 25 States, Union Territories from different parts of the country.

General Officer in Command 31 Sub Area, President Rowing Federation of India, Organising Secretary, coaches and players from different States and UTs were also present on the occasion.

Medals and prizes were also distributed among the players in different categories of the event.

The event was conducted by J&K Rowing and Sculling Association under the auspices of Rowing Federation of India and sponsored by J&K Sports Council, Khyber with active support from J&K Police, Tourism, J&K Administration, Health, LAWDA, SKICC, SDRF, NDRF and SMC.

Ranji Trophy Final, Day 4: MP On The Cusp Of Historic Win



Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Rajat Patidar stamped his class with an authoritative century to put Madhya Pradesh on the cusp of their historic Ranji Trophy triumph against 41-time champions Mumbai on a rain-hit fourth day of the summit clash in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Heavens opened up minutes before the tea break, and Madhya Pradesh finished their first innings at 536 soon after resumption with a game-changing lead of 162 runs, courtesy Patidar's superb 122, that had as many as 20 boundaries.

Four hundreds have been scored by batters from either side but none oozed more class and competence than Patidar's, who was in a league of his own when it came to regal drives on both sides of the wicket.

At stumps, Mumbai erased some of the deficit, reaching 113

for 2 with Prithvi Shaw (44 off 51 balls) and Hardik Tamore (25 off 32 balls), promoted up the order, showing some positive intent but throwing away their wickets in desperation for quick runs.

Shaw was dismissed with a classic plan of bowling wide outside the off-stump and he finally chased one from Gourav Yadav straight into cover's hands.

With 95 overs left on the final day, there is very little chance of Mumbai winning this match unless they score around 320-plus runs in 50 overs (including Saturday's overs) and set a target of 150-odd for MP with at least 45 to 50 overs to get the 10 wickets.

The wicket isn't showing any signs of crumbling and hence a chance of an MP collapse in the fourth innings doesn't look imminent at the moment. Especially, knowing that they have a first innings lead, MP will like to down the shutters from hereon as ends will prove the means.

Mohun Bagan Sign Paul Pogba's Elder Brother Florentin

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Indian Super League heavyweights ATK Mohun Bagan on Saturday signed centre-back Florentin Pogba, the elder brother of 2018 World Cup-winning French midfielder Paul.

"It feels exciting to have joined a club as big as ATK Mohun Bagan. It makes me very proud. This legacy of the club is its jersey — I'm looking forward to the day I turn up in gree-and-maroon," the 31-year-old said in an ATKMB statement.

"This is a new challenge for me. It will give me a chance to know the country, new championships and many clubs. It's huge to me," he added. The Mariners already have Australian A-League star defender Brendan Hamill on board and with the latest acquisition, it will bolster their defence ahead of their AFC Cup inter-zonal semifinal in September.

Florentin last played for French Ligue 2 club FC Sochaux-Montebeliard where he still had one-year left in the contract.

Having joined in 2020, he played two seasons with the Sochaux jer-



sey, playing 62 Ligue 2 matches.

Unlike Paul Pogba, who plays for France, Florentin represents Guinea and has 30 caps for the national side since making his debut as a 19-year-old in 2010.

Born in Brest, Florentin was brought up in France and began his professional career in 2010 with CS Sedan where he played 45 matches across two seasons.

He then moved to AS Saint-Etienne in 2012 before making his Ligue 1 debut the next year.

He then went to the Turkish side Genclerbirligi SK, followed by Atlanta United in Major League Soccer where he won the US Open Cup and Campeones Cup.

"I wish you all the best at your new club ATK Mohun Bagan FC," Paul Pogba wrote on his Instagram story.

'Umran Malik Should Be In T20 World Cup Team'

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Impressed by his raw pace, former India skipper Dilip Vengsarkar feels rookie pacer Umran Malik should board the flight to Australia for this year's T20 World Cup.

"I hope so because he (Umran) is a very exciting talent. He did well in the IPL and he deserves a chance as he looked the best bowler in the format. I hope he is in the plane and I am sure he will do well if given an opportunity," Vengsarkar told reporters, in Mumbai, on Saturday.

The T20 World Cup is set to be played in Australia in October-November later this year.

"He (Umran) is young and rare to go. You must give an opportunity to someone who is in form. He is young, keen to play and hungry for success," added the former national chairman of selectors.

Umran had picked up 22 wickets in 14 games for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL this year but it is his ability to bowl consistently at 95 miles per hour that has caught the imagination of all.

He was subsequently rewarded for his consistency by earning his maiden national call-up for the T20 series against South Africa but did not get a game.



He has also been selected for the T20 series against Ireland, commencing on Sunday and it remains to be seen whether he gets to make his India debut.

"Well, I am not surprised that somebody, who is coming to the scene (and bowling over 150 kmph), because we have a lot of people (bowling) around the 140-142 area for the last six-seven years and especially in the IPL. I am not surprised (by the sheer pace of Umran)."

Hardik Pandya Relishes Captaincy Of T20 Squad Against Ireland

Press Trust of India

MALAHIDE (IRELAND): He struck gold in his debut season as captain in the IPL, and Hardik Pandya admits that responsibility brings out the best in him on a cricket field.

Hardik, who led the Gujarat Titans to the IPL title in the side's and his debut season earlier this year, has been named as captain of the Indian team for the two-match T20 International series against Ireland, starting here on Sunday.

And the dashing all-rounder said he believes in taking ownership on the field. "Earlier also, I liked taking up responsibility and now also it is the same but it is a bit more responsibility now. I always believed that I did better when I took responsibility," Hardik said during a virtual press conference on the eve of the first T20I.

"If I can take ownership of my own things and take my own decisions, they tend to be strong. Cricket is such a game, staying strong during situations is very important. Always responsibility was given to me and I took it and that's why I became better. While captaining I will see how I can give the same



responsibility to every player and give them the ability to fight with situations," he added.

Playing under two talismanic skippers in Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Virat Kohli has taught Hardik a lot about leadership qualities, but he said every captain has their own style.

"Obviously I have taken a lot of things from them (Dhoni and Kohli) but at the same time I also want to be myself, obviously my understanding of the

game is different but I have taken a lot of good vibes from them. I am not instinctive but I see more situation than go on my gut," he said.

"At what point of time, what decision the team requires, I focus on that rather than going on my gut. Gut always goes 50-50. I have got an opportunity to lead India. It's in itself a big thing. I don't play the sport to show anyone anything, if I am good enough. I was always the same," he said.

US Athletes React To Supreme Court's Abortion Decision



Agencies

U.S. national soccer team star Megan Rapinoe expressed her anger Friday over the Supreme Court's decision to strip the nation's constitutional protections for abortion, decrying an erosion of rights that women have had for a generation.

"I think the cruelty is the point because this is not pro life by any means," said Rapinoe, who was close to tears at times as she expressed her outrage.

The always outspoken Rapinoe was joined by some of the country's leading sports figures in publicly sharing their dis-

may, anger and concern after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, which guaranteed a woman's constitutional right to abortion.

Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James tweeted that the ruling was about "power and control," and he retweeted a couple posts about the effect of the decision on Black women.

Just a day before the ruling, Billie Jean King celebrated the anniversary of Title IX and it's impact on women and sports.

"This decision will not end abortion. What it will end is safe and legal access to this vital medical procedure. It is a sad

day in the United States," King said in a statement.

In her 2021 autobiography "All In," King said she had an abortion in 1971 in California, where it was legal.

Tennis player Coco Gauff found it hard to believe.

"Incredibly disappointed by the decision made today. The sad part is this will not stop abortions from happening ... this will only increase illegal and unsafe abortions. Today is a very sad day for our country and I cannot believe once again history is repeating itself," tweeted the 18-year-old Gauff, runner-up at the French Open earlier this month.

NZ Still In Headingley Fight, Says Mitchell



Agencies

LEEDS: New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell has likened the England series to a heavyweight boxing bout and thinks the Black Caps are still very much in the fight in the third Test after a topsy-turvy day two at Headingley.

Mitchell's third century of the series helped New Zealand to 329 on Friday but England charged back at them with Johnny Bairstow and Jamie Overton putting on 209 in an unbeaten seventh wicket stand to take the home side to 264 for six at stumps.

"It's been the same theme throughout this whole series. As an onlooker on the sides, I reckon it would have been a hell of a game of cricket to be watching today, obviously the ebbs and flows," Mitchell told reporters.

"We just linked it to almost a heavyweight boxing fight, the way

both teams are throwing punches."

After losing the first two Tests, the Black Caps looked firmly on course for a consolation victory when they had England reeling at 55-6 on Friday, only for Bairstow and debutant Overton to snatch back the momentum.

Mitchell was not surprised at the aggressive English batting given the way new England coach Brendon McCullum once played the game for New Zealand.

"It was a great partnership but at the same time we've still got a lead and we know there's a lot of cricket still to be played over the next three days," he added.

"If we can chip out a couple early tomorrow morning, then it's all game on again. Both teams are evenly poised and it will come down to small moments over the next three days as to who is going to win this one." (Reuters)

Australia Skipper Finch Lauds Sri Lankan Cricket Fans



Agencies

COLOMBO: Aaron Finch has paid tribute to Sri Lankan cricket fans after they turned Colombo's largest stadium yellow on Friday night to thank Australia for touring the country despite the economic crisis.

Sri Lanka is in the midst of its worst financial crisis since independence in 1948, forcing the island nation's population to endure power cuts, shortages and months of sometimes violent protests.

Finch captained the tourists in three Twenty 20 and five one-day internationals on Australia's first tour of the country since 2016, leading his side to a consolation victory in the final ODI on Friday.

"We're very grateful that we've been able to tour here. We know the difficulties that Sri Lanka has faced in recent times," he told reporters.

"Hopefully over these eight white-ball games we've been able to provide some joy to people in the country." Thousands of local fans donned the yellow that the Australia team wears in limited overs cricket as they flocked to the R. Premadasa Stadium on Friday after a social media campaign called on them to pay tribute to the tourists.

"It was outstanding, the Sri Lankan people are wonderful people," Finch added. "The support that they provide is second to none. They are great cricket supporters, it's not just constant noise, they ride the emotions of the game. When Sri Lanka are up and about, that's as loud as anywhere you'll visit in the world."

Australia won the Twenty 20 series 2-1 before Sri Lanka hit back with a 3-2 triumph in the ODIs. The tour concludes with two test matches in Galle starting next week. (Reuters)

Group Asks For Living Wages, Labour Rights For 2026 World Cup



Agencies

With this year's World Cup in Qatar clouded by labor and human rights issues, there's a push for the North American cities awarded games for the 2026 tournament to commit to livable wages, equitable hiring and worker protection.

The Dignity 2026 coalition has brought together groups including the AFL-CIO, Human Rights Watch and the Independent Supporters Council to work with FIFA and the individual host cities in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The coalition has met several times in the past few months with soccer's international governing body to discuss its commitment to these issues. With last week's announcement of the 16 cities that will host games, the effort has become

more targeted.

They say FIFA is listening, but has not pledged to require minimum standards.

"That means looking at fair living wages, targeted local hiring, strong health and safety protections and agreements that make sure workers have a voice on the job. So we have given them about nine points that we would like to see implemented across all of the host cities. Because one of the things we have found is the cities haven't gotten guidance about what the expectations are," said Cathy Feingold, director of the international department at the AFL-CIO.

"And so we think the best way to handle this is to make sure there are very clear binding frameworks that unify all of the host cities."

FIFA did not respond to a request for comment.