

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Friday 01 July 2022 | 01 Zil Hajj | 1443 Hijri | Srinagar | Vol: 25 | Issue: 151 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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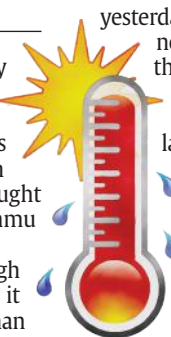
Bun Maska & Irani Chai JK Bank Lawns, Opp Ghat 6 Boulevard, Srinagar-1

No Respite In Sight, Kashmir Swelters In Intense Heat Wave Mercury Hits Season's New High In Srinagar At 34.2 Deg Celsius

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley continued to swelter under heat wave with Srinagar recording season's hottest day at 34.2°C even as monsoon rainfall brought about some respite to Jammu on Thursday.

As mercury hit a new high this season in Srinagar, it was over 0.2°C higher than



yesterday and 5.1°C above the normal for this time of the season, a MET official said. It also remained third highest in the last 12 years in Srinagar. On 9 June 2021, Srinagar recorded 34.7°C. The highest June temperature in Srinagar in the last 12 years was 35°C recorded on 3 June

2018. The highest ever June temperature in Srinagar was 37.8°C, recorded on 29 June 1978.

Meanwhile, Qazigund recorded a maximum of 31.9°C against 32.5°C on the previous day. The temperature was 4.2°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 29.2°C against 28.9°C on the previous day. The temperature was 4.4°C above

normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir during this time of the season, he said.

Kokernag recorded 30.9°C against 31.7°C on the previous day. It was 3.6°C above normal for the place in south Kashmir during this time of the season, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 24.2°C against 24.0°C on the previous night, the official said. While 20.6°C is normal for

the world famous skiing resort during this time of the season, the official said that the temperature was 3.6°C above normal for the famous place in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

With overnight monsoon rainfall, Jammu recorded a maximum of 31.7°C against 38.1°C on the previous night, the official said.

The temperature was 4.6°C below normal for J&K's winter

capital, he said. Banihal recorded a maximum of 28.8°C, Batote 25.4°C, Katra 27.4°C while Bhadarwah had a minimum of 32.7°C, the official said.

Earlier the weatherman said that monsoon arrived in plains of Jammu this morning.

"From today onwards, expect frequent showers, at times, intense in Jammu region especially in morning hours," a meteorological **| More on P6**

Pilgrims Begin Journey To Amarnath Cave Shrine

Press Trust Of India

PAHALGAM: Chants of Bam Bam Bhole' and Har Har Mahadev' reverberated the air at daybreak as ecstatic pilgrims began an arduous journey of faith to the Amarnath Cave Shrine housed among the mighty Himalaya peaks at an elevation of 3880 metres.

The first batch of about 2750 pilgrims left the Nunwan base camp here on the Pahalgam-Chandanwari route after being flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Piyush Singla, and secretary Tribal Affairs, Shahid Choudhary early in the morning.

Wearing their faith on their sleeves, the pilgrims men, including sadhus, women, old, young and children freshened by an early morning cool breeze of the famous tourist resort, assembled at the gates of the base camp after reaching here on Wednesday.

As the first light of the day broke out, their chants filled the air with fervour something which they hope to carry along the pilgrimage, to the naturally

formed ice-lingam at the cave shrine, which usually takes three days on foot via this route with night halts at Sheeshnag and Panchtarni.

The pilgrims expressed happiness over the resumption of the annual pilgrimage this year after a gap of almost three years. In 2019, the Yatra was curtailed days ahead of the abrogation of Article 370. The pilgrimage did not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are so excited, it is a matter of immense happiness that the Yatra is taking place this year and we will be able to have darshan, Ravina Chowdhary, a pilgrim from Rajasthan, said.

She said it was her first time in Kashmir and their family feels the atmosphere in the valley is very good.

We came here for the first time. We never expected such a good atmosphere. We feel so happy. We pray that everything remains well, that people do not face any problems and there is no untoward incident, she said.

The joy of Avantika, a young, first-time, pilgrim **| More on P6**



A yatri takes a selfie on his way to the cave shrine of Amarnath from Baltal route in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

ECI Sets Ball Rolling For J&K Assembly Polls Finalized Voters List To Be Published On Oct 31

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission will publish the finalised electoral rolls of Jammu and Kashmir on October 31, the union territory's first voters' list after the boundaries of assembly seats were redrawn in the delimitation exercise.

In a letter to the chief electoral officer of Jammu and Kashmir, the poll panel has given a timeline to complete various activities before the final publication of the electoral rolls on October 31.

Officials said the voters' list will keep getting updated as there are four cut-off dates in a



year now when those turning 18 can enrol themselves as voters.

Earlier, those turning 18 on or before the first day of the year, could apply to become voters on January 1. Now, those turning 18 on or before January

1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 can apply to become voters.

As per existing policy, the revision of electoral rolls with reference to January 1 of the coming year as the qualifying date is carried out in later **| More on P6**

Govt To Reward Informants On Misuse Of JKMSCL Supplies

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Government on Thursday announced 'suitable reward' to people who gives information about misuse of drugs or hospital items stamped as "JKMSCL Supply Not for Sale" by any person in or outside the Government Healthcare institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) is a Public Sector Undertaking of Government of J&K, which is the nodal agency for procurement, warehousing and distribution of generic medicines, surgicals, sutures, machinery/equipments and allied items for various

Government Health Institutions of J&K.

"The Drugs are released to Government Healthcare institutions only after Quality testing/analysis by the empanelled Drug Testing Laboratories which are GMP certified and NABL accredited. The medicines and allied items are stamped as JKMSCL supply- "Not for Sale". These are distributed free of cost in Govt. Hospitals only and are Not for Sale," JKMSCL said in a statement.

JKMSCL is having its Drugs and Vaccines Distribution Management System (e-aushadhi) for effective distribution of these supplies. The Purchase Order, inventory **| More on P6**

83 More Test Positive As Corona Cases Spike

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The daily Coronavirus cases continue to show a slight increase in Jammu and Kashmir as 83 more people tested positive for virus on Thursday while no fresh fatality was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, the Jammu division registered 59 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while 24 others were reported from Kashmir Valley, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 455089.

Giving district wise details, Jammu reported 49 cases, Srinagar 19, Kathua three, two cases each were reported from Samba, Poonch, Udhampur and Baramulla while one case each was reported from Rajouri, Budgam, Kulgam **| More on P6**

Nine-Year Old Cases HC Imposes Rs 35K Costs On Govt For 2 Adjournments

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has imposed Rs 35000 costs on the government for two adjournments this month in a petition after authorities failed to submit objections to the plea filed nine years ago.

First the court had imposed Rs 10000 penalty on Collector Land Acquisition Shopian on June 2 this year and now Rs 25000 have been imposed as the costs for the adjournment which the court said was "not inclined to but compelled by the circumstances".

"The writ petition and the connected petitions are pending since 2013. All the official respondents have not yet filed counter affidavit despite several

opportunities in the past," a division bench of Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani said in an order.

"Respondent No. 8 (Collector Land Acquisition, District Shopian), was directed to file objections to the writ petition but he has not filed the same despite imposition of cost of Rs. 10,000/- vide order dated 02.06.2022," said the division bench said, adding, "He was also directed to remain present before the Court, but he has not cared to appear nor has he deposited the costs probably for the reason that the order dated 02.06.2022 was never communicated to him."

At this state Additional Advocate General M. A. Chashoo prayed for and was granted a **| More on P6**

KP Body Urges Masjid Committees To 'Restore Confidence'

Auqib Javed

SRINAGAR: The Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti (KPSS) on Thursday appealed to majority community members in Kashmir Valley to restore confidence among all the minorities living in the valley.

KPSS is a body of Kashmiri Pandits, who did not migrate from the Kashmir Valley during the 1990s, when the militancy broke-out. The body in a tweet appealed to the Masjid communities to reach out to the minorities and restore the confidence through the public systems.

"Appeal to all masjid communities across Kashmir valley to restore confidence among all minorities in the valley through public systems," the body posted.

It may be noted, the KPs and migrant workers faced a series



File Photo

of attacks in the Valley after the abrogation of Article 370. Four Kashmiri pandits have been killed by the suspected militants since 5 August 2019.

The latest round of killing took place in May this year, when militants shot dead KP

clerk Rahul Bhat, inside his office in Chadoora town of central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Bhat was given his job under the Prime Minister's special employment package for migrants, announced in 2011 by the United **| More on P6**

3 Held For Procuring SIM Cards On Fake Docs

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The police here have busted a fake SIM card racket by arresting three persons in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Thursday.

Police registered a case after receiving specific information that a group of PoS agents were allegedly cheating people by forging their documents to procure SIM cards for their personal interests or selling such cards for criminal acts, a police spokesman said.

During the course of investigation, three persons -- identified as Iqbal Hussain Khanday, Mohammad Ishaq Bhat and Ghulam Hassan Dar -- were arrested, the spokesman said.

He said preliminary investigation revealed that the accused were working as retail vendors and used **| More on P6**

Air Pollution Increases Risk Of Premature Death By 20%: Study

Press Trust Of India

Exposure to above average levels of outdoor air pollution increases the risk of premature death by 20 per cent and mortality risk from cardiovascular disease by 17 per cent, according to a study. The research, published in the journal PLOS One, shows that along with high blood pressure, diabetes, and smoking, environmental factors such as air pollution are highly predictive of people's chances of dying, especially from heart attack and stroke. Using wood- or kerosene-burning stoves, not properly ventilated through a chimney, to cook food or heat the home also increased overall risk of death by 23 per cent and 9 per cent and cardiovascular death risk by 36 per cent and 19 per cent, the researchers said. Living far from specialised medical clinics and near busy roads also increased risk of death, they said. Researchers from NYU Grossman School of Medicine and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, US, collected personal and environmental health data from 50,045 mostly poor, rural villagers living in the northeast Golestan region of Iran. All study participants were aged over 40 and agreed to have their health monitored



during annual visits with researchers dating as far back as 2004. The study not only identifies environmental factors that pose the greatest risk to heart and overall health, but also adds much-needed scientific evidence from

people in low and middle income countries. Traditional research on environmental risk factors, the researchers noted, has favoured urban populations in high-income countries with much greater access to

modern healthcare services. The study showed that the one-third of study participants who lived within 500 metres of a major roadway had a 13 per cent increased risk of death. "Our study highlights the role that key

environmental factors of indoor/outdoor air pollution, access to modern health services, and proximity to noisy, polluted roadways play in all causes of death and deaths from cardiovascular disease in particular," said study senior author and cardiologist Rajesh Vedanthan. "Our findings help broaden the disease-risk profile beyond age and traditional personal risk factors," said Vedanthan, an associate professor at NYU Langone Health. The study showed that other environmental factors included in the analysis -- low neighbourhood income levels, increased population density and too much night time light exposure -- were not independent predictors of risk of death, despite previous research in mostly urban settings suggesting otherwise. The researchers analysed data gathered through December 2018. They then created a predictive model on overall death risk and death risk from cardiovascular disease. The researchers plan to continue their analysis and hope to apply the predictive model to other countries with the aim of fine-tuning its predictive capacity. Their new tool could serve as a guide for evaluating the effectiveness of environmental, lifestyle and personal health changes in reducing mortality rates worldwide, they said

‘Effects Of Covid-19 Infection On Thyroid Gland Present For Atleast A Year’



Knowing that thyroid hormones correlate with the disease severity is important, and the fact that the thyroid gland seems directly involved in SARS-CoV-2 viral infection needs to be taken into account

London, Jun 29 (PTI) The effects of COVID-19 infection on the thyroid gland can remain even after one year, according to a recent study. Researchers at the University of Milan in Italy found that severe COVID-19 disease impacts thyroid function through a variety of mechanisms. They tracked individuals with thyroid dysfunction associated with COVID-19 illness for a year in order to better characterise such thyroid involvement and track its progression over time. During moderate-to-severe COVID-19 disease the occurrence of thyroiditis -- inflammation of the thyroid gland -- plays an impor-

tant role in thyroid dysfunction, the researchers said. This is in addition to other well-known mechanisms mainly acting on the hypothalamus-pituitary-thyroid axis, they said. The study, presented during the 24th European Congress of Endocrinology in Milan, found that hormone imbalance is usually mild but increases in severe cases of COVID-19. "There is a clear link between thyroid dysfunction and COVID-19 disease," said Ilaria Muller from the University of Milan. "Knowing that thyroid hormones correlate with the disease severity is important, and the fact that the thyroid gland seems directly

involved in SARS-CoV-2 viral infection needs to be taken into account," Muller said. The thyroid function is crucial to the human body's metabolism, growth, and development. By continuously releasing a stable amount of thyroid hormones into the bloodstream, it aids in the regulation of numerous body functions. The thyroid gland generates extra hormones when the body needs more energy in particular situations, such as when it is growing, cold, or during pregnancy. The study looked at more than 100 patients admitted to the hospital with severe COVID-19, analysing their thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) and other indicators. Thyroiditis occurred frequently in the COVID-19 patient population and the thyroid function, as well as inflammatory indicators, returned to normal in nearly all instances shortly after the end of their COVID-19 illness, the researchers said. However, after 12 months thyroiditis regions remained visible at thyroid ultrasound in half of the individuals, even if reduced in size. The thyroid uptake of technetium or iodine, an indicator of thyroid function, was still reduced in four out of six individuals at nine months, although it had mostly recovered after 12 months. The long-term clinical consequences, if any, are unknown, according to the researchers.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (JAL SHAKTI)

FEROZPORA BASIN IRRIGATION DIVISION TANGMARG

(Office Phone No.01954-254611)(Email Address:fbidivisontangmarg@gmail.com)

EXTENSION

Sub:-Extension of last date for submission of tenders.

Ref:-

1. This Office ENIT No.24of 2022-23, Issued vide endorsementNo.FBID/CC/1854-73 Date:-03-06-2022.

In view of the several requests made by contractorAssociations/Contractors for Extension of Bid Submission date and for more participation the critical dates for the above referred E-Nits is extended and refixed as under :-

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Last date of bid submission | 06.07.2022 Up-to 4:00 PM |
| 2 | Opening of bids online | 07-07-2022 at3:00 PM |
| | | |

No.FBID/CC/2539-52

Date:-30-06-2022

DIPK-5246/22

Executive Engineer,
F.B.I Division,Tangmarg

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

ANANTNAG PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL

NIT NO 60 OF R&B/Khanabal/2022-23 /E-TENDERING/7433-43 DATED 29-06-2022

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

| S. No | Name of Work | Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs) | Earnest Money (In Rs) | Time of Completion | Major Head of Account | Position of AA | Class of Contractor |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Construction of road with flood protection bund from Danter bridge to Kadoo Bagh at Reshi Colony Mir danter MC Anantnag Ward No 1 | 2.50 | 200 | 5000 | 15 Days | IDMT | Accorded Vide Order No. MC/ ANG/127 of 2022, Dated 13.06.2022 | DEE Class& MSME's Only |
| 2. | Construction of lane from Thak Boon to Masjid ShariefZadipora Anantnag by way of RBM Grade II and Grade III and R wall MC Anantnag Ward No 2 | 8.28 | 600 | 16560 | 15 Days | IDMT | Accorded Vide Order No. MC/ ANG/127 of 2022, Dated 13.06.2022 | CEE, DEE Class& MSME's Only |
| 3. | Construction of cement concrete lane from Khanabal Bazar to Daggaapora foot bridge MC Anantnag Ward No 3 | 2.20 | 200 | 4400 | 15 Days | IDMT | Accorded Vide Order No. MC/ ANG/127 of 2022, Dated 13.06.2022 | DEE Class& MSME's Only |
| 4. | Construction of drain from Graveyard to H/O Mohammad ShaficGassi at LidderMaatookhanabal MC Anantnag Ward No 4 | 2.84 | 200 | 5680 | 15 Days | IDMT | Accorded Vide Order No. MC/ ANG/127 of 2022, Dated 13.06.2022 | DEE Class& MSME's Only |
| 5. | Construction of Toilet block near Masjid Hyder Old Mattan Adda Dangerpora MC Anantnag Ward No 7 | 2.54 | 200 | 5080 | 15 Days | IDMT | Accorded Vide Order No. MC/ ANG/127 of 2022, Dated 13.06.2022 | DEE Class& MSME's Only |
| 6. | Fencing of graveyard at Ashraf Abad Anchidora ward No 10 MC Anantnag | 2.18 | 200 | 4360 | 15 Days | IDMT | Accorded Vide Order No. MC/ ANG/127 of 2022, Dated 13.06.2022 | DEE Class& MSME's Only |
| 7. | Construction of protection bund from H/O Manzoor Ahmad Tantrayupto H/O Nisar Ahmad Tantray at Alamdar Colony AzadporaAnchidora ward No 11 MC Anantnag | 3.38 | 200 | 6760 | 15 Days | IDMT | Accorded Vide Order No. MC/ ANG/127 of 2022, Dated 13.06.2022 | DEE Class& MSME's Only |
| 8. | Construction of lane and drain from H/O Naseer Ahmad Rangraz to H/o Manzoor Ahmad Gazi at Kadipora ward No 12 MC Anantnag | 2.24 | 200 | 4480 | 15 Days | IDMT | Accorded Vide Order No. MC/ ANG/127 of 2022, Dated 13.06.2022 | DEE Class& MSME's Only |
| 9. | Construction of balance portion of lane from H/O Muktar Ahmad Mir upto Tahir Ahmad Khan at SarnalBala ward No 13 MC Anantnag | 2.01 | 200 | 4020 | 15 Days | IDMT | Accorded Vide Order No. MC/ ANG/127 of 2022, Dated 13.06.2022 | DEE Class& MSME's Only |
| 10. | Repairment of drain from H/O Sajad Ahmad Ganie to Govt Boys Middle School Samalpayeen ward No 16 MC Anantnag | 1.95 | 200 | 3900 | 15 Days | IDMT | Accorded Vide Order No. MC/ ANG/127 of 2022, Dated 13.06.2022 | DEE Class& MSME's Only |

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

| S. No. | Particulars | Dated | |
|--------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 29-06-2022 | |
| 2. | Period of Downloading of bidder documents | From 29-06-2022 To 07-07-2022 | (12:00PM) (04:30PM) |
| 3. | Bid submission Start Date | From 29-06-2022 To 07-07-2022 | (12:00PM) (04:30PM) |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date | 08-07-2022 | (10:30AM) |
| 5. | Date and time of opening of bid (online) | In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal | |

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt(Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal(Tender Inviting Authority) (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. Q.M.No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal(Tender receiving Authority).

3. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/ Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

4. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favourof Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work.Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

5. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @3% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

6. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site 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 online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

8. 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 to acquaint bid submission process.

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

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

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

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

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

9. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

10. Scanned copy ofcost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabalmust be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

11. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

12. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

13. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

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

DIPK-5176/22

(ErQazJaveed Amin)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Khanabal



LCMA Demolishes Several Illegal Constructions In Various City Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Continuing with its demolition drive to remove illegally raised structures, the Lake Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA) through its Enforcement Wing on Thursday demolished several illegal constructions, structures in various areas of its jurisdiction.

The Enforcement Officer of LCMA said the structures were demolished at Harwan, Lal Bazar, Nigeen, Saida Kadal, Nishat, Braine Upper, Ishber & Nowpora.

During the demolition drive two 1st storey, one 2nd storey, one 3rd storey, one shed, one tin walling, two Plinths, one wall Block and pillars were demolished on spot. Further, illegally dumped earth filling in the areas of Tailbal and Saidakadal was also removed and seized.

Legal action was also initiated against the violators. The demolition team was accompanied by a police party from PCR.

“The demolition drive will continue and elements creating hurdles in the process will be dealt with under law”.

LCMA has appealed to the people living within the jurisdiction of the Authority not to take any illegal construction in the prohibited area and warned of stern action against the violators as warranted under law.

Seeking public cooperation in saving the Dal and Nigeen lakes from falling prey to encroachers, LCMA Authority said that stern action shall be taken against those raising illegal constructions.

LCMA appealed to the locals residing in the area of LCMA to apply for online building permissions online through the official website.

CUS Hosts Dr. Ashok For Special Session On NEP-2020

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Cluster University Srinagar organized an interaction session on National Education Policy (NEP-2020) with eminent educationist and Chairperson Mewar University (Rajasthan), Dr. Ashok Kumar Gadiya at the varsity office on Thursday.

The session was held under the ‘Meet the Eminent’ series started by the university and was presided by Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Qayyum Husain.

During his elaborate presentation on NEP-2020, Dr. Gadiya spelt out the distinct features of the policy and the opportunity it offers for revolutionizing the education system of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Qayyum said Cluster Uni-



versity Srinagar has been making concerted efforts to ensure that the constituent colleges are geared up to implement NEP-2020 from the ensuing academic session. He also thanked the guest speaker for sharing his views on the policy and making some valuable suggestions regarding its effective implementation.

Other senior officials of the university present on the occasion included Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Dean Academic Affairs; Prof. Khurshid Ahmad Mir, In-charge Registrar and Controller of Examinations; Dr. Ruhi Jan Kanth, Dean Teacher Education; Dr. Shah Jahan Wani, Dean Engineering & Technol-

ogy; Dr. Shabnam Ara, Dean Students Welfare; Dr. Haris Tantray, Dean Sciences; Dr. Mujahid Ahmad, Dean Social Sciences and Dr. Deebea Sarmad, Dean Humanities & Liberal Arts.

Dr. Gadiya has made a distinct contribution to modernizing and revitalizing the education system. He has established several educational institutions including Mewar University, Rajasthan, Mewar Institute of Management, Ghaziabad; Mewar Law Institute, Ghaziabad; Mewar Girls College, Chittorgarh, Mewar Girls Ayurved Nursing Centre, Chittorgarh, Mewar Girls Industrial Training Centre, Chittorgarh, Mewar Girls College of Teachers Training, Chittorgarh, Mewar Girls College of Nursing, Mewar International University, Kuchikau I, Abuja-Keffi road, New Karu Nigeria.

Art & Craft Exhibition Inaugurated At Amira Kadal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice-Chairperson, J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board on Thursday inaugurated the Art & Craft Exhibition organized by Government Girls Middle School (GGMS) Amira Kadal.

The function was attended by Director School Education Kashmir, senior officers of J&K KVIB, Chief

Education Officer Srinagar, staff of the school and a large number of students.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Chairperson underscored the importance of skill development to the young students which will help them to enhance their physical, artistic and emotional aspects of life to survive in the competitive world. She said that such skills enhance their creativity, encourage independent thinking and

contribute to the skilled workforce of the future.

She further stated that learning by doing and earning by learning is one of the most important pillars of future career development. This approach shall help students to gain practical experience which would stand by them throughout their life and will help them to develop their self-confidence and personality.

Director Inaugurates Technical Symposium At NIT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal on Thursday inaugurated the first of its kind technical symposium SPARK 2022 on the campus.

The event was organized by the Department of Electrical Engineering in collaboration with the SPARK 2022 Student Committee and was attended by all UG, PG students, and Ph.D. scholars of the department.

The symposium was presided over by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Rakesh Sehgal. He was the chief guest on the occasion. While, Head Electrical Engineering Department, Dr. Mohammad Abid Bazaz was “Guest of the Honor” at the event.

Addressing the gathering in his key speech, Prof. Sehgal congratulated Head EE Department, Dr. Aabid Bazaz, and faculty coordinator SPARK Dr. D V Siva Krishna Rao for taking this initiative to support and polish the skills.

Prof. Sehgal asserted that SPARK will prove



beneficial to the students of Electrical engineering and will ignite a spark of learning within them.

In his message, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said SPARK will act as a platform for students where in they can showcase their talent and skills to be professionals.

He emphasized that it is up to the members and students to advance it by holding awareness workshops both on and off-campus. Such workshops will encourage students to think out of the box.

Prof. Bukhari also appreciated Head EE Deptt, organizers and faculty coordinator for starting the initiative.

Earlier the program with the welcome address by Dr. DV Siva Krishna Rao, faculty coordinator SPARK. He said Spark 2022 is aimed to introduce

the students of the branch to the plethora of avenues they can explore.

ĒIt was curated for analyzing the many facets of electrical engineering, to steer a clearer path for the future of the students,Ē Prof Rao said.

Head EE Department, Dr. Mohammad Abid Bazaz in his address mentioned how the department has always been at the forefront of producing globally competent technocrats.

“They can set a benchmark in innovation and research to contribute to nation-building by making a demonstrable environment, social and economic impact,” he said.

On the occasion, various other faculty members also delivered their addresses including Prof. Aijaz Ahmad, Dr. Chilaka Ranga, Dr. Kushal Jagtap, and Dr. Asadur Rehman.

The event was followed by a scientific quiz competition ‘PLAYBUZZ’ in which a number of students from the department competed. Later winners were felicitated by Dr. Bazaz, the HOD Electrical Engineering department.

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It is information for the general public that we the partners of Muqadas Medicate chemists and drugists want to cancel the said license at Drug Office Srinagar. In this regard if any body having any objection may contact concerned authorities within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Muqadas medicate chemists & Drugists Bernina Srinagar.

mcb

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th under Below mentioned particulars Name : Dilshada Ahnter D/O Zahoor Ahmad Wani R/o Bandgam

Details of Marks Certificate lost

Secondary School Examination (class 10th)

Roll No 2417220 Session /Year 2018-19

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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary

Sub Office Magam

bmg

File No. JSD-HRM06/2/2022-A-Jal Shakti Department

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Jal Shakti Department

Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar

Subject:- Appointment of candidate for the post of Assistant Engineer, (Civil) In the Jal Shakti Department.

Reference: Letter No.PSC/DR/A.E/Civil/PHE/2019 Dated 27-01-222 received from Jammu and Kashmir, Public Service Commission.

Corrigendum to the Government Order No. 103-JK (JSD) of 2022 Dated 24-05-2022

Please read Caste (Name) as Naseer Ahamd ‘Rather’ instead of Naseer Ahmad ‘Rahter’ in the Government Order No.103-JK (JSD) of 2022 Dated 24-05-2022 issued under endorsement No.JSD-HRM06/2/2022-A-JSD (CC No. 132277) Dated 24-05-2022

By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Sd/- (Ashok Kumar Parmar) IAS

Principal Secretary to the Government

Jal Shakti Department

DIPK-5205/22

No. JSD-HRM06/2/2022-A-JSD (CC No. 132277)

Dated 20-06-2022

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HIGHWAY STATUS

Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
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01- Zil- Hajj
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR 3: 37
ZUHR 12:33
ASR 5:34
Magrib 7:50
ISHA 9: 31

This Day In History

- 69 - Roman General Vespasian is first proclaimed Emperor by troops in Egypt, during year of the four emperors
- 251 - The Battle of Abrittus is won by the Goths against the Romans. Roman Emperors Decius and Herennius Etruscus are killed
- 1097 - 1st Crusaders defeat Sultan Kilidj Arslan of Nicaea
- 1200 - In China, sunglasses are invented
- 1253 - Battle at Westkapelle-Floris the Guardian beats Gwijde van Damperre
- 1543 - England & Scotland sign Peace treaty of Greenwich
- 1674 - Spain, France & Netherlands form Triple Alliance
- 1690 - Army of Protestant King William III defeats deposed Roman Catholic King James II in Battle of Boyne in Ireland
- 1747 - Battle at Lafeld: France beat British/Dutch army
- USA
- 1776 -1st vote on Declaration of Independence for Britain's North American colonies
- 1798 - Napoleon's fleet reaches Alexandria, Egypt
- 1810 - Louis Napoleon abdicates as king of the Netherlands
- 1839 - Abdul-Medjid succeeds Mahmud II as Sultan of Turkey
- 1862 - Battle of Malvern Hill [Poindexter's Farm], day 7 of 7 days battles, Union forces repel Confederate attack, Tactical Union victory (US Civil War)
- 1890 - Great Britain and Germany sign Zanzibar-Helgoland Treaty
- 1896 - Wilfrid Laurier sworn in as 1st French speaking Prime Minister of Canada
- 1905 - Albert Einstein introduces his theory of special relativity
- 1910 - Union of South Africa becomes a dominion
- 1913 - Serbia and Greece declare war on Bulgaria

From KO Archives

Valley Rivers Swell As Glaciers Melt

Pulwama Areas Under Laar Waters

Observer News service

SRINAGAR Rivers and streams in the valley have registered an alarming increase in water levels due to the intense spell of heat gripping the region.

Several government departments have been put on alert to deal with an imminent threat of floods, even as over two hundred households have been displaced in Pulwama due to waters from the swollen Laar nullah entering inhabited areas.

Glaciers melting under the abnormally high temperatures have raised levels in the Jhelum and other rivers and streams of the valley.

In Pulwama a sudden surge in the Laar stream has inundated a large area in Jora village displacing 250 of its six hundred households, a KNS report said.

~~Score of houses have come~~ under water and hundreds of kanals of land have been submerged, the report said. People have fled their homes seeking higher ground for safety.

The Arbal area, located on the banks of the Laar too has been inundated. Water has entered dozens of residential houses the report said.

A delegation from the affected areas has met the additional deputy commissioner Pulwama to apprise him of the situation.

The ADC has directed the tehsildar concerned to dispatch a team to review the situation and organise relief for the flood-hit population

Water has entered paddy fields in several places in the uttle) because of rivers over-flowing their banks.

Experts fear that a flood situation is imminent if the heat spell persists with its present intensity. The govt has ordered the departments concerned at the district level to be on alert to deal with any eventuality.

The metrological department says that although the maximum temperature is 5 degrees Celsius above normal and the minimum temperature 7 degrees Celsius above normal, the present situation cannot be characterised as an intense or extraordinary heat wave

The rest of the Country is experiencing normal monsoons and rainfall can be expected in the valley within the next two to three days, a spokesman of the metrological department said.

(Kashmir Observer, 01 July, 2005)

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

LG’s Outreach

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday pleasantly surprised everyone by inviting the heads of the political parties for an evening meeting at Raj Bhawan. The meeting discussed the arrangements for the ongoing Amarnath yatra. In a tweet, LG said he met representatives of political parties and discussed arrangements and management of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. “The sacred pilgrimage strengthens our faith in the goodness of mankind and its successful conduct is the responsibility of every citizen of J&K UT,” a part of the tweet read. On their part, the J&K politicians said the yatra has remained part of Kashmir ethos and that it is a belief shared by all people in the union territory. The meeting was hosted by Sinha hours after he flagged off the first batch of Yatris from Jammu’s Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

That said, it was the first time that the LG has invited J&K leaders for a meeting, among them the leaders of the PAGD with whose politics the government has differed with. But on the question of yatra, all of them, except a few, come together. Did the meeting discuss anything besides the Amarnath pilgrimage? Nothing is known so far. The meeting was brief and called at very short notice. The PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti chose not to go. Her party said that they should have been informed about the meeting days ago and brief about its agenda. However, the National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah attended the meeting together with the BJP president Ravinder Raina, the leader of the AAP party Altaf Bukhari, Muzaffar Hussain Beigh and the others. And according to the LG, the leaders, “speaking in one voice observed that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is like a big festival, a celebration of Kashmiriyat for common man of J&K and each and every citizen of UT will ensure warm hospitality & comfort of the pilgrims.”

It would be interesting to see what redeeming difference to the existing state of affairs would be made by the fresh engagement between the government and the major politicians of the UT. The situation has not been encouraging on this front over the last three years. Last year in June, heads of the political parties in the UT had met the prime minister Narendra Modi and the home minister Amit Shah in New Delhi. The PM had assured J&K leaders that his government will take steps to end “Dil ki doori aur delhi ki doori (distance between hearts and the distance with Delhi). But many J&K parties, particularly those from the Valley have often said that centre has taken no follow-up action since. Here’s hoping that the situation changes for the better from hereon.

OTHER OPINION

Frontiers of regulation

There are fears that this missive will immediately invalidate business models used by the large ‘challenger’ credit card players who use credit lines loaded by non-bank partners, to offer revolving credit facilities. Wallet and app providers who offer Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) facilities for small-ticket transactions are unclear if this diktat applies to them.

Given that RBI has not shared this directive publicly, one only can only guess at the regulatory intent behind it which may be two-fold. One, given the systemic risks posed by unsecured retail lending, RBI may be keen not to allow too many non-bank players to enter the revolving credit business. The regulator has so far been quite conservative in authorising entities to issue credit cards; it recently clarified that NBF-Cs cannot issue credit cards without its express approval. Instruments such as challenger cards, which use tripartite agreements between a fintech player, bank and NBFC to offer revolving retail credit, essentially allow non-banks to bypass these rules. Burgeoning volumes of unsecured retail credit outside of Indian banks’ books could turn a headache for RBI as this could pose systemic risks. Two, RBI could also be worried about opaque practices of wallet-based lenders offering unsolicited loans which put the borrower’s credit score at risk. Many instances have surfaced of online shoppers being lured with freebies, into loans for small-ticket transactions with neither explicit consent nor disclosures on processing fees, credit period and interest. Given that most fintech lenders swear by ‘instant processing’ of loans and rush through the KYC process which requires sharing of sensitive Aadhaar and PAN details, there’s high risk of ID theft and misuse too. To plug this, RBI must insist on fintech players putting in place water-tight security measures and making upfront disclosures on the terms of each loan.

Fintech players need to take this episode as a wake-up call on not predicated their entire business model on regulatory loopholes or grey areas, in the hope that RBI will look the other way. RBI on its part needs to recognise that new-age fintech players, warts and all, do offer innovative products that offer enormous ease of transaction to the consumer. They make credit and savings products accessible to the vast population of retail folk unserved by mainstream banks. It must thus strive not to throw the baby out with the bathwater, while cracking down on doubtful practices in the sector.

Business Line

3 Mistakes That Damaged
Uddhav Thackeray

Ashutosh

There is no doubt that Uddhav Thackeray failed as a leader. In 2019, by dumping the BJP, he ended a trusted relationship of more than three decades. They were natural allies. Both had Hindutva in their hearts. His calculation was that the BJP, which had outperformed the Sena in elections, would have swallowed the regional party



Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray, Aadiya Thackeray and Sanjay Raut (File image: PTI)

Can Uddhav Thackeray survive this debacle? That's the big question after he resigned last night as Chief Minister, cornered by his own party, a large faction of which has turned against him.

Many have already written the political epitaph of Uddhav Thackeray, alleging that does not have the talent of his father to fight back, that he is too simple a man to fight the sharks that swim in the political waters of Mumbai. Balasaheb was undoubtedly of a different mettle. He was aggressive, he was a dare-devil, he knew when to bend and when to roar (he was frequently called a lion or a tiger) to threaten opponents, including with street violence.

But the aggression was a development of the 1980s. During the Emergency, when he faced with Indira Gandhi's might and fury, he caved in meekly. He was told by the then Maharashtra Chief Minister that he had only half an hour to either publicly support the Emergency or go to jail; he did not waste time and chose the former. Balasaheb was young and nobody thought at the time that one day, he would rule Mumbai, the absolute power behind successive governments. Uddhav Thackeray, unlike his father, doesn't come across as flexible. If he had read the nature of the Modi regime and character of the BJP after 2014, he would not have been bested. Or at least it would not have caught him so unaware.

There is no doubt that Uddhav Thackeray failed as a leader. In 2019, by dumping the BJP, he ended a trusted relationship of more than three decades. They were natural allies. Both had Hindutva in their hearts. His calculation was that the BJP, which had outperformed the Sena in elections, would have swallowed the regional party. He was right in that. The BJP under Narendra Modi is determined to expand its hold so that it greatly reduces any dependence on allies. Maharashtra is the country's richest state, Mumbai is the financial capital, and the BJP believes it must be able to take charge of the area without needing a partner of significance. In Devendra Fadnavis,

it has a leader who is aggressive about winning by hook or by crook, within the party and outside. Uddhav Thackeray found it too intimidating and insulting to play second fiddle to the BJP. But the mistake he made was that he broke Balasaheb's golden rule. Instead of being king-maker, he decided to be the king.

Balasaheb was powerful in Mumbai and in Maharashtra even before he allied with the BJP and formed the government in 1995. It was impossible to ignore him. He had an army of subalterns who were ready to do anything for him - including breaking the law. In a way he was a 'political underworld' who was accountable to none. Balasaheb was clever enough not to become the Chief Minister in 1995; he gave the job to Manohar Joshi. Everybody in Mumbai knew where the real power lay, who was the Sarkar, but this Sarkar was not accountable to the public. He was not responsible for the failures of the government. So when Manohar Joshi failed, he was replaced by Narayan Rane. Easy.

Once Uddhav Thackeray decided to be Chief Minister, he exposed himself to critics, including within his own Sena, of making compromises for power. Instead of being the arbiter for power-hungry Shiv Sena politicians, he was seen as competing with them for power. He was no different...the Thackeray mystique shredded. I don't know if he was guided by Pawar Politics, but he should have been guided by his father's strategy instead. Once Eknath Shinde revolted, Uddhav Thackeray realised his mistake. Leaving the Chief Minister's bungalow much before he resigned as Chief Minister was an attempt at course correction, but the damage was irreversible by then.

Uddhav Thackeray made another mistake - in putting his son in his Cabinet. Like Balasaheb, Kanshi Ram was supremely powerful because he never sought to be Prime Minister or Chief Minister; with this moral authority, those who took office from their teams dared not defy them. In India, moral authority can be more effective than political power. Making son Aadiya a minister al-

lowed allegations of nepotism and dynasty.

The third mistake was that he allowed for perception to build of Sharad Pawar as king-maker. He was the chief negotiator and trouble-shooter of the government, godfather of the three-party alliance. In a way Sharad Pawar replaced Balasaheb. He donned the role of senior Thackeray. The power centre moved away from 'Matoshree'. Instead of Thackeray, Pawar became the Sarkar. Balasaheb and Sharad Pawar were good friends, but Balasaheb was never seen to be dependent on anyone for advice. Even when Sharad Pawar became very powerful in Delhi politics, it was he who used to visit Balasaheb and not the other way around.

Uddhav Thackeray's inexperience in part allowed Sanjay Raut too large a space within the Sena, upsetting other senior leaders, who were already opposed to the new alliance with the Congress and Sharad Pawar.

But Uddhav Thackeray has made three important decisions:

1. He did not let himself be defeated on the floor of the House. He cannot be accused of seeking any unethical deal with the rebels or with the BJP. He showed maturity in his emotional appeals to the rebels to sit across the table and discuss things, he said he was ready to make amends. Sanjay Raut can be faulted for his language during the crisis, but Uddhav Thackeray made no mistakes on this front.

2. Through the crisis he projected himself as a victim, betrayed by his own men. This will hold sway over his cadre and possibly, the public.

3. He appears to have acknowledged and understood that as Chief Minister, he ignored the party. He now seems determined to rebuild the party.

This could help him restructure his party - and his own career

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

Ashutosh is author of 'Hindu Rashtra' and Editor, satyahindi.com



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India’s Own mRNA Vaccine

Kudos to Pune-based Genovax Biopharmaceuticals Ltd.,for developing GEMCOVAC ®- 19, the first Indigenously developed mRNA vaccine against COVID-19 licensed for emergency use by the Drug Controller of India for safe and effective usage in the age group of 18 and

above. It is the third mRNA vaccine for COVID-19 to receive international approval. In contrast to other mRNA vaccines, which often require sub-zero settings, Gemcovac-19 can be stored from 2 to 8 degrees. The vaccine was certified by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) as being secure, well-

tolerated, and immunogenic. mRNA vaccines function by preparing the immune system to combat the virus before becoming infected. When mRNA vaccines are administered to a person, they cause a certain type of reaction and a certain group of cells to be activated. This helps the body produce stronger antibodies and pre-

vents the Covid infection.Genovax's goal of granting low- and middle-income nations worldwide sustainable access to the vaccine in order to slow the pandemic's spread is highly commendable.

Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakoma

Increase Duration of Summer Vacations

We are all experiencing a significantly higher temperature this season, with temperatures soaring to 10-year highs. Houses in Kashmir are mostly built to equip harsh cold and cool summers, therefore the scorching heat is unbearable to us Kashmiris. Working, going to schools and offices, performing daily

chores has become gruesome due to the heat. Kids are suffering the lash of heat the most, while having to sit and study in jam-packed classrooms with no cooling equipment at all. Many students are complaining of dizziness due to dehydration, heat rash on the neck, cramps, headache, irritability, lethargy and weakness. Furthermore, hot days can lead peo-

ple to suffer heat exhaustion, and in extreme cases, heat stroke. Kids' bodies don't acclimate to the heat as well as adults. They don't sweat as effectively. They absorb more heat since they have smaller bodies and a higher ratio of surface area to body mass. Owing to the contemporary weather conditions, the authorities must announce summer vacations as soon as

possible, and moreover an extension in the number of holidays should be given. Instead of the usual 10-12 days, the vacations should be increased to about 20-25 days until the heat wave subsides significantly. Children need this time off, to relieve themselves of the blazing summer heat.

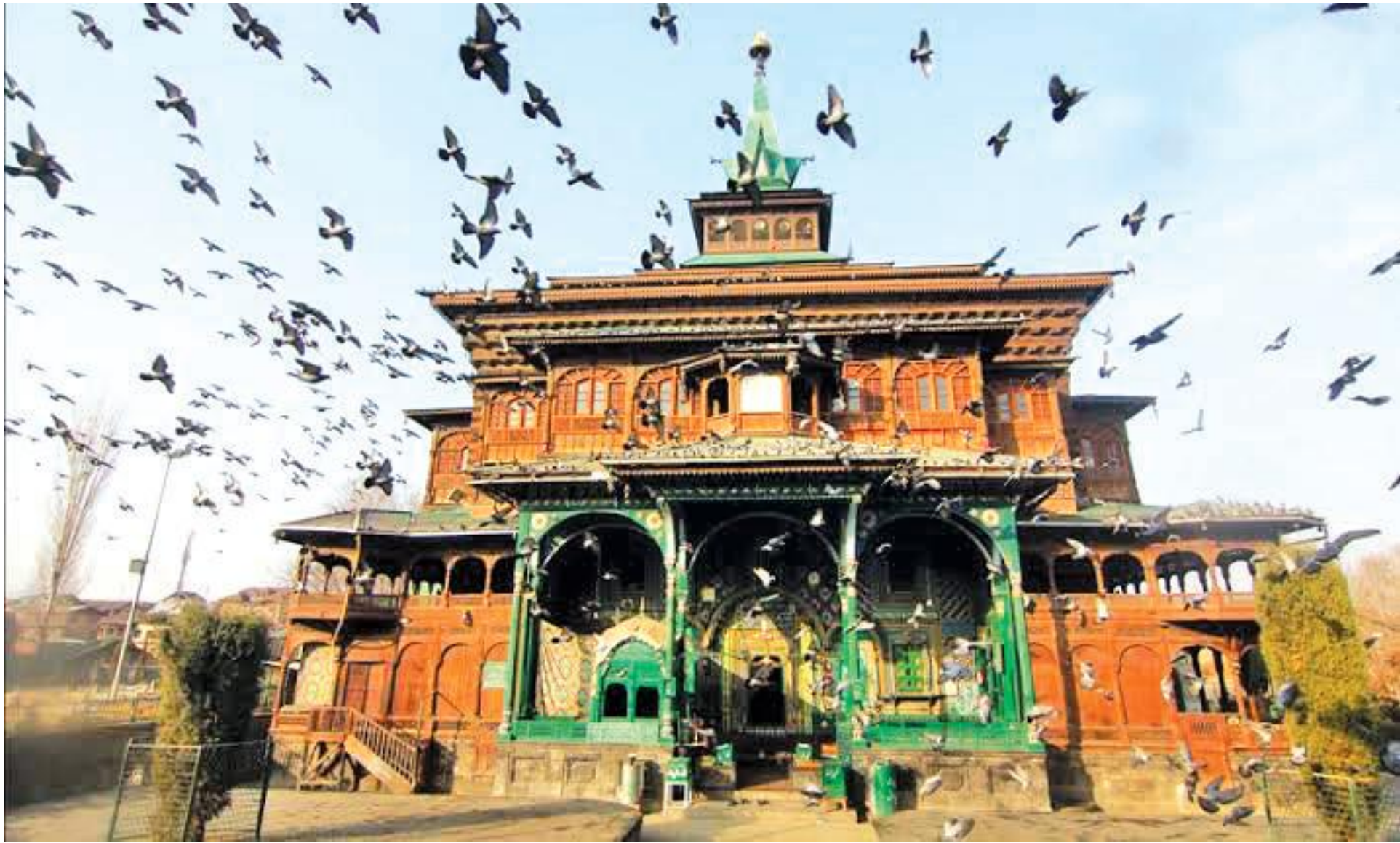
Hadiya Mir

Kashmir's Spiritual Mason

“

He was a dignified mentor of this beautiful Valley - a dervish for the poor and an advisor to the Sultans. The people of this "Little Iran" learnt arts and crafts through his guidance, thus obtaining fame in the world." Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani deputed his chief disciples to various parts of the Valley, for establishment of the Sufi communes, known as Khanqahas.

These became the centres of the economic, social, cultural and spiritual activities of the Akhis or the Sufi brotherhood



Fida Muhammed Hassnain

Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani (1314-1385) is a renowned in Kashmir as Bani-a Musalmani or the Crescentader who brought them en-masse within the fold of Islam. In fact, it was his Sufi massage of love, harmony, and brotherhood which made Islam popular among the Kashmiris.

While giving the spiritual message, he did not ignore the material needs of his disciples. He imported about seven hundred craftsmen from Central Asia for introducing several handicrafts

which were not know to the people.

Kar-i-Qalam-dani or Paper-Mashe; Khatum-band or Ornamental wooden ceiling; Calligraphy; Shawls, Paper making; Namdas or felt carpets, and some metal and leather crafts came from Samarkand, Kashgar, Yarkand, Khotan, Hamadan, and Mashad. Kashmir had its own tradition of embroidery and needle work, carpet weaving, tile making, metal work, wood work but the arrival of master craftsmen resulted in introducing new forms, technique and orientation.

After having absorbed creative

influences, the Kashmiri artisans reached the highest pinnacles of glory. The credit for making Kashmir handicrafts renowned in the world goes primarily to Mr. Sayyid Ali Hamadani and afterwards to Sultan Zain-al-abidin Budshah (1420-1470) of Kashmir. However, Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani is considered nation - builder of the Kashmiris. Allama Iqbal Lahori lauds the achievements of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani in these verses: "This great Master from Iran, who was a direct descendent of the Holy Prophet, worked like a mas-on to build the fate of Kashmiri nation. Great and mag-

nanimous as he was, he gave them education, wisdom, culture and religion.

He was a dignified mentor of this beautiful Valley - a dervish for the poor and an advisor to the Sultans. The people of this "Little Iran" learnt arts and crafts through his guidance, thus obtaining fame in the world." Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani deputed his chief disciples to various parts of the Valley, for establishment of the Sufi communes, known as Khanqahas. These became the centres of the economic, social, cultural and spiritual activities of the Akhis or the Sufi brotherhood.

At these centres, the Akhis would carry on producing works of arts and crafts and engage themselves in economic activities. They would conduct the Sufi practices for their personal spiritual elevation and for the benefit of others.

These spiritual exercises included Ashgal or Sufi therapy exercises, Zikr or incantation are recitation, Muragabah or meditation and same or whirling.

The article is from KO Archives and was originally published on April 7, 2005

The Ten Days of Virtue

Yaqeen Institute

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "There are no days during which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these days," meaning the (first) ten days of Dhul Hijjah. [Sunan Ibn Majah #1727]

But, where do I even begin? Not to worry, here is a list of ways you can make the most of this Dhul Hijjah even if you're not at Hajj.

1. FAST!

It's common to fast on the 9th day of Dhul-Hijjah, the Day of Arafah, but did you know that it's sunnah to fast the first 8 days as well? This year, set that alarm for suhoor every day. Fasting is a good reminder to stay engaged and mindful of your goals during the 10 days.

2. PURIFY YOUR INTENTIONS

You may have a busy ten days with different responsibilities pulling your time. Make an intention to allocate time for ibadah, and also renew your intentions for the everyday tasks you have to do. All of our actions can take us closer to Allah if we do it for Allah's pleasure.

3. LEARN ABOUT THE VIRTUES OF DHUL HIJJAH

Seeking knowledge is a form of worship. The Prophet ﷺ said, "Whoever travels a path in search of knowledge, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise." [Sahih Muslim #2699] It's easy to learn about Dhul Hijjah through our video series with Dr. Omar Suleiman.

4. GIVE IN CHARITY

All deeds are worth more during the sacred hours of Dhul Hijjah, especially giving in charity. Choose one or more organizations to give a little to each day. If your organization of choice is Yaqeen, we've made it easy for you!

5. GET YOUR BODY GOING! VOLUNTEER



In the midst of increased fasting, prayer, and charity, there is no better time to dedicate a few hours to your community. Sign up for a shift at a food shelter, help clean a highway, or assist with a halaqa at your local mosque—there are endless ways to get involved.

6. INCREASE IN REMEMBRANCE: DHIKR

The Prophet ﷺ said, "During [the 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah] recite a great deal of tahleel, takbeer, and tahmeed."

La ilaha illa Allah, Allahu akbar, Al-hamdulillah

Make these three sayings a center-point of your days!

7. PRACTICE GRATITUDE

Being grateful is both a core component of an Islamic mindset and a frequently recommended mindfulness method. A practice of regular gratitude through reflecting on one's blessings and saying "alhamdulillah" can keep you mindful and connected during the 10 days. Allah emphasizes gratitude in the Qur'an and you can see how by reading this paper: The Art of Gratitude: Qur'anic Themes on Shukr.

8. PRAY TAHAJJUD AND OTHER NAWAFIL

Prayer is, of course, a year round

practice. But this is a chance to hone in on your daily prayers. Spend a little more time on each of them, aiming to increase your focus and intent, and, if you can, sprinkle in extra sunnah prayers. Be inspired to start your day right with tahajjud by listening to Dr. Tamara Gray in her series: Tahajjud: Waking Soul and Society.

9. REFLECT & MAKE DU'A

The 9th day of Dhul Hijjah, the Day of Arafah, is a time for extra devotion. Those on Hajj are spending it deep in du'a, while many of us at home are fasting before Eid celebrations begin. Set aside time on the 9th day to sit down and

speak intimately with Allah, knowing with all your heart that He is as-Sami, the One who always listens. (P.S., if you need some Dhul Hijjah du'as, you can download some from our newest series.)

10. OFFERING THE UDHIYA (QURBANI)

Of all the methods to draw closer to Allah during these incredibly blessed days, perhaps the greatest is sacrificing an animal. By doing so, we follow the sunnah of our father Prophet Ibrahim (as), provide the meat as charity to those who are in need, establish one of the rites of Islam, and ultimately draw closer to Allah. In fact, the offering of

6

It's common to fast on the 9th day of Dhul-Hijjah, the Day of Arafah, but did you know that it's sunnah to fast the first 8 days as well? This year, set that alarm for suhoor every day. Fasting is a good reminder to stay engaged and mindful of your goals during the 10 days

sacrifice is often called qurbani, from the word qurb, which means closeness. This is a form of drawing closer to our Creator.

The Prophet ﷺ said, "No human performs a deed on the day of Sacrifice (i.e., the 10th of Dhul Hijjah) more beloved to Allah than the sacrifice of an animal. On the Day of Judgment, it (the sacrificed animal) will appear with its horns, and hair, and hooves, and indeed its blood will be accepted by Allah from where it is received before it even falls upon earth, so let your heart delight in it." [Sunan Ibn Majah #3126]

11. PREPARE FOR EID

Eid falls on the 10th of Dhul Hijjah and is meant to be a joyous day. Prepare for it by calling friends and family over to your home. Wrap presents for those you love and decorate consciously. Be sure to be considerate of new converts in your community and help them join in your celebrations.



Kashmir Observer lens man Abid Bhat captures the mood of devotees on the beginning of annual Amarnath Yatra through Baltal route on Thursday.

NATO Vows To Guard 'Every Inch Of Territory' As Russia Fumes

Agenceis

Madrid: An unstable world could get even more dangerous if NATO does not remain strong and united, the head of the alliance said Thursday at the end of a summit where Western leaders labelled Russia a direct threat to the security of their nations.

During their three-day meeting in Madrid, NATO members confronted a geopolitical landscape marked by big-power competition and myriad threats, from cyberattacks to climate change. The leaders cast their sights around the world - drawing a rebuke after accusing China of posing serious challenges to global stability. But Russia's invasion of Ukraine dominated the summit.

We live in a more dangerous world and we live in a more unpredictable world, and we live in a world where we have a hot war going on in Europe," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said. At the same time, we also know that this can get worse.

That is why the Western military alliance has a core responsibility to keep the war in Ukraine from spilling into other countries while making clear to Moscow that it would protect every inch of NATO territory, Stoltenberg said.

That territory is set to grow. At the summit, NATO leaders formally invited Finland and Sweden to join the alliance,

after striking an agreement to end opposition from Turkey. However, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he could still block the Nordic countries' membership, if the Nordic pair do not keep their promises.

If the accession is approved by all 30 member nations, it will give NATO a new 800-mile (1,300 kilometer) border with Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned he would respond in kind if Sweden or Finland agreed to host NATO troops and military infrastructure. He said Russia would have to create the same threats for the territory from which threats against us are created. Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas said Putin's threats were nothing new.

Of course, we have to expect some kind of surprises from Putin, but I doubt that he is attacking Sweden or Finland directly, Kallas said.

NATO leaders turned their gaze south for a final summit session Thursday focused on Africa's Sahel region and the Middle East, where political instability aggravated by climate change and food insecurity sparked by the war in Ukraine is driving large numbers of migrants toward Europe.

The U.S. and other Western nations also are seeking to counterbalance the growing influence of China and Russia in the

developing world. Stoltenberg said "Moscow and Beijing are using economic leverage, coercion and hybrid approaches to advance their interests in the region.

The Beijing government called the alliance a Cold War remnant and accused it of maliciously attacking and smearing China by including it on NATO's list of global challenges.

But Stoltenberg said it was Russia's invasion of Ukraine that had brought the biggest overhaul of our collective defense since the end of the Cold War. In response, NATO has poured troops and weapons into Eastern Europe on a scale unseen in decades.

The NATO leaders agreed at the Madrid summit to dramatically scale up military force along the alliance's eastern flank, where countries from Romania to the Baltic states worry about Russia's future plans.

NATO announced plans to increase almost eightfold the size of the alliance's rapid reaction force, from 40,000 to 300,000 troops, by next year though details of specific troop commitments remained vague.

Most of the troops would be based in their home nations but dedicated to specific countries in the east, where the alliance plans to build up stocks of equipment and ammunition. Member nations have given

Ukraine billions in military and civilian aid to strengthen its resistance. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who addressed the summit by video link, asked for more.

He urged NATO to send modern artillery systems and other weapons or face a delayed war between Russia and yourself.

The question is, who's next? Moldova? Or the Baltics? Or Poland? The answer is: all of them, he said.

US President Joe Biden, whose country provides the bulk of NATO's firepower, announced a hefty boost in America's military presence in Europe, including a permanent US base in Poland, two more Navy destroyers based in Spain, and two more F35 squadrons in the UK.

Before the war started, I told Putin that if he invaded Ukraine, NATO would not only get stronger, but would get more united, Biden told reporters. And we would see democracies in the world stand up and oppose his aggression and defend the rules-based order. That's exactly what we're seeing today.

Still, strains among NATO allies have emerged as the cost of energy and other essential goods has skyrocketed, partly because of the war and tough Western sanctions on Russia. There also are tensions over how the war will end and what,

if any, concessions Ukraine should make.

Money remains a sensitive issue just nine of NATO's 30 members currently meet the organization's target of spending 2% of gross domestic product on defense.

Britain, one of the nine, announced a further 1 billion pounds (1.21 billion) in military support to Ukraine on Thursday. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the U.K. it would increase military spending to 2.5% of GDP by the end of the decade. Host country Spain, one of the lowest spenders in the alliance, aims to hit the 2% target by 2029, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said.

The summit also produced a new Strategic Concept, NATO's once-a-decade set of priorities and goals.

The last such document, in 2010, called Russia a strategic partner. Now, NATO accuses Russia of using coercion, subversion, aggression and annexation to extend its reach.

The 2010 document made no mention of China, but the new one flagged Beijing's growing economic and military reach as a challenge to NATO's members.

NATO said that China strives to subvert the rules-based international order, including in the space, cyber and maritime domains and warned of its close ties with Moscow.

CBI Registers Three FIRs Against Imposters Claiming To Be From PMO



Agenceis

New Delhi: The CBI has registered three FIRs based on complaints from the Prime Minister's Office that some imposters were trying to exert influence by claiming to be working in the PMO, officials said Thursday.

The CBI has taken over the investigation to look into the three complaints filed by the PMO.

It has registered three separate FIRs against unidentified persons, one Prince and Shiva Kumar, the officials said.

"It has come to the notice of this office that Manoj Kumar Meena, IPS(2012, AGMUT) posted in Chandigarh has been approached by a person claiming to be Rohit Yadav, Joint Secretary, Prime Minister's Office (PMO) using mobile number 7009808342 and soliciting transfer of a police constable," the complaint, now converted into the FIR against unidentified persons, alleged. It said prima facie it appears

to be a case of impersonation of PMO official since no such call was made by such official and the number is also not of the official.

The second case relates to a person claiming to be working as personal assistant in the PMO who assured a person named Ravikant Kharab that he would procure a job in Reserve Bank of India for a bribe of Rs 3 lakh, the officials said.

It is alleged Kharab paid Rs 25,000 to a guy named 'Prince', they said.

The third case relates to Kerala-resident Shiva Kumar who calls himself a cardiac surgeon and health advisor to the Prime Minister of India and Nepal, they said.

"Scrutiny of the complaint has revealed that a person named Dr. Shiva Kumar from Kerala has been learnt to be impersonating as PMO official and making calls to people from his mobile number 080759-94461, allegedly claiming to be Personal Advisor to the Hon'ble PM," the complaint had alleged.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

No Respite In Sight

department official said, adding, "Rain, in spells not continuous, especially in morning hours is likely till July 5th."

China Opposes

and improve livelihoods." "Some of those projects are in the Kashmir part that is under the control of Pakistan. Relevant Chinese companies who run the projects do so with the aim of helping the local people to develop the economy and improve their livelihoods," he said.

"That doesn't mean our position on Kashmir has changed," he said.

On June 25, Pakistan said it rejected India's attempt to hold a meeting of G20 countries in Kashmir, hoping that members of the grouping will be fully cognisant of the imperatives of law and justice and would oppose the proposal outright.

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

This will be the first major international summit expected to be held in Jammu and Kashmir 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.

Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said in a statement that Islamabad had taken note of news items appearing in the Indian media indicating that India might be contemplating to hold some G20-related meeting in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Pakistan completely rejects any such attempt by India," Ahmad said.

He said it was a well-known fact that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognised disputed territory between Pakistan and India, and has remained on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council for over seven decades.

He hoped that in case of any such controversial proposal from India, the G20 members will be fully cognisant of the imperatives of law and justice and would reject it outright.

Pilgrims Begin

from Delhi, knew no bounds as she set on the journey she had been longing to go on having heard about it from her family members.

It is like a dream come true for me. I had heard about the yatra from my relatives but being on it myself gives me so much of joy, she said.

I have come here many times. Though the journey is arduous, we are hopeful that Bhola Baba will be with us. I want the Lord to keep everyone safe and the situation to remain peaceful here, another pilgrim said.

Most of the pilgrims expressed happiness over the arrangements made by the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) and the J-K administration.

This is a moment of happiness. The arrangements are

very good. We are satisfied and have no complaints, Kavita, a pilgrim from Delhi, said.

However, some like Vijay Kumar from Gujarat, said the arrangements, including registration-related, at the base camp were not up to the mark.

The vehicle-bound pilgrims then proceeded towards Chandanwari, from where the journey on foot or ponies or 'palkis' begins.

At Chandanwari, the pilgrims were let through the access control gates after verifying their credentials.

Locals of the area also made it to Chandanwari early in the morning and provide gear like trekking poles made of wood, caps, gloves, raincoats etc.

Many locals have also set up stalls inside the Nunwan base camp, selling a wide variety of merchandise for the pilgrims.

Elaborate security arrangements were put in place for the smooth conduct of the Yatra. Security forces conducted another round of sanitisation along the route in the wee hours of the day shortly before the commencement of the pilgrimage.

New bunkers, within short distances, have come up along the route, while as security forces personnel have been deployed in strength to avoid any untoward incident.

Security agencies have apprehended a higher threat perception to the Yatra this year, even as security personnel have been deployed three to four times more in strength for the pilgrimage this year.

To ensure only bona fide pilgrims are present at the pilgrimage, the SASB has asked all intending pilgrims to carry Aadhaar cards or any other biometric verified document with them.

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

The peaks leading to the holy cave have been covered by the security forces and a round-the-clock vigil is being maintained.

The pilgrimage is being monitored with the help of CCTV cameras and drones on both routes.

LG Performs

"I have full faith that the devotees traveling from all over the country to seek the divine blessings of Shri Amarnathji will have a safe and memorable pilgrimage," Sinha said, according to an official spokesperson. He said that expecting a heavy footfall of yatri, the UT government and SASB have made extensive arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra this year.

He further said that the devotees can have 'Darshan' of the Holy Ice Lingam at the Holy Cave Shrine through live telecast of Morning and Evening Arti through Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board's website link: <http://www.shriamarnathjishrine.com/AartiLive.html> or through Shrine Board's Android based Application which may be downloaded through the link: <http://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ncog.shriamarnath>

"Besides the Board members of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Nitishwar Kumar, CEO Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, and Lt General

Amardeep Singh Aujla, GOC 15 Corps also participated in the Puja," the spokesperson added.

ECI Sets Ball Rolling

part of each year in all states and union territories so that the final publication of the electoral rolls could be made in the first week of January of the succeeding year.

However, due to various reasons, the annual revision of electoral rolls could not be undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir after special summary revision, 2019.

In the meantime, an exercise to redraw the boundaries of constituencies in the UT was in progress and the finally delimited segments were notified by the Delimitation Commission on May 5 this year.

As the revision of electoral rolls was not conducted for the last three years in Jammu and Kashmir, new eligible electors could not get themselves registered in the electoral rolls, the letter noted.

"... in order to update electoral roll on the basis of newly delimited constituencies, so that all newly eligible young electors can have the opportunity to get themselves enrolled, the exercise of Special Summary Revision with reference to the next qualifying date is required to be undertaken without further delay," the letter said.

The electoral roll revision needs to be carried out before the first assembly election is conducted in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Setting in motion the process of holding assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, the Election Commission had earlier this month initiated the revision of electoral rolls following the delimitation exercise in the union territory and the draft rolls will be prepared by August 31.

According to the timeline, integrated draft electoral roll will be published on September 1. The entire month of September has been kept for filing claims and objections which are to be disposed of by October 15.

Govt To Reward

management, vaccine supply chain management, drugs distribution etc. all come under the ambit of e-aushadhi, through which JKMSCL can trace any of the batch of the drug in use or misuse.

"It is for the information for all the General Public that if any person comes to know about misuse (Sale/Purchase) of any Drugs or Hospital items stamped as- "JKMSCL Supply Not for Sale" by any person in/outside the Government Healthcare institution, he/she may inform through post or e-mail mdjkscl2@gmail.com or in person," reads the statements, adding, "His/her identity shall be kept secret and he /she shall be rewarded suitably."

83 More Test

and Kupwara. Among the total cases, 167005 are from Jammu division and 288034 from Kashmir.

There was no death due to the pathogen reported in the last 24 hours, they said. So far 4756 persons have succumbed to the virus—2331 in Jammu and 2425 in Kashmir.

Besides, they said, 37 Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—22 from Jammu division and 15 from

Kashmir Valley. So far 449840 people have recovered, leaving the active case tally at 493—353 in Jammu and 140 in Kashmir.

KP Body Urges

Progressive Alliance (UPA) government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, as part of a long-term rehabilitation plan for KPs who left the Valley in the early 1990s.

Bhat's killing sparked large scale protests by Pandit government employees in the Kashmir Valley. They blocked roads and highways in Srinagar and other parts demanding relocation to safer places outside the Valley, a demand that the government refused to accept.

Earlier, the suspected militants shot dead a prominent KP pharmacist Makhan Lal Bindroo at his shop in Srinagar on 5 October 2021. Before him, Ajay Pandita alias Bharti, a 40-year-old Kashmiri Pandit sarpanch was shot dead by militants on 8 June 2020.

A year later, on 2 June 2021, another KP Rakesh Pandita, was shot dead by militants in south Kashmir's Tral town.

Following the targeted killings KPSS, approached the Chief Justice of the J&K High Court to pass an order to protect the lives of the religious minorities in the Valley.

On Thursday, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh initiated a case based on the letter petition filed by the KPSS.

A bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani heard the matter on June 27, 2022 and adjourned it to July 4, 2022 on the request of the petitioner.

"Mr Gowhar Jan, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner on being put certain questions, seeks time to look into the matter once again," the Court said in the order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

3 Held For Procuring

to issue SIM cards on fictitious names by using the photographs of their agents, family members and themselves.

"Also, as a supporting identification document, some of the accused have used a forged sale of J&K Bank Branch Kremshore to prepare fake bank passbooks," he added.

In order to unearth the entire module, a Special Investigation Team headed by ASP Budgam Gowhar Ahmad has been constituted to investigate the case thoroughly, he said.

HC Imposes

week's further time to file the objections and to ensure presence of the Collector Land Acquisition, District Shopian, as well as deposit the cost of Rs.10,000 imposed on June 2.

"Since it is a matter of 2013, we are not inclined to adjourn it but the circumstances have compelled us to do so," the court said, adding, "Accordingly, we direct this petition to be listed on 20.07.2022 on which date the Collector Land Acquisition, District Shopian, shall remain present in Court along with record."

It asked the AAG to ensure that the cost of Rs. 10,000/- imposed vide order dated 02.06.2022, are also deposited.

"The aforesaid adjournment is subject to payment of further cost of Rs. 25,000/- which shall be paid and deposited by the next date," the court added.

5 'Hybrid Militants' Arrested in Srinagar, Sopore

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested five alleged hybrid militants of Lashker-e-Taiba and its offshoot TRF from Srinagar and Sopore towns.

In Srinagar, based on specific input regarding movement of militants in the district, Srinagar Police laid special checkpoints at various locations, a police spokesperson said.

On one such checkpoint laid by Police & 50RR on Sanat Nagar Chowk-Rangreth road area, he said, one hybrid militant was arrested and incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including a pistol was recovered from his possession.

"On his disclosure during questioning, an anti-terrorist operation was launched in Pampore area, during which one more hybrid terrorist was arrested. During his search, arms & ammunition including 03 pistols were recovered from his possession," he said.

He identified them as Naveed Shafi Wani of Shar Shali Khrew Pampore and Faizan Rashid Teli of Kadlabal Pampore.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested duo was involved in transportation of terrorists, arms/explosive material & providing logistic support to the terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT in district Srinagar before as well," the spokesperson said.

Moreover, he said, 6 Pistol

magazines, 11 Pistol rounds, 01 Grenade, 16 Gelatin super power sticks, Cortex wire (6 mts approx), 08 Detonators have been recovered from their possession.

"Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 71/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Saddar and further investigation is in progress," he added.

Meanwhile in Sopore, the spokesperson said, on a specific input regarding movement of militants in the area, a joint naka established by Police alongwith Army (52RR) and CRPF (177Bn) at Takyabal Krankshivan intercepted 03 suspicious persons who tried to flee from the spot but were tactfully apprehended by the alert joint party.

"During search, 01 AK 47 rifle, 02 pistols, 02 magazines, 10 pistol rounds & 01 hand grenade were recovered from their possession," he said.

He identified the trio as Rahid Mushtaq Ganie & Amir Shafat Mir, both residents of Amargarh and Tahir Nisar Sheikh of Baage-Rehmat, Sopore.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the trio are uncategorised terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT and were in constant search of an opportunity to carry out terror attacks in the area," he said.

Accordingly, the spokesperson said that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Tarzoo and further investigation is in progress.

Range Officer, Forest Guard Fall In ACB Net

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday trapped and arrested Range officer and Forest Guard, Kokernag, Anantnag for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 10,000 for allotment of timber.

Anti Corruption Bureau received a complaint alleging therein that Sohail Unis Shikari, Range officer, Kokernag, Anantnag is demanding bribe of Rs 22,000 through Forest Guard Ghulam Muhammad Naikoo for processing the file of the complainant for allotment of timber Kairao (Kair) for house construction, an ACB spokesperson said in a statement issued here Thursday.

"The complainant managed Rs 10,000 and approached ACB for legal action against the corrupt officials," he said.

The spokesperson further said that the contents of complaint prima facie disclose the

commission of offence punishable U/S 7 of the PC Act 1988 by public servants namely Sohail Unis Shikari, Range officer and Ghulam Mohd. Naikoo, Forest Guard, Kokernag, Anantnag.

"Accordingly a case under FIR number 10/2022 was registered in Police Station Anti Corruption Bureau, Anantnag and the investigation started," he said.

Immediately after registration of the case, a trap team was constituted, the spokesperson said, adding that the team caught the accused forest guard Ghulam Mohd. Naikoo while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 10,000 from the complainant.

"He was arrested on the spot by the ACB team. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses. Sohail Unis Shikari, Range officer, Kokernag, Anantnag was also arrested by the ACB team," the spokesperson said, adding that further investigation is going on.

J&K Bank Commissions 3 ATMs In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deepening its footprint further to meet the growing banking needs of the people, J&K Bank today commissioned three more ATMs in Srinagar taking the Bank's ATM network in Kashmir to 837 and to 1409 in the country.

The Bank's MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash today snapped the inaugural ribbon of the ATM at Kralsangri, Brein besides inaugurating the other two Teller Machines at Usmania Colony Bagh-e-mehtab and Siddiq Abad Batamalo through virtual mode in presence of Divisional Head & General Manager Syed Shafat Hussain Rufai, DGM Sajad Hussain Malik, Cluster Heads and other officers of the Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash said, "With customer convenience at the heart of Bank's operations, commissioning of these ATMs is part of deepening drive to meet the growing banking needs of the people by providing state-

of-the-art banking facilities at their nearest possible and convenient destination."

On the occasion, while urging the public to avail the Bank's facilities, Divisional Head (Kashmir) Syed Shafat Hussain said, "The ATM has been installed to meet the immediate banking requirements of local population in addition to the growing footfall of tourists visiting Dal-Lake along with the adjacent sites of sight-seeing."

Meanwhile, President J&K Employees Coordination Committee Shah Fayaz along with other office-bearer today called on Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash to discuss issues related to the recently launched 'Phone pe Loan'.

During the meeting he also requested for increasing the limit of Cash Credit loan scheme for the employees. MD & CEO assured the visitors that the Bank would address all the genuine issues besides looking into the matter of enhancing the limit of cash credit scheme of government employees.

Amid Tight Security, 5,700 Pilgrims Leave For Amarnath From Jammu



A WOMAN DEVOTEE and her daughter smiles before setting off for an arduous journey to the cave shrine of Amarnath through Baltal route in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Second batch of 5,700 pilgrims left from here in a secured convoy to perform pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in south of Himalayas amid tight security arrangements.

Chanting 'Bam Bam Bhole', the pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in a cavalcade of 230 vehicles early Thursday morning.

The 43-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine will conclude on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

With the 2nd batch, the total number of pilgrims, who have left for the Amarnath cave shrine

from Jammu goes up to 10,700, officials said.

Over 5,000 to 6,000 fresh pilgrims have arrived in Jammu from various places across the country for their onward journey to Amarnath, they said.

After on-the-spot registration at three counters and supply of tokens at two counters, they have been lodged in 32 lodging centres and basecamps here, they said.

The annual Amarnath Yatra is being organised after a gap of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The shrine is situated 3,888 metres above the sea level in Himalayas in Kashmir. It houses an

ice stalagmite structure called the 'Lingam' that wanes and waxes with the phases of the moon. Devotees believe the 'Lingam' symbolises mythical powers of Lord Shiva. The Yatra commenced on Thursday from the traditional 48-km Nunwan route in south Kashmir's Pahalgam and the 14-km Baltal route in central Kashmir's Ganderbal.

Over 3.42 lakh pilgrims had paid obeisance at the shrine from July 1 to August 1, 2019, before the government cancelled the pilgrimage midway ahead of the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

J&K Hospitals Get Rs 300 Cr To Procure Machinery, Drugs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Health and Medical Education department has accorded sanction for advance withdrawal of around 300 crore for procurement of drugs and other instruments besides machinery and equipment.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the advance drawl of 299.60 crore (Rupees two hundred ninety nine crore sixty lakh only) by Director Finance, Health & Medical Education Department against the available funds for the current financial year (2022-23) for onward placement of these funds with the Managing Director, J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd, J&K." Reads the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary to the government.

"The sanction shall be subject to the conditions that Managing Director and the FA / Chief Accounts Officer, J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, J&K,

shall vouchsafe the availability of funds, The expenditure shall be booked on admissible items only as approved by the competent authority after observing all the required codal formalities, all the codal formalities as per GFR 2017 shall be followed while incurring expenditure out of the funds, the funds shall be utilized for the specific purpose only without any deviation, UCs / Red Accounts of the advance drawl shall be furnished to the concerned quarters within stipulated time and the drugs/ machinery equipment shall be made available by the J&K-MSCL to the respective HoDs as per their requisition, which shall be commensurate to the funds earmarked against each in the annexure to this order."

As per order, the amount includes 1400 lakhs for machinery and 1500 lakhs for drugs each for GMC Srinagar and Jammu, 1738.75 lakhs for machinery and 5075 lakhs for drugs each for associated hospitals Srinagar and

associated hospitals Jammu, 5 lakh machinery and 2.5 lakh for drugs each for Government Ayurvedic hospital Jammu and Government Unani Medical College Srinagar.

Furthermore amount includes 535 lakhs for machinery and 2200 lakhs for drugs for Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and 500 lakh for machinery and 2100 lakhs for drugs for Directorate of Health Services Jammu.

50 lakh and 15 lakh for Government Dental College Srinagar and 75 lakh and 25 lakh for Govt Dental college Jammu beside that 5 lakh and 500 lakh for Director Ayush J&K for procurement of machinery and drugs respectively, amount adds.

7.5 lakh for machinery and 5 lakh for drugs controller, drugs and food control organization besides 500 lakh and 400 lakh each for GMC Rajouri, Baramulla, Kuthua, Anantnag and Doda for procurement of machinery and drugs respectively—(KNO)

Health Ministry Takes Various Steps To Make Amarnath Yatra A Success

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Under the directions of Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers and as per the directives of the Supreme Court, various initiatives have been taken to streamline Amarnath Yatra for the devotees.

Amarnath Yatra started on Thursday and will conclude on 11th August 2022. State governments have been informed about the required arrangements along with medical preparation including services of Specialist doctors, as well as General Duty Medical Officers (GDMOs) to supplement the efforts of the Jammu & Kashmir Government, particularly by those States from where large numbers of pilgrims arrive.

Following initiatives have been taken: For attending medical emergencies, health professionals including doctors and paramedics will be deployed in batches. First batch commenced from 25th June 2022 – 13th July 2022. Second and third batches would start from 11th July 2022 – 28th July 2022 and 26th July 2022 – 11th August 2022. Medical professionals are being deployed from Central Government hospitals and CGHS.

The Government of J & K through the Director Health

Services (DHS Kashmir) had requested for 155 medical personnel (87 doctors, 68 paramedics) from Central Government Hospitals and CGHS.

In total, 176 nominations (115 doctors and 61 paramedics) have been received from the Central Government Hospitals and CGHS. The complete list has been communicated to DHS Kashmir for further deployment. Medical professionals (Doctors and paramedics) are being deployed from 11 states and UTs. The Government of J & K through the Director Health Services (DHS Kashmir) had requested for 437 medical personnel (154 doctors, 283 paramedics) from 11 states and UTs (Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, West Bengal, Maharashtra).

In total, 433 nominations (214 doctors and 219 paramedics) have been received from 9 states. Deployment of 428 medical personnel (211 doctors, 217 paramedics) have already been made by DHS (Kashmir) for all the three batches.

Two 50-bedded hospitals To augment the indoor facility at Baltal and Chandanwari, MoHFW is facilitating this through DRDO.

The 50-bedded hospital has been set-up at Baltal and Chandanwari by DRDO through the funds provided by MoHFW.

For the above stated two 50 bedded hospitals, an additional requirement of staff (129 each from UT of U & K; and from MoHFW) was requested from DHS (Kashmir). The surplus buffer manpower available with MoHFW [through the Central Government Hospitals and CGHS and those nominated by States] was provided to the DHS, Kashmir for further deployment.

Development of Comprehensive Note of medical care for High Altitude Illness

Comprehensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material has been prepared for Amarnathji Yatra 2022 and shared with stakeholders for necessary action.

Development of IEC material: Do's and Don'ts for the pilgrims Short Do's and Don'ts (in English and Hindi) have been prepared for the pilgrims and shared with stakeholders for necessary action.

Capacity Building through training of trainers have been successfully done

TOT (Training of Trainers) Programme for High Altitude Emergencies was also conducted at Dhoabiawan, Kashmir from 4-6th May 2022

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also been working with other ministries to make it a hassle-free Darshan for the devotees and making the overall Yatra a grand success.

ARTO Pulwama Rebuts Fake News Regarding Allotment Of Vanity Number

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: The Assistant Regional Transport Officer, (ARTO) Pulwama on Thursday rebutted a news story circulated over a few social media platforms regarding allotment of a BID/Vanity number to "some blue eyed applicant".

The ARTO termed it a fake news item which betrays its content as it proclaims that a public notice has been issued by this office regarding invitation of objections.

The office called the news item illogical and malafide act to give publicity to a untrue story through a popular newspaper.

He said that publishing of the public notice implies that this office is vigorously pursuing the matter as per procedure and in a manner which may not lead to any harm to the public exchequer.

Besides, the ARTO said that currently, the option of e-auction for allotment of BID numbers or Premium Registration Numbers on online portal in J&K is unavailable, although, the same is in vogue in other states like Chandigarh, Punjab, and Delhi etc where portal is open for bidding and interested parties can participate in the bidding and submit their BID fee online.

"Hence, the spirit of the same modus operandi is followed off-line by the office through the medium of public notices published in leading dailies to ensure that all interested parties/public are able to participate in the bid and the highest bidder receives the premium number in question, as was done in the instant case," he added.

While sharing the moot point which qualifies the story baseless, the officer said the fact that till date the premium number in question (Reg. No JK13H 0786) is unallotted hence renders the whole story baseless.

While inviting the concerned publishers of fake story to verify details before circulating a baseless news in public domain, the ARTO said, "Let this press note be taken as an invitation by the publishers of the fake news item referred above to approach this office with a sincere desire to research and verify the facts, rather than attempting to create sensationalism through hearsay and half truths".

He further said, "through the medium of this press note, the interested applicants are once again invited to take Part in the said bidding process, which shall take place in the office chambers of ARTO, Pulwama on 01 /07/2022 at 4:30pm".

NHM Organizes Training Programme For MLHPs & Staff Nurses



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Health Mission, Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday organised district level training of trainers for Staff Nurses and Mid Level Health Providers (MLHPs), for expanded range of services at Health and Wellness Centres.

The training was inaugurated by Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, Yasin M Choudhary at Regional Institute of Health and Family Welfare (RIHFW), Dhoobiwan Srinagar.

In his inaugural address Mission Director informed that to provide expanded range of services at all the Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs), the NHM, J&K has started this training

programme for district level trainers to provide expanded services that include Ear, Nose, & Throat, Elderly & Palliative Care. The training of trainers is being conducted for MLHPs and Staff Nurses at HWCs, for three days from 30th June to 2nd July at RIHFW, Dhoobiwan.

Ayushman Bharat- Health And Wellness Centres(HWC) have been established in the UT of J&K by transforming the existing sub-centres and primary health centres to provide comprehensive primary health care (CPHC) services near to the community. Similarly, training of trainers will be conducted for Medical Officers of HWCs from 4th to 5th July at RIHFW, Dhoobiwan.

Mega City Festival Held At Kulgam



Observer News Service

KULGAM: A mega City Festival was on Thursday celebrated at Sports Stadium Kulgam titled, 'City Festival Kulgam' and was organized by Municipal Council Kulgam in collaboration with District Administration Kulgam and District Youth Services and Sports office Kulgam.

On the occasion, Stadium remained abuzz with Cultural programmes, Sports activities, musical band performances, awareness programmes with themes 'Say No to Drugs', 'Ill Effects of Polythene' be-

sides on other issues.

DDC Chairperson, Mohd Afzal Parray; Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr.Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat; Director Urban Local bodies Kashmir, Mathora Masoom; Municipal Council President, Muneeb Ahmad; DDC members Ishiyaq Ahmad, Ruby Jan, Jameela Chowdhary, Gulzar Ahmad, Anayat Ullah Rather, Mohd Ibrahim, Mohammad Abas Rather and others.

During the festival, multifarious sports activities were held in which students and youth from various schools participated.



SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Subject: Cancellation of e-NIT No: 02 of 2022 dated: 28/05/2022 for fixation of Annual Rate Contract for supply of POL. As approved by the Competent Authority, the tenders invited vide e-NIT No: 02 of 2022 dated: 28/05/2022 for fixation of Annual Rate Contract for supply of POL, is hereby cancelled due to non response and as per the codal formalities the same shall be floated through fresh tenders.

Sd-

No: SMC/PPS/538-548
Dated: 29/06/2022
DIPK-NB-2083/22

Purchase & Procurement Officer,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

'Blind Cricket Match' Played At Sports Stadium Shopian



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) District Shopian in collaboration with District Administration Shopian on Thursday organised a Blind Cricket Match, first of its kind at Sports Stadium Batpora, here. The match was held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya and Joint Director DYSS, Bashir Ahmed.

The match was inaugurated by District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Gurmukh Singh

Dutta.

On the occasion, South Blind Cricket Team and Central Blind Cricket team locked horns against each other resulting in Central Cricket Team winning the match.

The winner and runner up teams were awarded with trophies and all the players were awarded with certificates and uniforms by DYSSO Shopian.

The officers and officials of Youth Services and Sports Department, besides a large number of people were present to watch the match.

Hyderabad Set To Host Formula E Race Next Year



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Formula E will make its way to India for the first time ever with a race scheduled to be held in Hyderabad on February 11 next year, the organisers have confirmed.

The race in Hyderabad will be the first time a major international racing event is held in the country since the Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix in October 2013 at the Buddh International Circuit, a development which was reported by PTI earlier this month.

Alongside India, Brazil will also welcome the E-Prix for the first time on March 25 as the Formula E and FIA released the provisional calendar for the upcoming ninth season (2022-23).

"Two major motorsport fan-

bases will welcome E-Prix for the first time. Round 4 of the championship will be held in Hyderabad, India, on 11 February, while fans in Brazil will see the Sao Paulo E-Prix on 25 March for Round 7," a media release stated.

Earlier this year, the Telangana government and Formula E officials had signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) in Hyderabad to host the race.

The Telangana government intends to make the state a hub for EV vehicles and the Formula E race will go a long way in helping it achieve that goal.

The race should also provide a big boost to Indian motorsports which has been in dire need of a high-profile event since Formula 1 was scrapped after three seasons.

AIFF General Secretary Kushal Das Resigns



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The controversial All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kushal Das has resigned from his post on "health grounds", ending his 12-year tenure which was often marred by allegations of financial improprieties.

Das, who was appointed to the top post in 2010, has been on leave since June 20 on health grounds, though many in football circles said he was kept out of his job by the Committee of Administrators (COA) after a Comptroller and Auditor General audit found multiple financial anomalies, which are being currently probed.

"Kushal Das, General Secretary of All India Football Federation has resigned from his post citing medical reasons. The All India Football Federation respects his decision, and thanks him for his contribution and guidance during his tenure in office. We wish him good

health and luck in his future endeavours," AIFF stated in a media release.

"Sunando Dhar, the Acting General Secretary will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Federation," it further added.

Das sent the resignation to the CoA which is currently running the CoA which is currently running the Supreme Court for not holding elections on time. Das' tenure as AIFF General Secretary roughly coincides with that of Patel's presidency.

Das, who before joining AIFF in 2010, worked as a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with International Cricket Council (ICC) for two years.

While the Indian national team qualified for three Asian Cup football tournaments during his tenure, Das has received enormous flak over the years for not being able to organize quality international exposure for the senior national team.

Unfinished Business: Bumrah's India Ready To Face England 2.0



Press Trust of India

BIRMINGHAM: Never before has he navigated the choppy waters of leadership but Jasprit Bumrah will certainly like to showcase his captaincy acumen while leading a slightly under-prepared India against a vastly improved England in the rescheduled fifth Test, starting here on Friday.

India were leading the five-match series 2-1 when multiple COVID-19 cases in their camp led to the postponement of the final game which was a part of the World Test Championship.

Nine months have passed since and a lot of water has

flowed through the Thames with the then captain Virat Kohli relinquishing Test captaincy. His successor, Rohit Sharma, is missing out on this game after testing positive for COVID-19.

Worse, Rohit's designated deputy KL Rahul is also out after having undergone a surgery for sports hernia.

In this backdrop of musical chair of Indian captaincy, the gauntlet has been thrown at Bumrah, arguably one of the finest fast bowlers in the history of Indian cricket and now set to be the 36th man to lead the national Test team.

He has been acknowledged widely as the undisputed lead-

er of the fast bowling group but come Friday, the challenge against Ben Stokes' side will be very different when he walks out for the toss at the Edgbaston.

Fast bowlers in Indian context have never been considered worthy of leadership contention and Kapil Dev, the world class all-rounder, was more of a fast medium bowler in his prime and later a medium-fast as time progressed.

Javagal Srinath and Zaheer Khan, two fine exponents of fast bowling, were never even considered for vice-captaincy during their heydays. And hence, it took 35 years for India to have another pacer captain.

Change In Opposition Doesn't Change Our Approach: Stokes



Press Trust of India

BIRMINGHAM: England skipper Ben Stokes says they know what it takes to beat India but insisted it's more than just winning a game since they are looking to reshape Test cricket with their style of play.

Under Brendon McCullum's guidance and Stokes' aggressive captaincy, a 'new-look' England swept New Zealand 3-0 in their last series at home, just days back. India are leading the series 2-1 and the 31-year-old all-rounder expressed confidence of squaring the series.

"We still obviously know that we need to win this game to draw the series. But you know as I said at the end of last week that, at the moment it is bigger than results, it is bigger than you know, what happens on the field, there is more to it. We obviously want to win every game we play but it is bigger than that," Stokes said on the eve of the rescheduled fifth Test.

The match was postponed last September owing to a COVID outbreak in the touring squad.

"Well, we just beat the best team (New Zealand) in the world 3-0. India are obviously

a completely different opposition, different dynamic of a team but we are concentrating on ourselves," Stokes said at the pre-match press conference at Edgbaston.

"We understand what we do well but we have also taken into account who we are playing against. Just because the opposition changes doesn't mean we change."

Asked whether England has the potential to play more attacking brand of cricket than what was on display against New Zealand, Stokes replied: "If there's a team that can, it's us."

Juventus Bids Farewell To Dybala, Bernardeschi & Morata

Agencies

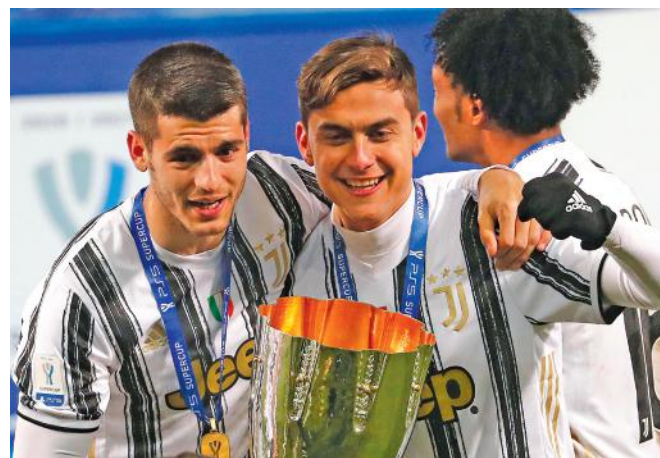
TURIN: Juventus bid official farewells to Paulo Dybala, Federico Bernardeschi and Álvaro Morata on Thursday.

Dybala's and Bernardeschi's contracts expired on Thursday and they leave the club as free agents. Morata returns to Atlético Madrid at the end of a two-year loan spell at Juventus.

Dybala had been at Juventus for seven years and the forward scored 115 goals in 293 appearances, helping the Bianconeri to 12 trophies including five Serie A titles.

The 28-year-old Dybala had been in negotiations with Juve's bitter rival Inter Milan, but the return of Romelu Lukaku to the Nerazzurri could scupper a potential deal. Serie A champion AC Milan is also reportedly interested in the Argentina international.

Bernardeschi joined Juventus in 2017 from Fiorentina for 40 million euros (then \$45 mil-



lion) and made nearly 200 appearances, winning three Serie A titles, two Italian Cups and two Italian Super Cups.

The 28-year-old midfielder also helped Italy win the European Championship last year, converting the game-winning kick in the penalty shootout against England in the final.

Morata's second spell at Juventus proved less fruitful than his first. The Spain forward won two Serie A titles and two Italian Cups and also helped Juventus to the 2015 Champions League final in a previous two-year stint at the club before Real Madrid exercised its buy-back clause in 2016.

KL Rahul Undergoes Successful Surgery In Germany

Could be out of action for couple of months



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Senior India opener and regular vice-captain KL Rahul has undergone a successful surgery for sports hernia in Germany and is expected to be out of competitive cricket for another couple of months.

Rahul, who was forced to opt out of the home T20I series against South Africa earlier this month, has over the years had recurrent lower abdominal related fitness issues, including groin strains and hamstring injuries.

"It's been a tough couple of weeks but the surgery was successful. I'm healing and recovering well. My road to recovery has begun. Thank you for your messages and prayers. See you soon," Rahul tweeted.

The 30-year-old has played 42 Tests, 42 ODIs and 56 T20Is for India in the last eight years.

Once he is back in India, his rehabilitation would be monitored by the NCA Sports Science team headed by Dr Nitin Patel.

Although it is difficult to put a timeline on his comeback, sources in the know of things believe that it could take another couple of months before Rahul dons the India 'Blues' again.

"He will be resting for a few days and then his physical rehabilitation will start at the NCA. That will take a few weeks before he starts with his regular net session and let's see if he can make a comeback in the Asia Cup. But that could be a touch and go," a BCCI source privy to developments told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Rahul has been one of India's prolific scorers in the shortest format and is expected to play a key role in the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia.

Buttler Replaces Morgan As England's White-Ball Captain



Agencies

LONDON: Jos Buttler has been appointed England's new limited-overs captain following the retirement of Eoin Morgan, the country's cricket board (ECB) said on Thursday.

The 31-year-old, who had been Morgan's deputy since 2015, has played 151 one-day internationals and 88 Twenty20s for England after making his international debut in 2011.

Morgan retired from international cricket on Tuesday after battling form and fitness issues in recent months.

"Jos has been part of our white-ball set-up for over a decade and was integral in the transformation of the way the team has played its attacking brand of cricket," said Rob Key, managing director of the England men's team.

"I believe the extra responsibi-

ty will take his game to a new level and inspire those around him."

Among the most-feared big hitters in the limited-overs game, Buttler has been in devastating form, smashing 248 runs in two innings in the recent 3-0 ODI series rout of the Netherlands.

He also finished top scorer in the Indian Premier League T20 competition, notching up 863 runs, including four centuries, for the Rajasthan Royals as the franchise made the final.

"I would like to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to Eoin Morgan for his outstanding leadership over the past seven years. It has been the most memorable period for everyone involved," Buttler said in a statement.

Buttler's first assignment as skipper will be a three-match T20 series against India starting July 7. His first big test will come in the form of the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year.

Barcelona Sells Part Of Its TV Rights For \$215 million

Agencies

BARCELONA: Barcelona sold some of its television rights for more than 200 million euros to help its finances, the club said on Thursday.

The Catalan club said investment firm Sixth Street will invest 207.5 million euros (\$215 million) in exchange for 10% of the club's Spanish league TV rights for the next 25 years.

Barcelona called the agreement "a major step forward in the improvement of the club's financial resources and competitive positioning."

The club said the transaction allows Barcelona to generate total capital gains of 267 million euros (\$277 million) for the current season.

"We are activating economic levers and executing on our pa-



tient, sustainable, and efficient strategy to strengthen the club's financial footing," club president Joan Laporta said. "Sixth Street is a proven supporter of football, an experienced investor across global sports and media, and a partner that will contribute significant knowledge and resources while allowing us to independently manage our operations."

Barcelona has been slowly recovering financially after struggles that led to the departure of star Lionel Messi last year.