

SC Slams Nupur Sharma Over Prophet Remark 'Her Loose Tongue Set Entire Country On Fire'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday came down heavily on suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma for her derogatory comments against the Prophet, saying her "loose tongue" has "set the entire country on fire" and that she is "single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country".

Refusing to entertain Sharma's plea for clubbing of FIRs lodged in various states against her for the remark, the bench held that the comment was made either for cheap publicity, political agenda or some nefarious activities.

"She actually has a loose tongue and has made all kinds of irresponsible statements on TV and set the entire country on fire. Yet, she claims to be a lawyer of 10 years standing... She should have immediately apologised for her comments to the whole country," the court said.

Sharma's insulting remark against the Prophet during a TV debate triggered protests across the country and drew sharp reactions from many Gulf countries.



The BJP subsequently suspended her from the party.

"These remarks are very disturbing and smack of arrogance. What is her business to make such remarks? These remarks have led to unfortunate incidents in the country... These people are not religious. They do not have respect for other religions. These remarks were made for cheap publicity or political agenda or some other nefarious activities", the bench said.

The court's observations against the suspended BJP leader come in the backdrop of the brutal murder of a tailor in Udaipur by two men, who had posted videos online, claiming that they were avenging an insult to Islam.

While **More on P6**

Notices Served To 16 Absent Doctors

Agencies

Srinagar: The Health and Medical Education Department on Friday issued a final show cause notice to 16 doctors for their unauthorized absence from duties.

According to the notice, H&ME department stated that in some cases notices were served to these doctors by Director Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir and in some cases by Administrative Department, wherein an opportunity was given to them to resume their duties immediately, otherwise disciplinary action shall be initiated against them as warranted under rules.

The notice reads that most of these doctor neither replied to notice nor reported back for duties and continuous unauthorized absence of these doctors from official duties for such a long period of time clearly indicates that they are non-serious towards their official **More on P6**

'SECURITY REASONS' Police Bars Entry Of Yatris Into Kashmir After 3:30PM

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Pilgrims and tourists have been barred from crossing over to Kashmir from the Banihal area of Ramban district after 3.30 pm, the cut-off time, due to security concerns, an officer said on Friday.

The measure has been taken by the police in view of unregistered Amarnath pilgrims



travelling in the guise of tourists to the Valley. **More on P6**

Advisory Issued For Yatris, Tourists In Pahalgam, Sonamarg

Authorities in Pahalgam have issued advisory for hotels, restaurants and guest houses within the jurisdiction of police station Pahalgam. The advisory issued by Station House Officer of Police Station Pahalgam said that all vehicles leading from Pahalgam to Srinagar shall cross AL-stop by 4 pm and shall leave from Pahalgam by 1400 hrs. "Yatris shall proceed from Pahalgam towards Chandanwari **More on P6**

Summer Vacations In Kashmir Schools From July 4

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday announced 10-day summer vacations in all the schools across the Kashmir Valley and summer zones of Jammu division amid the sweltering heat wave.

"It is hereby ordered that all the government educational institutions and recognized private schools upto higher secondary level functioning in Kashmir division and winter zone of Jammu division shall observe summer vacation w.e.f 4th of July, 2022 to 14th of July, 2022," reads an order issued by BK Singh, Principal Secretary To Government School Education Department on Friday.

The decision about summer vacation was taken after the Directorate of school education proposed 10-day **More on P6**

THESE REMARKS ARE VERY DISTURBING AND SMACK OF ARROGANCE. What is her business to make such remarks? These remarks have led to unfortunate incidents in the country... These people are not religious. They do not have respect for other religions. These remarks were made for cheap publicity or political agenda or some other nefarious activities."

Hyderpora 'Encounter'

HC Upholds Compensation To Family Of Ramban Youth

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Friday upheld the Rs 5 lakh compensation to the family of Amir Magrey, who was killed in the Hyderpora shootout last November, and directed the government to allow the kin to perform some rituals at the graveyard of the slain youth.

A division bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Javed Wani, while disposing of an appeal by the state against a single bench order, upheld the compensation amount. "It is made

clear that the payment of the said compensation by the appellants to the respondent no. 1 shall not form a precedence for future" the bench said on its 11-page order.

The court also directed the government to allow the father and nine other relatives of the deceased youth to perform Fatiha at the grave of Magrey at Water Payeen in the Handwara area of north Kashmir.

Lateef Magray, the father of Amir Magrey, had filed a writ petition seeking the exhumation of his son's body and also demanded it is handed over to **More on P6**

'Forcible Takeover Of Land'

HC Slaps Rs 10L 'Special' Penalty On J&K Govt

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10 lakh on the UT administration for forcibly taking over a private land, without following due procedure of law.

The judgement came into a writ petition filed by Shabir Ahmad Yatoo in which he pleaded that the government had forcibly taken over his land measuring 9.053 marlas at Moza Sultanpora in Sumbal, Bandipora district.

The petitioner in the case had had pleaded that the R&B Department took possession of his land for construction of the long Steel Girder Bridge but without

his consent or acquiring the land in accordance with any statutory provision.

The petitioner had not claimed that he wasn't paid any compensation of the said land ever since then.

"On account of violation of the right to property of the petitioner which is guaranteed by the Constitution, the respondents are directed to pay special penalty of Rs. 10.00 lacs to the petitioner within a period of three months," the High court said, adding that if aforesaid amounts are not paid within the time stipulated, it will be open for the petitioner to move an application and to bring it to the notice of the Court whereupon the Court will swing **More on P6**

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Government of India

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‘Improving Road Safety Measures Could Save Nearly 30,000 Lives In India Annually’

Press Trust Of India

Improving road safety measures could save nearly 30,000 lives in India every year, says a study published in The Lancet journal that underlines proven interventions targeting four key risk factors - speeding, drunk driving, lack of helmet, and seatbelt use. The researchers found that interventions to check speeding could save 20,554 lives while promotion of crash helmets could save 5,683 lives in India. Encouraging the use of seatbelts can also save 3,204 lives in the country. The estimate for drunk driving was not available for India. This is the first study that gives country-specific estimates of the effect of addressing the four main road safety risk factors through interventions for 185 countries. Globally, road traffic crashes kill more than 13.5 lakh people each year, with over 90 per cent of those fatalities occurring in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), the researchers said. The Lancet Series on road safety calls for increased political and financial commitments and for road safety to be included in mainstream development policies. The series argues that it is essential to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the target to halve road traffic crash fatalities and injuries by 2030. "Most road traffic deaths are preventable, but sadly the number of fatalities continues to rise in low-income countries while progress in high-income countries has slowed over the past decade," said series coordinator Professor Adnan Hyder from The George Washington University, US. "With the second United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021-2030) underway, our work for this



With the second United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021-2030) underway, our work for this series clearly shows that proven road safety measures can save lives in all countries, rich and poor

series clearly shows that proven road safety measures can save lives in all countries, rich and poor alike," Hyder said. Globally, the analysis of 74 studies in 185 countries suggests that routinely wearing helmets and seatbelts, obeying speed limits and avoiding drunk-

driving could save between 347,000 (3.47 lakh) and 540,000 (5.4 lakh) lives worldwide every year. The study estimates that targeting four key risk factors for road injuries and deaths -- speeding, drunk driving, and non-use of crash helmets and seatbelts -- could prevent between 25 per cent and 40 per cent

of all fatal road injuries worldwide every year. All countries would benefit from increased road safety measures to varying degrees, the researchers said. For example, improving seatbelt use would have a particularly large effect on reducing road deaths in the US, saving an estimated 14,121 lives every year, and China (13,228). The benefits of increasing motorcycle helmet wearing would be largest in China, saving 13,703 lives a year, Brazil (5,802), and India (5,683), that have a high incidence of motorcyclist injuries, according to the researchers. "We hope that these new estimates provide tangible impetus for the global road safety community to focus on implementing evidence-based interventions, especially in low- and middle-income countries," said series co-author Andres Vecino-Ortiz from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, US. "These estimates can be used by policymakers to perform their own priority setting analyses to reduce road fatalities," Vecino-Ortiz said. The researchers also found that improving post-crash care could save two lakh lives a year globally, adding there is a strong case for strengthening trauma care in LMICs, equivalent to a 17 per cent reduction in deaths. The more realistic scenario of 50 per cent coverage could save over one lakh lives a year, equivalent to 8 per cent fewer fatalities, according to the researchers. "While prevention remains the cornerstone of reducing road traffic deaths, knowing which trauma interventions are likely to have the greatest impact on saving lives will help make the best use limited health resources," study co-author Junaid Razzak from Weill Cornell Medical Centre, US, added.

Covid-19 Vaccine Protects People Of All Body Weights: Lancet Study

Press Trust Of India

Covid-19 vaccines greatly reduced the number of cases of severe Covid-19 for everyone regardless of their body size, according to a study of 90 lakh adults in England published in The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology on Friday. Vaccine effectiveness was similar for those with a higher body mass index (BMI) and of a healthy weight, but slightly lower in the underweight group, who were also the least likely to have been vaccinated, the researchers said. In a further analysis of vaccinated people only, among the fewer Covid-19 cases recorded, people of very low and very high BMI were more likely to experience severe disease than vaccinated healthy weight people, they said. "Our findings provide further evidence that Covid-19 vaccines save lives for people of all sizes," said study lead author Carmen Piernas from the University of Oxford, UK. "Our results provide reassurance to people with obesity that Covid-19 vaccines are equally as effective for them as for people with a lower BMI, and that vaccination substantially reduces their risk of severe illness if they are infected with Covid-19," Piernas said. The data also highlights the need for targeted efforts to increase vaccine uptake in people with a low BMI, where uptake is currently lower than for people with a higher BMI, the researchers said. They searched anonymised health records from more than 12 million patients in England taking part in QResearch - a secure database



of healthcare information available to verified researchers. Of these, 9,171,524 (9.1 lakh) patients who were over 18 years old, had BMI data, had not previously been infected with SARS-CoV-2 were included in the study. People were grouped based on their BMI according to four World Health Organisation definitions of 18.5-24.9 kilogrammes per square metre (kg/m2) for healthy weight, below 18.5 for underweight and 25- 29.9 for overweight. Characteristics such as age, sex, smoking status, and social deprivation were also accounted for in the analyses. Of over 90 lakh people included in the study, 566,461 (over 5.6 lakh) tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 during the study from December 8, 2020 (date of the first vaccine given in the UK) to November 17, 2021. Of those, 32,808 were admitted to hospital and 14,389 died. At the end of the study period, 23.3 per cent of the healthy weight group, 32.6 per cent of the underweight

group, 16.8 per cent of the overweight group and 14.2 per cent of the group with obesity had had no doses of any Covid-19 vaccine. To understand vaccine effectiveness, the researchers compared risk of severe disease in vaccinated versus non-vaccinated people at least 14 days after a second dose. They found that being vaccinated offered high protection across all BMI groups, but that the effect was slightly lower in underweight people. Underweight vaccinated people had around half the likelihood of being hospitalised or dying compared with unvaccinated people of the same BMI. In comparison, people in the healthy and high BMI groups who were vaccinated were around 70 per cent less likely to be hospitalised than unvaccinated people, the researchers said. People with a healthy or a higher BMI were also around two-thirds less likely to die than their unvaccinated counterparts two weeks after a second dose, they said.

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th &12th under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Azad Ahmad Hajam
S/o Nazir Ahmad Hajam
R/o Razven Magam Budgam

Details of Marks Certificate lost

Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 225407 Session /Year BI-Annual . 2012
Higher Secondary School Examination (class12th)
Roll No 2521530 Session /Year Annual . 2014

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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam

bmjg

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name: Mehrun Nisa
Parentage:- Mohammad Maqbool Shah
Residence:- Charar-i-Sharif
Registration No : 66670-W-2014
Certificate/s lost:- 1st Year Marks Sheet
Roll No/s:- 21421 , Session/ Year Oct-Nov, 2015
Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled
No: F(Duplicate/1st Year) KU)

dated: 30-06-2022
is ko

Assistant Controller
of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof



GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCD (PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/60/2022-23 Dated: - 30-06-2022

Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR on behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD / Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of accommodation for RF repeater Station Tower at B-Top near Jawahar Tunnel Top Part-A (Main building with Finishing), Construction of allied works at site for RF Repeater Station Tower at B-Top near Jawahar Tunnel Top (Part-B) and Carrying of internal electrification for construction of RF Repeater Tower B-Top near Jawahar Tunnel	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar	74.04 lacs	4000/-	148080/-	60 days	09-07-2022	"A" with Electric

- Date of Publishing 30-06-2022 at 1600 hours.
- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 1630 hours on 30-06-2022
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 02-07-2022 to 08-07-2022 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 09-07-2022 on line.
- The complete bidding process will be on line.
- Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar on 09-07-2022 at 1100 Hrs.
- The lowest bidder i. e. L1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within five days from opening of financial bids.
- In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651 dated:- 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. 0055/ Revenue (others).
- The cost of tender documents should be submitted by the bidder in shape of treasury challan / receipt and upload the same.
- Earnest Money:- The earnest money deposit (EMD @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released, only after defect liability period, the DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work to the satisfaction report of Engineer incharge.
- Performance Security :- In case, the successful bidder found unbalanced i.e. 15% or below the advertised cost, shall have to produce performance security @ 3% of the quoted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar within 5-days after opening of price bid and shall be released after successful completion of the work. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP.
- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.
- The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.
- Financial Bids will be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/Srinagar. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the Government is allowed to work as a Contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- The interested bidder can download the NIT/bidding document from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above mentioned digital certificate from any approved vendors. The Bidders, who already possess valid (DSC) Digital Signature Certificates, need not to procure new Digital Signature Certificate.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para 2(III).
- Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.
- All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online.
- Bidders can contact the undersigned for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.
- Original Registration certificate of GST No. shall be uploaded on line.
- The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- No construction material shall be supplied by Police Construction Division, PHQ. However, the brands of the material will be approved by Engineer incharge of the concerned site in consultation with Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K.
- In case of any typographical error, if found in the rates or units etc. the same shall be corrected and paid as per sanctioned schedule of rates 2020 in vogue with contractor's Tender appreciation/depreciation.
- Any item of work not advertised in the rate list but found necessary during execution of work should be got approved by the competent authority before proceeding further beyond the allotment and payment for the same shall be made on sanctioned schedule of rates 2020 and LMR with contractor's overall appreciation/depreciation.

DIPK-5259/22

No-e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2022-23/4896-4903
Dated: 30-06-2022.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PCD (PHQ) J&K Jmu/Sgr.



PC Ends Association With Sheikh Imran

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) on Friday announced that it has disassociated itself from Mr. Sheikh Imran.

According to a statement issued by the party, PC has ended its associa-

tion with Imran with immediate effect.

"J&K Peoples Conference would like to confirm that Mr. Sheikh Imran is no longer associated with the party. The party's association with Mr. Imran has henceforth come to an end", the party said in a statement

Fire Damages Tile Factory At Noor Bagh

Agencies

Srinagar: A tile factory in downtown Srinagar was partially damaged in a fire incident.

Reports said that fire broke out in a tile factory at New Colony Palapora area of Noor Bagh Srinagar.

Due to the efforts of locals and firefighters,

the fire was extinguished in time. The tile factory that belongs to Abdul Rehman Mir of Palapora Srinagar suffered partial damage.

A police official said that prima facie it seems the short circuit was the cause of the fire.

Police have registered a case and set an investigation into motion. (KNT)

Truck Driver Dies In Accident

Agencies

Srinagar: A truck driver from Pathankot Punjab died on the spot after he was hit by a speeding vehicle in Nowshera area of Srinagar outskirts.

Police sources said that on late Thursday night workers were unloading goods from a truck (PB23K-8877) at Nowshera Soura. A speeding Swift vehicle

hit the truck driver who died on the spot. The driver of the Swift and another person received minor injuries.

Police sources identified the deceased truck driver as 65-year-old Saroop Singh son of Khushal Singh, a resident of Pathankot.

Police in this regard have registered a case and arrested the 'erring' driver. (KNT)



URS-E-SHAH-E-HAMDAN Darakhshan Andrabi Oversees Arrangements At Khanqah-E-Maula

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Friday morning visited the shrine of Khanqah-e-Maula in Srinagar and took stock of the Annual Urs arrangements of J&K Waqf Board, District Administration & other government agencies. She was accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer of Waqf Board DR Syed Maajid Jahangir, Tehsildar of Waqf Board Ishfaq Mohiuddin and the administrator of the

shrine in addition to the representatives of different departments.

She interacted with representatives of different departments, Shrine management Committee and the Waqf authorities and instructed them to create a co-ordinated mechanism of working so that every pilgrim visiting the shrine during the Urs celebrations gets all the facilities and the sanctity of the shrine is maintained at all costs.

Andrabi thanked the representatives of different government

departments for their cooperation to the Waqf management for putting in place all necessary arrangements well in time. While interacting with the people visiting the shrine Dr Darakhshan assured them that all necessary arrangements will be updated and it will be ensured that no shortcoming is observed during the Urs period.

She appealed to the public to cooperate in maintaining cleanliness at all costs in and around the shrine complex during the special congregations.

DC Reviews Arrangements For Eid-Ul-Azha

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To review the arrangements for the upcoming festival of Eid-ul-Azha, a meeting of all Zonal Officers was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad.

Deputy Commissioner took a Department wise review of the arrangements being put in place for smooth celebrations of upcoming Eid-ul-Adha festivities in the District. He also took stock of the rates fixed by the Government and notified sales points for selling sacrificial animals and for the upcoming Eid-Ul-Adha.

On the occasion, the DC

passed directions to all Departments to take elaborate measures well in advance for smooth celebrations of auspicious Eid-ul-Azha festivities.

The DC directed the Assistant Director FCS&CA to ensure that the process of Ration distribution is completed before Eid so that people do not face any difficulty in this regard. He directed the officers to intensify the market checking and ensure all commodities including meat, chicken bakery and sweets are sold at already Government fixed rates, besides ensure availability of all essential supplies in the market to avoid hoardings and profiteering.

The DC directed the SMC

authorities to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness at all the places particularly around prominent Ziyarat and Masjid besides ensuring proper functioning of all street lights.

The concerned Tehsildars were asked to take appropriate measures for ensuring that Sacrificial Goat/Sheep are sold at already Government notified rates in their respective jurisdictions.

During the meeting, the DC urged upon Sectoral officers of PHE and PDD to ensure uninterrupted supply of water and electricity during auspicious occasion days. He asked the PHE department to keep water tankers in ready state to cater any exigent need. The R&B authorities

were asked to complete necessary road repairs and blacktopping in the City areas.

Emphasising on intensifying market checking, the DC directed for activating market surveillance Squads to check the quality of food items such as Bakery, Confectionery, Milk, Meat Chicken, Vegetables and other essentials in the market and take strict action against the erring traders. On the occasion, the Traffic police authorities were asked to ensure smooth movement of traffic across the City and issue necessary route plans if required to overcome any traffic jams, while ARTO was directed to ensure adequate transport arrangements during Eid days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of fresh Electricity Connection . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office fo the PDD Department Sub Division Hawal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of ths notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Firdous Ahmad Shah
S/o Late Mohammad
yousuf Shah
Address: Shah Mohalla
Owanta Bhawan, Soura

FKO

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

GIST OF Fresh ENIT

NO: 03 of 2022

DATED: 30/06/2022

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Fresh e-Tenders are invited from Registered Dealers of various Petroleum Companies in close vicinity within 05 Kilometres from, SMC Transport Yard Tatoo Ground/JKLI, for Fixation of Annual Rate Contract for the year 2022-23 or till the date next ARC is fixed for supply of POL for Corporation's Transport Fleet. The approximate consumption of POL is mentioned here under which may increase or decrease as per our requirement. The interested parties shall quote the rate of rebate, to be offered by them, on the rates being fixed by the Ministry of Petroleum from time to time:-

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|----|-----------------------|--|
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	Uploading of Bids	21/07/2022 04:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bid	22/07/2022 11:00 AM

Detailed e-NIT with terms and conditions can be downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in

SD-

Purchase & Procurement Officer,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

No: SMC/PPS/ 549-558

Dated: 30/06/2022

DIPK-NB-2120/22

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AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
02- Zil- Hajj
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 39
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:50
ISHA	9: 30

This Day In History

- 1298 - Battle on Hasenbuhl (Gollheim) between German kings Adolf and Albrecht I
- 1582 - Battle of Yamazaki: Toyotomi Hideyoshi defeats Akechi Mitsuhide
- 1600 - Battle at Newport: Earl Mauritius van Nassau beats Spanish Army
- 168 - 7 King James II disbands English parliament
- 1698 - Thomas Savery patents the first steam engine
- 1794 - Second Battle of Seneffe: France-Austria
- 1823 - Bahia Independence Day: the end of Portuguese rule in Brazil, with the final defeat of the Portuguese crown loyalists in the province of Bahia
- 1839 - Slaves aboard a Spanish schooner La Amistad revolt to secure their freedom while being transported from one Cuban port to another
- 1916 - Lenin says Imperialism is caused by capitalism
- 1916 - Russian offensive in Armenia
- 1921 - Warren G. Harding signs a joint congressional resolution declaring the official end of war with Germany
- 1940 - Indian independence leader Subhas Chandra Bose is arrested and detained in Calcutta
- 1947 - Military coup discovered in France
- 1949 - The State of Vietnam is internationally recognised, governing the southern half of Vietnam, with Bao Dai as chief of state
- 1971 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1972 - India and Pakistan sign Simla Agreement peace accord
- 1982 - Soyuz T-6 returns to Earth
- 1985 - Andrei Gromyko appointed president of USSR
- 1985 - European Space Agency launches Giotto (Halley's Comet Flyby)
- 2001 - Bush Administration announce that it will seek to let oil companies drill on about 1,500,000 acres of the Gulf of Mexico
- 2001 - UN Security Council, facing an almost certain Russian veto, agrees to postpone indefinitely a vote on the US-led "smart sanctions" package for Iraq
- 2006 - Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya (152) and Upul Tharanga (109) compile world record cricket ODI opening stand of 286 vs England at Headingley
- 2010 - Oil tanker truck explosion in South Kivu, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, kills at least 230 people
- 2014 - Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy is criminally charged with corruption by French prosecutors
- 2015 - 62 people are killed after the Kim Nirvana ferry capsizes off the coast of the Philippines

From KO Archives

J&K Second Most Corrupt State: Survey

NEW DELHI - Kerala has emerged as the country's least corrupt state while the dubious distinction of being the worst in this regard went to Bihar followed by Jammu and Kashmir according to global corruption watchdog Transparency international first state wise analysis.

The India Corruption Study 2005 conducted by Transparency International India (TII) and Centre for Media Studies (CMS) said Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra - in that order - were the least corrupt states.

The study had a sample of 14405 respondents in 15 cities and 306 villages across 20 States and covered 11 services including police, Judiciary, schools and public distribution system. While Kerala topped in all the departments. Bihar was the last, it said.

The national capital Delhi was ranked 11th in the least corrupt state preceded by Chhattisgarh (6) Punjab (7), West Bengal (8), Orissa (9) and Uttar Pradesh(10).

Tamil Nadu was placed 12th followed by Haryana, Jharkhand, Assam, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

Jammu and Kashmir was placed very low at 19th position only to be followed in Bihar.

(Kashmir Observer, 02 July, 2005)

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Twitter Talks



"gynaecologists look at an unmarried woman in India and diagnose her with "unmarriedness" as a medical condition. no seriously, I tell doctors about my PCOD (and other symptoms) and they will tell "this will get solved after marriage " with no hint of irony"
@sadelokeshi

"Late Saturday night, my friend took kin who complained of chest pain to SMHS hospital. Doctors at Emergency Casualty with ONLY ONE BP apparatus were literally snatching it from each other to examine patients who kept reporting there. Do EMERGENCIES run like this? Grotesque!"
@islamufti

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Result Orientation

For the umpteenth time perhaps, the state government has taken "a serious view" of the poor results of its schools. According to a report from Jammu, the education department has decided to "punish" the non-performing government teachers across the province, of course, after assessing school-wise results. Similar initiatives had, indeed, been taken in Kashmir division as well where in quite some cases the "defaulters" were punished with even premature retirements. Many of such teachers were shifted from the schools while the annual increments of several others were withheld. Even after the government took the steps to improve the performance of government-run institutions, particularly at the high and higher secondary school levels, the overall impact of the initiatives reportedly did not percolate to all the levels. In Jammu division, the results of 10th class announced recently did not show a single position among the first 10 being bagged by government schools. The pass percentage of their students has been even worse. In fact, these results may well be deceptive as these cannot be relied upon as faithful representation of actual performance of the educational institutions managed by the government.

Instances may be aplenty where even a cursory interaction with their students leaves one shell shocked as they fail to answer even rudimentary questions. Undoubtedly, the education standard of the entire state has shown a marked decline over the decades with the state authorities almost totally unconcerned at the disturbing scenario. Save for some occasional noise to revamp the department with a view to improving its performance, no serious effort has ever been made to translate the rhetoric into a reality with which hinges the future of the society as a whole.

Obviously, it could not be just at the spur of the moment that results thrown up at annual examinations dismayed the authorities. For decades on end, it has been a regular feature. There can be no denying that hundreds of crores of rupees have been spent on education sector. The investment has gone into creating and expanding the infrastructure, manning educational institutions with well qualified and trained teachers and providing them with latest facilities. The emoluments and perks offered to the teaching and other staff can be termed as reasonably attractive. In spite of all that, there is a glaring disconnect between the input and the output, or to put it directly, between the investment and the results. Due to this disturbing mismatch, most parents, especially in urban areas, have been showing a definite preference for fairly expensive public schools, whose results have earned them a niche in popular estimation. It is an open secret that parents keen to give better education to their children would not mind an overnight wait outside a public school in the city for obtaining an admission form. Apart from the security reasons, the large scale migration of people from rural to urban areas in the valley during the past one and a half decades is attributed to the keenness of parents to provide for better education of their wards. Even then, the vast majority of people, particularly in villages, have no option but to have their wards enrolled with government-run schools where absenteeism of teachers has assumed an epidemic dimension, if frequent press reports about it were to be believed, even as the department has a huge army of officials at various levels to enforce punctuality. Not long ago, the PDP-led coalition government had announced a decision that every minister and top bureaucrat would adopt a school for improving its qualitative performance.

Its follow up is believed to be embarrassing, if not shameful. Luckily, the incumbent chief minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, who also holds the education portfolio, has declared education as a priority sector for holistic development. Believed to be a go-getter, one would expect him to initiate concrete steps to revamp the moribund, albeit administratively top-heavy, department. Apart from addressing the rampant trade-unionism among teachers, which has been playing havoc with the moth-eaten edifice, he would need to introduce an element of result-orientation at every level of the department to bring about a qualitative improvement in its performance. Indeed, the government can be less interested in providing for some of the basic needs of the people, but it certainly cannot afford to be callously indifferent with education considered to be the greatest resource of any society.

The article is an editorial from KO Archives and was originally published on May 24,2005

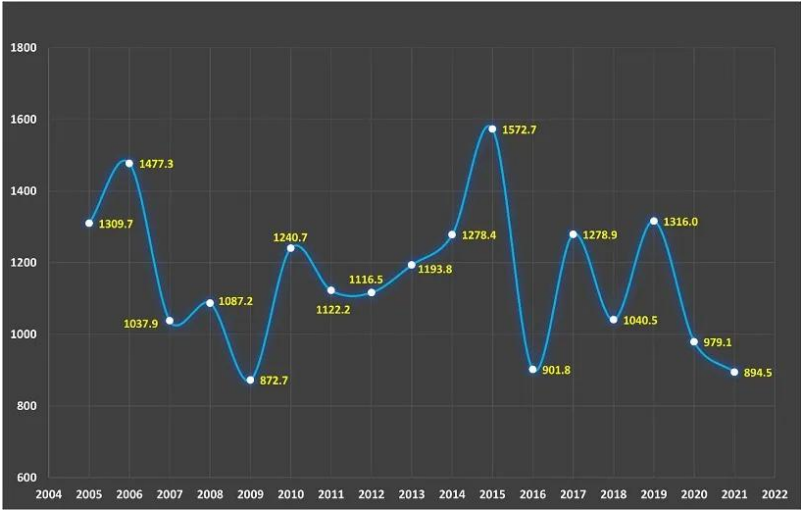
Is J&K Headed Towards a
Drought Year and Water Crisis?

Faizan Arif Keng

JAMMU and Kashmir has been basking in the sun lately but it has not been warm for all. For those associated with the agriculture and horticulture sectors, the sun's sprint across spring and summer has been challenging. The weather that the Union Territory witnessed in March and April this year wasn't normal after all. Though it may have appeared pleasant, temperatures on several days were above-normal by 10 to 15 degrees Celsius. And of course, the 'Rainy March' was nowhere in sight. April and May too recorded below-normal rainfall. In fact, this trend has taken on from the years 2021 and 2020 which too witnessed rainfall much below the normal levels. Going by data points till now, it seems that this year is also going to continue its rift with the rains.

Background

In 2020, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 979.1mm of rainfall against an average rainfall of 1258.7mm. There was a deficit of 22%. In 2021, the deficiency reached 29% when the UT recorded just about 894.5mm of rainfall. It was the lowest rainfall since 2010.



The months from January to May are ones in which heavy snow-fall is recorded in higher reaches which is essential for the formation of glaciers.

In the first five months of 2022, Jammu and Kashmir recorded a rain deficiency of 38%. Against a normal rainfall of 559.2mm, Jammu and Kashmir received only 345.4mm of rainfall between January 01 and May 31. In comparison, 34% deficiency was witnessed in 2020 and 11.5% in 2021 for the same time period. Between June and September 2020, 34% deficient rainfall was recorded in J&K and 29% in 2021.

In fact, from March to May 2022, the Union Territory received only 99.5mm of rainfall, which is the lowest Spring rainfall since 2005.

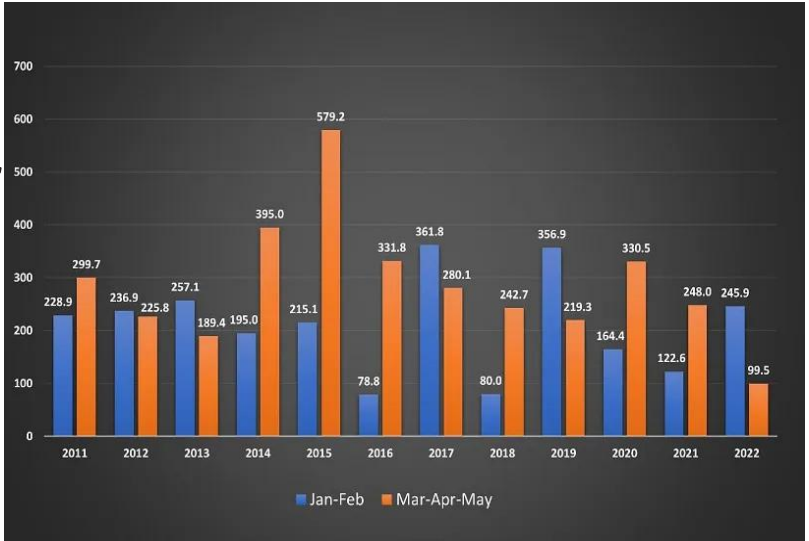
2020 was a La Niña year in which La Niña conditions developed in the latter part of the year. The La Niña conditions have continued since then with the recent MAM 2022 value at -1.1, indicating a moderate La Niña.

Present Scenario

In the first week of June, the water level of Jhelum at Sangam came down to 1 foot. It was a record-breaking, most reduced figure, for this time of the year. Usually, this figure would be a feature of the late Summers or the Autumn Season.

What explains this?

The deficient annual rainfall in 2020 and 2021, especially in the initial five months of the year, led to reduced cover of glaciers. The pattern proceeded this year when the UT received the highest deficient rainfall in recent 3 years. Not just this, an extreme heat-wave impacted parts of Jammu and



Kashmir in March and April. Temperatures on several days



The government needs to form a team to tackle the emerging crisis at the earliest. The recent few spells of rainfall won't compensate for the loss we are facing since 2 years

and 23 June may have saved us from drought this year.

However, it still remains crucial to see how much produce J&K will be able to generate this Kharif season as some of the farmers had earlier complained of losses while some had turned to sowing pulses and other cash crops.

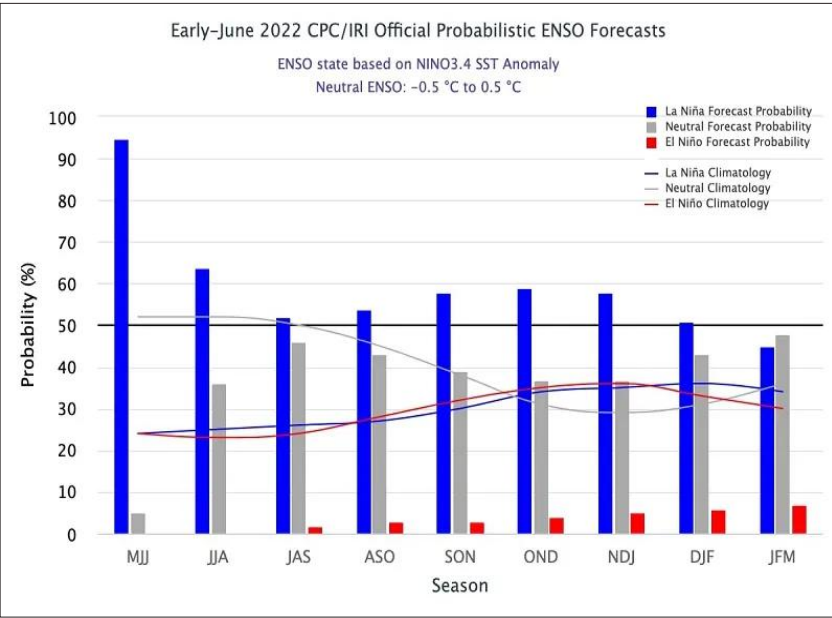
The final assessment could be done later and accordingly, the government should then declare a drought on the off chance that the conditions are met. If not the whole UT, some areas may have faced an adverse impact on vegetation due to the earlier spell of dry weather. Just like other streams, water level of Brengi Nallah was also low

this year. Adding to the misery, multiple sinkholes appeared in the nallah in the latter half of February and the second week of June which led to the shortage of water in nearby areas. Locals of the area had even complained of drinking water scarcity.

Future Impact

The year 2020 and 2021 were associated with La Niña conditions in which below-normal rainfall was recorded in monsoon months. Kashmir region receives below-normal rainfall between June and September when La Niña conditions are prevailing.

The forecasters are predicting a 52% chance of La Niña and a 46% chance of ENSO-neutral during Ju-



From March to May 2022, the Union Territory received only 99.5mm of rainfall, which is the lowest Spring rainfall since 2005 An extreme heatwave impacted parts of Jammu and Kashmir in March and April. Temperatures on several days remained above-normal in the range of 10 to 15 degrees Celsius. Srinagar recorded its warmest March in at least 131 years. As the condition seems worse this year, water shortage may arise in some areas this pre-fall or Autumn season

ly-September 2022. This means that Kashmir region may receive below-normal rainfall this monsoon as well. This will then lower the water levels of Jhelum.

In 2021, September 08, Jhelum at Ram Munshi Bagh witnessed an all-time low water level at 1.89 feet.

Given the facts above, the conditions seem worse this year, water shortage may arise in some areas this pre-fall or Autumn season.

The forecasters are also indicating a 58-59% chance of La Niña during the fall and early winter before turning to neutral in mid-winter.

This may only result in below-normal or normal rainfall. Chances of excess rainfall for a whole season look minimum.

If the below-normal rainfall trend continues into the next year, this will make the conditions even worse. The upcoming winter may also receive slightly below-normal rainfall given that the models stick to the current forecast.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is an independent Weather Forecaster better known as 'Kashmir Weather' across social media

In Conversation with Prof Veena Pandita

KO Webdesk

PROFESSOR Veena Pandita, who held twin positions as Director of the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), J&K, and Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), retired from government service on June 30, 2022.

The extended opportunity to serve “my people, who attested to my honesty and applauded the move,” Prof. Pandita added, was an exciting experience.

In a tête-à-tête with Farooq Shah, she said that she would like to finally call it quits and spend the time with her family and friends.

EXCERPTS:

You started your career as an Assistant Professor in the Higher Education Department in 1983. How did you end up working in the administration?

Even though I enjoyed teaching, the fact that there were administrative flaws and that not many colleges in J&K offered courses in commerce occasionally bothered me. I started my initial indulgence with administrative issues in 2008 after being promoted to the position of Principal. I spent almost 29 years working for the Higher Education Department until being appointed Joint Secretary JKBOSE in 2012.

As Joint Secretary for two years, I worked in various positions to implement numerous JKBOSE reforms. Thereafter, I served as its Secretary from 2014 to 2017, then in 2017, I was appointed its Chairperson.

You started off working in a variety of capacities at the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), eventually becoming its Chairperson. What motivated you to work at the Board?

The fact that I was the first woman to be named chair of the JKBOSE filled me with pride. JKBOSE has played a crucial role in elevating J&K to the forefront of the nation ever since it was founded. I'm proud of myself for being a member of JKBOSE for more than ten years. Moreover, I never saw myself as an administrator but a facilitator for the public in general and the student



community in particular.

You began working at the JKBOSE at a time when technology was rudimentary. The office setting quickly became obsolete with the introduction of computers and the internet. How challenging was it for everyone to transition to the online format, especially the administrative staff?

Yes, switching from old-fashioned ways to a solution-based on current technology was challenging in the beginning. However, I have always had the good fortune of being surrounded by motivated staff. It was difficult, but not impossible, to make the transition. The people did take some time to adjust to the new technology, but it was eventually made possible. One JKBOSE project that comes to mind is the services the organisation offers through Digilocker, a platform for online services that is only used by a very small number of Boards in the nation.

What JKBOSE achievement

would you consider to be ground-breaking during your time as Chairperson?

Conducting annual exams in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2014 floods is one such accomplishment. One of JKBOSE's key accomplishments during my tenure has been the timely provision of textbooks, the absence of paper leaks over the years, and fair and copy-free exams. JKBOSE is now a leading organisation in the modern era as a result of the transition from antiquated ways to technologically advanced solutions.

Many people weren't happy with your re-appointment as JKBOSE Chairperson for two more years in 2020. You must have had a difficult time coming to grips with the government's decision to grant you an extension.

Some people may have been upset by my extension, but since I have a positive attitude on life, I wasn't too bothered by it. I saw it as a challenge, and rather than be-

ing concerned about what some people would think about the government's choice, I was grateful for the chance to serve my people, who attested to my sincerity and applauded the decision.

In the meanwhile, you were assigned the additional responsibility of leading the State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT) as Director in September 2020. How did you manage the added responsibilities?

I was grateful that I was picked to be the organization's first Director, and I was both excited and nervous at the same time. There's no doubt that managing two important organisations at once is difficult. However, the people associated with these organizations have been my strongest supporters during this journey.

While serving as Director, what SCERT accomplishment would you regard to be a game-changer?

SCERT came into being by re-framing and restructuring the erstwhile State Institute of Education in 2020. Since then, I don't remember a day when SCERT has not worked for the betterment of the teaching community. Whether it be the NISHTHA training program, where J&K performed exceedingly well at the national level, or the results of the National Achievement Survey 2021, J&K demonstrated a substantial improvement over the last NAS of 2017.

Did you feel at ease in your role as Director SCERT or Chairperson JKBOSE? Would you prefer to be associated with JKBOSE, SCERT, or both? Which job was the most difficult one and why?

I count myself fortunate to have been connected to such organisations during my service years. Both professions are neither difficult nor simple, but an administrator must be prepared to handle any issues that arise. Fortunately, both organisations provided me with a committed team, which helped to lessen the stress of my work.

How do you envision your future post-retirement?

After more than 39 years of service, I believe I can claim with confidence that I have fulfilled my purpose in life. After giving everything that I had, it is now time to be with my family and friends. They have been tremendously supportive of me throughout and have made significant contributions to my growth. But I would want to be with them right now for as long as I can.

In contrast to Kashmir, where you were born, you have spent a lot of time working elsewhere. How closely do you feel about Kashmir as a daughter of the soil? Do you have any plans to help out where you were born?

At my core, I am Kashmiri, and I am proud of who I am. Since Kashmir is where I began my professional career, I'll never forget my roots. I would lend a hand in whatever way I could, whether as a citizen or an academic, because I've always wanted Kashmir to prosper and I'll do anything I can to make it happen. However, Jammu has also gained my heart through the years.

Travel Through Books

RACHEL MARTIN

MIRANDA MAZARIEGOS

MAUREEN PAO

After two years of being stuck at home during the pandemic, people are ready to get out into the world. You can grin and bear the high price of getting on an airplane these days — or transport yourself through the pages of a good book.

And for that, we have a whole lot of suggestions in the inaugural summer edition of NPR's Books We Love project.

From the 167 book recommendations, we've selected 10 that transcend time and place: from the red-light district of Lahore, Pakistan, and streets of Mexico to the royal court of 18th century Korea and a dystopian future where Japan no longer exists.

THE RETURN OF FARAZ ALI BY AAMINA AHMAD

It starts out as a crime novel. A murder. A cop. An investigation. Then it evolves into so much more. This assured debut novel evokes an older Pakistan, with all the many complications of class, society, entitlement, entangled history. Anyone looking for a pat ending should leave this one alone. Instead, come for the evocative writing, the subtle characters and plot — some of which veered into completely unexpected territory.

—Nishant Dahiya, deputy supervising senior editor, NPR International Desk

I AM FROM HERE: STORIES AND RECIPES FROM A SOUTHERN CHEF BY VISHWESH BHATT

Born in Gujarat, India, Mississippi chef Vishwesh Bhatt had me from hello with his genteelly defiant title, I Am From Here. Western India and the Southern U.S. share more culinary parallels than you'd think, from rice varieties and sesame to okra, shrimp and fresh tomatoes. Here, these ingredients explode in gleeful fusion, the torrid affair of a spice cabinet and a well-stocked pantry. Juicy shrimp pop beneath a crust of black pepper and coriander; pork shoulder melts

in a sweet árbol-guajillo chile paste. What about sourcing ingredients? After two years of lockdown, don't tell me you don't know how to mail-order dal!

—T. Susan Chang, food writer

YINKA, WHERE IS YOUR HUSBAND? BY LIZZIE DAMILOLA BLACKBURN

Yinka has done everything her Nigerian-born mother expected — except find a husband, something her mother prays for loudly at their family gatherings. But Yinka has to figure out what she wants: from her career, in love and for herself on her own terms. Set in London, the novel depicts the challenge of navigating two cultures, both of which Yinka is a part of and apart from. In her commitment to being her whole self and true to her faith and ideals, Yinka writes a prayer for herself, a rallying cry to which we can all shout, “Amen!”

—Tayla Burney, director, NPR Network Programming & Production

A DOWN HOME MEAL FOR THESE DIFFICULT TIMES BY MERON HADERO

Debut books don't get much stronger than this. Meron Hadero's remarkable stories explore a diverse cast of people doing their best to find acceptance or at least stability — a 10-year-old Ethiopian immigrant who befriends a German man in Iowa; a pair of refugees in New York determined to learn how to cook classic American food. Hadero is deeply perceptive; her dialogue always rings true; and the regard she has for her characters is apparent. This isn't just an excellent first book, it's an excellent book, period.

—Michael Schaub, book critic

THE RED PALACE BY JUNE HUR

A palace nurse becomes entangled in a murder investigation when four



women are found dead and her beloved mentor is accused of being the killer. It soon becomes clear that the intrigue runs far deeper than she could have anticipated and, in solving it, she may destroy the fragile balance that holds a royal dynasty in power. The Red Palace is an expertly choreographed mystery with a touch of romance and an emotionally satisfying conclusion that beautifully binds fiction to historical fact.

—Caitlyn Paxson, book critic

ONE FOR ALL BY LILLIE LAINOFF

In this gender-bent retelling of The Three Musketeers, 16-year-old Tania de Batz has a chronic illness that can incapacitate her — frustrating for someone who wants to follow in the footsteps of her former Musketeer father. After her father's death, Tania is sent to Madame de Treville, who trains young women to be Musketeers. With Portia, Théa

and Aria, Tania searches for evidence to uncover a plot to assassinate King Louis XIV — and to find the identity of her father's murderer. But handsome Étienne Verdon becomes an obstacle, because a Mousquetaire is not supposed to fall for her target.

—Alethea Kontis, author and book critic

GULLAH GEECHEE HOME COOKING: RECIPES FROM THE Matriarch OF Edisto Island BY EMILY MEGGETT

If you've never heard of Edisto Island, Emily Meggett's cookbook is a great place to start learning. Meggett is the matriarch of the island, which is home to many Gullah Geechee people and the food they've made for generations. The recipes are fantastic: One of my absolute favorites is Meggett's Stuffed Fish with Parsley Rice and Roe, which is time-consuming but so worth the effort. You're going to want to make these dishes again and again — espe-

cially Meggett's Deviled Crab, Fried Okra, Sea Crab Soup, and Red Rice. And in doing so, you'll realize the impact that the Gullah Geechee community has had on American food history.

—Wynne Davis, editorial assistant, All Things Considered

PARADAIS BY FERNANDA MELCHOR, TRANSLATED BY SOPHIE HUGHES

Fernanda Melchor's Paradais, the follow-up to the Booker Prize-nominated Hurricane Season, is another grim and powerful indictment of the depravity encouraged by Mexico's racist, sexist and classist societal structures. Translated by Sophie Hughes, Paradais stars a luxury housing complex's beleaguered gardener, who's driven by one of its residents to follow his worst impulses. Melchor's prose is singular, with its fair share of page-long sentences that travel from the deepest psychic corners of her charac-

ters to the broadest panorama of Mexican life.

—Leland Cheuk, author and editor

THE GIRL WHO FELL BE- NEATH THE SEA BY AXIE OH

In this absolutely gorgeous Korean folk tale retelling, 16-year-old Mina jumps into the sea and gives herself to the Sea God in place of the beautiful Shim Cheong. In a magical underwater land filled with spirits, demons, gods and creatures of legend (including the giant snake Imugi), the Red String of Fate binding Mina to the Sea God is severed by the handsome-but-coldhearted Lord Shin. But the Red String of Fate reappears, only this time attaching her to Lord Shin. Mina has a month to investigate the Sea God's curse and detach herself from Lord Shin before losing her mortality forever.

—Alethea Kontis, author and book critic

SCATTERED ALL OVER THE EARTH BY YOKO TAWADA

This dystopian novel is riveting, bizarre as can be, and like nothing else I've ever read. I'm terrified not enough people will read it. A refugee from a Japan that no longer exists, Hiruko is a teacher who travels through Europe speaking in her invented language that somehow just makes sense to everyone. The book's told in episodes and strange little spells of romance and precise world-building, which is incredibly fun in itself. But the real pull is Hiruko, one of the most charming and memorable characters I've ever encountered. Forget Wordle: Hiroko has us doing word games in a dystopian world! What more could one ask for?

—Kamil Ahsan, biologist, historian and writer

—NPR

Delhi HC Asks Police To Respond To Alt News Co-Founder Mohammed Zubair's Plea Against Police Remand

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday sought a response from Delhi Police on a plea by Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair challenging the legality of his police remand in a case related to an alleged objectionable tweet he had posted in 2018 against a Hindu deity.

Justice Sanjeev Narula issued notice on the petition and gave two weeks to the investigating agency to file its response to the plea which challenges the legality and propriety of the trial court's June 28 order granting four days of custody of Zubair to the police.

The judge listed the case for further hearing on July 27 and said that proceedings before the trial court would continue without being influenced by the present proceedings.

The high court noted that the remand order would expire on July 2 and said, "The police remand order is for four days. I will have to hear the other side. I will issue a notice".

Zubair was arrested by the Delhi Police on June 27 for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through one of his tweets and was sent to one-day police custody by the trial court on the same day.

After being produced on the expiry of his one-day custodial interrogation, his custody was extended by another four days by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM).



The high court at the outset queried the petitioner's counsel concerning the "limited shelf life" of the petition as his four-day custody was set to expire on Saturday.

To this, the counsel responded, I don't think this is a shelf life matter. The issue is whether the remand order is a legal order.

Advocate Vrinda Grover, representing Zubair, argued that the "so-called" offensive tweet was of March 2018 so it was barred by limitation and no court can take cognisance of this case.

The issue is whether the trial court's order was legal and did a case of this nature even warrant Zubair's remand, she said.

"Could I be detained in this manner? Could my phone and laptop be seized in this manner? This is the issue here," Grover asked, adding that when the tweet is on Twitter's server, why Zubair's

mobile phone was required.

She contended, "this remand order is not only mechanical but there is also non-application of mind. It violates my rights. It is a plunging dagger in my right to privacy. I (Zubair) am a journalist and my laptop is in their custody."

Grover urged the court to issue notice on the petition to "decide the legality" of the remand and make the search and seizure subject to the outcome of the case.

"If courts don't stop this, nobody is going to be safe in this country," she said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Delhi Police, raised objections with respect to the maintainability of the petition and said that the FIR is only an "initiation of proceedings" and the investigating agency may find material to show that there is no offence or

that there is a serious offence which is not part of the FIR.

He submitted that the police is not acting in a partisan manner as it has already given a clean chit to Zubair in another FIR against him.

As the judge asked the law officer if the investigating agency would seek an extension of the petitioner's custody remand before the trial court on July 2, Mehta responded, "We don't know. It would be presumptuous on my part. All these contentions can be raised there (trial court)."

The judge said, "I am confident that the investigating agency will examine the case on the basis of material".

During the hearing, Grover said not only Zubair but several other persons have tweeted the same thing but no action has been taken against them.

When the Solicitor General asked what was the anxiety for the laptop, Grover shot back "there was no anxiety. It is a matter of my civil liberty and rights and I will fight for it."

As an interim relief, Grover sought that till the petition is decided by the high court, the police shall not venture into Zubair's laptop as the tweet was made through a mobile phone and not a laptop.

Earlier in June, a case was registered against Zubair under sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups

on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, language, etc.) and 295A (deliberate and malicious act intended to outrage religious feelings) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Police said the case was registered on the complaint of a Twitter user who accused him of hurting religious sentiments.

Police, while seeking an extension of Zubair's custody by five days, had told the trial court that the accused was allegedly following a trend where he used religious tweets in an effort to get famous and that there was a deliberate effort to create social disharmony and hurt religious feelings.

The investigating agency had also said that the accused joined the probe but did not cooperate and various material from his phone was deleted.

Zubair's counsel had opposed the police plea saying that the agency had called him for questioning in some other case but he was arrested in the present matter in haste.

Zubair's counsel had also said that the photo which the accused used in the tweets is of an old Hindi film from 1983 by Hrishikesh Mukherjee, 'Kissi Se Na Kehna', and that the film was not banned.

The trial court had, however, rejected the submission saying it was of no assistance to the accused at this stage.

Murmu Has Better Chances To Win Prez Polls After Maha Development: Mamata

Agenceis

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said opposition parties might have considered backing NDA's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu, a tribal leader of the saffron party from Odisha, had the BJP held a discussion with them before fielding her.

Maintaining that Murmu had better chances to win the July 18 presidential election, with NDA's numbers having got boosted after the change of guard in Maharashtra, Banerjee stressed that "a consensus candidate is always better for the country".

"BJP's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu has better chances (to win presidential polls) because of Maharashtra development. If the BJP had asked for our suggestion before announcing the name of Murmu, we could have considered it, too, bearing greater interests in mind," Banerjee told reporters on the sidelines of a Rath Yatra programme here.

Non-BJP parties, including the Congress as well as the TMC, have named former Union minister Yashwant Sinha as the joint nominee for the presidential polls.

The TMC supreme said that she "will go by what the opposition parties decide".

"We would have tried (fielding a woman). Some 16-17



political parties came together to take a decision. I will not be able to take a call alone. I want the presidential elections to be held peacefully. I have equal respect for all religions, races and creeds.

"I feel sad that there is a contest. But I think all Dalits, all tribals are with us. We do not create divisions among people," she added.

Hitting out at Banerjee, meanwhile, Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury alleged that the TMC chief made the statement on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's instructions.

"She made a secret pact with Modi and that got exposed once again. She chose the candidate (for presidential polls) and we supported that. Our whimsical didi' is now acting as a BJP agent. The BJP plunged into the elections with Droupadi Murmu after ensuring that it has the numbers... It's not a big discovery that Murmu will win," Chowdhury said, when contacted.

Scrap "Flawed" GST As It Has "Serious Birth Defects": Chidambaram To Centre On GST 5th Anniversary

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday demanded that the current Goods and Services Tax (GST) law should be scrapped and a new one with a single low slab be brought in its place, claiming the existing law has "serious birth defects" which have "wrecked" the country's economy.

The Congress made the demand even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the GST as a major tax reform, saying it furthered 'Ease of Doing Business'

and fulfilled the vision of 'One Nation, One Tax'.

"We mark #5YearsofGST, a major tax reform that furthered 'Ease of Doing Business' and fulfilled the vision of 'One Nation, One Tax'," Modi said in a tweet.

Modi tagged a tweet by Citizen engagement platform of the government of India 'MyGovIndia' which said the GST has played a key role in defining new India's economic structure and empowering citizens.

The Congress also demanded consultations with all stakeholders

and an all-party meeting to seek the views of all parties, especially non-BJP and work out a new law which should be simple.

Senior Congress leader and former finance minister P Chidambaram said the Congress completely rejects the current GST regime and promised to work towards its replacement and bring GST 2.0 with a single, low tax.

"The GST had serious birth defects. In the last five years these defects have only become worse and all those touched by GST have been seriously injured."

He also said the Congress will administer the law in a manner that the GST revenues will be shared fairly and equitably between the Centre and the states in a manner that will promote the growth of business, especially small businesses, and bring back the lost jobs.

"The first thing that has to be done is to get rid of these six rates. You have to have a single low rate, that is GST. The world over, that is GST," Chidambaram told a press conference on the fifth anniversary of GST

implementation.

"It has to be a single low rate, that is a starting point. If you make an error at the starting point, your entire travel on the path will be wrong. So let us scrap this GST, let's go back to the drawing board and start with a single low rate. Then let's work out the further steps," Chidambaram said.

Noting that there are serious problems about tax levied by two authorities, the former finance minister said half the tax payers come under the Centre's

jurisdiction and half the tax payers under the states' jurisdiction.

"It's a vertical division, whereas logically if you have to divide the administrative powers, it has to be a horizontal division. The small tax payer, the small businessman, should not have to go after the central tax collector. There are any number of absurdities in this law and I think it is very difficult to correct this law and we will have to replace the law."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took to twitter to say that the BJP has turned the Congress' 'Genuine Simple Tax' into a 'Gabbar Singh

Tax', making the GST a "nightmare" for doing business in India.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also demanded that there is a need for review of the GST applicable on medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) as only big companies, chartered accountants and lawyers were the only ones benefiting from its implementation.

"There is a need to review the GST applicable for MSME sector," he said, calling for its complete overhaul and reassessment for the sector.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

SC Slams

refusing to entertain Sharma's plea for clubbing of FIRs, a vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala allowed her to withdraw the plea.

"She has a threat or she has become a security threat? The way she has ignited emotions across the country this lady is single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country," the bench said when Sharma's lawyer Maninder Singh pointed out that she was facing threats to life.

The bench further said, "the way she ignited emotions across the country has led to unfortunate incidents. This lady is single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country. We saw the debate".

After the court's unsparing criticism of Sharma, the Congress said the Supreme Court has rightly called out Sharma for being responsible for igniting emotions across the country with her derogatory remark against the Prophet, and that the ruling party should hang its head in shame.

In a statement, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the court has made crucial and far-reaching observations and strengthened the party's resolve to fight "destructively divisive ideologies".

"These remarks by the Supreme Court, which resonate with the entire country, should make the party in power hang its head in shame," he added.

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi demanded the immediate arrest of Sharma and said rule of law should prevail.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Sharma, said she had indeed apologised for her remarks and there are several judgments that say there cannot be two FIRs for the same incident.

The bench said, "her apology came too late and that too conditionally saying if religious sentiments are hurt and so on. She should have been on TV immediately and apologised to the nation".

The court said her petition smacks of arrogance and that she thinks that the magistrate of the country is too small for her.

"When an FIR is registered and you are not arrested, this shows your clout. She thinks she thinks she has the power to back up and goes on to make irresponsible statements", the bench said.

Singh said Sharma was a spokesperson of a political party and her unintentional comments were in relation to a debate.

"If you are a spokesperson of a party, it is not a license to say things like this," the bench said, adding, "if there was a misuse of the debate, the first thing she should have done was to file an FIR against the anchor".

Singh said she had reacted to the debate initiated by other debaters and pointed to the transcript of the debate. He said that there were serious debates on the issue within the same community and Sharma's remarks were made in that context only.

The bench said, "what was the TV debate for? Was it to fan an agenda and why did they choose a sub-judice topic? What is the business of the TV channel to discuss the matter which is sub-judice, except to promote an agenda?"

Referring to various apex court verdicts, Singh said there cannot be a second FIR on the same cause of action.

Justice Kant said she has remedy before the high court and can very well approach it, if there is a second FIR.

Singh then referred to the Arnab Goswami case of 2020 and TT Antony case of 2001, and said the law has been laid down by the apex court that multiple FIR on the same configuration can be clubbed and there can be no second FIR on the same cause.

The bench said, "the case of a journalist expressing his right on a particular issue is on a different pedestal from a spokesperson of a political party who is lambasting others with irresponsible statements without thinking of the consequences".

Justice Kant said, "Yes. In a democracy everyone has the right to speak. In a democracy grass has the right to grow and donkeys have the right to eat".

Singh said she has joined the investigation being conducted by the Delhi Police and not running away and multiple FIRs are lodged against her in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Nagpur to Jammu and Kashmir for the same cause of action.

The bench said, "what has happened in the investigation so far? What has Delhi Police done so far? Don't make us open our mouth? They must have put a red carpet for you."

Observing that in this case a special treatment was meted out to an individual, the bench said when an FIR is registered against someone he is arrested but Sharma was not arrested.

After the hearing which lasted for nearly 30 minutes, the bench said it is not convinced with her bonafide and the conscience of the court is not satisfied and refused to entertain the petition saying "you avail other remedies".

The Left parties also hit out at the government over the Supreme Court's observations.

"We hope that beyond words, if according to the Supreme Court, Ms Sharma is responsible for starting the hate spiral & most recent reprehensible cycle of violence, she will be proceeded upon as per law..." CPI general secretary Sitaram Yechury said in a tweet.

"But if the law does not act against her and others like her promoted by the party, who sow discord, separatism and damage India, the wrong message would go out. We would find many more like her mushrooming from the RSS/BJP's hate factory and on vitriolic TV debates," he said.

CPI MP Binoy Viswam tweeted, "Red carpet for Nupur Sarma, prison cells for Teesta and Sreekumar! Comments from Supreme Court should alert Modi Govt. Irresponsibility, driven by bigotry shouldn't be the hallmark of any spokesperson. Such elements caused Udaipur incident. They should apologise to People & Nation."

Meanwhile, a letter petition was filed before Chief Justice N V Ramana seeking withdrawal of adverse remarks made by a Supreme Court bench against Sharma.

The letter petition said that it be treated as a PIL and the adverse remarks made during the hearing be declared as "uncalled for".

Notices Served

duties and not interested in government job.

The erring doctors have been asked to reply to the notice within a period of 15 days, failing which disciplinary proceedings will be taken against them.

"Now, therefore, a final notice is issued to these doctors to explain their position as to why their services shall not be terminated in terms of Article 128 of J&K CSR, 1956, Vol-I, for remaining on unauthorized absent from duties, willfully, within a period of 15 days from the issuance of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that they have nothing to say in their defence and disciplinary proceedings shall be initiated against them, ex-parte," it added—(KNO)

Police Bars

thereby causing security problems in view of heightened security threats, the officer said.

"Unregistered pilgrims, travelling without RIFD (radio-frequency identification) and devotees travelling in the guise of tourists will not be allowed to move to Kashmir

from Navyug tunnel in (Banihal area) after the cut-off time of 3.30 pm," Ramban Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma told reporters here.

For security reasons, vehicles of Amarnath pilgrims and tourists will not be allowed towards Kashmir after 1.30 pm at Chandrakot and after 3.30 pm from Banihal tunnel. However, trucks and other local traffic will ply, as usual, she said.

The SP further said the pilgrims, who were stopped at Chandrakot after 1.30 pm, have been accommodated at Yatri Niwas in Chandrakot.

Replying to a question on restrictions for local traffic on the highway during the yatra, Sharma said the local vehicles, including those ferrying school students, employees and patients, are being allowed one by one.

Advisory Issued

between 0500 am to 08 am and hoteliers/guest house owners/restaurant owners shall advise tourists/customers staying in Pahalgam and desiring to proceed towards Srinagar/Jammu shall cross Langanbal bridge Pahalgam before 0200 p.m besides that the tourists desiring to visit Aru valley shall be advised that they shall close their program in Aru before 1200 pm and return back by 0100 pm," it said.

Betab Valley will be closed for tourists by 1230 Pm every day and all Hoteliers are directed to check out their Guests/ Tourists by or before 1:30 pm, it added.

Meanwhile Police Station Sonamarg has issued an advisory regarding cut off timing from Sonamarg to Srinagar.

For tourist vehicles to cross Shutkadi bridge/ PS Sonamarg/truck yard towards Srinagar, 1500 hours will be cut off time besides that for yatra vehicles to cross PS Sonamarg/Shutkadi Bridge towards Srinagar 1000 hours will be cut off time.

Furthermore, for yatra vehicles to cross Baltal/Y-Junction/ Nilgrath, 0900 hours will be cut off time, it added. (KNO)

6,400 Pilgrims

base camp in a calcade of 265 vehicles early morning. The 43-day long pilgrimage to the cave shrine will conclude on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

With today's batch the number of the total pilgrims, who have left for Amarnath cave shrine from Jammu, goes up to 17,100, officials said.

Over 7,000 fresh pilgrims have arrived in Jammu from various places across the country for their onward journey to the shrine, 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 base camps here.

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.

The pilgrimage is expected to see higher-than-usual attendance as it is being held after a gap of three years.

In 2019, the Yatra was cancelled midway ahead of the Centre abrogating Article 370 provisions of the Constitution. The pilgrimage did not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summer Vacations

break from July 4 to July 14 to the Principal Secretary.

The announcement of summer vacations comes at a time when the Valley is reeling under intense heat wave. On Thursday, the capital city of Srinagar recorded the hottest day of the season with the mercury touching 34°C mark.

Swami Avdheshanand, Mahant Deependra Giri Call On LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, Member, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board & Mahamandleshwar, Juna Akhara; and Mahant Deependra Giri, Custodian Chhari Mubarak Shri Amarnathji on Friday called on the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here.

Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj and Mahant Deependra Giri who met the Lt Governor, separately, discussed the arrangements put in place and

other matters pertaining to Shri Amarnathji Yatra that commenced on 30th June.

Pertinently, in this year's Shri Amarnathji Yatra, a large number of pilgrims are expected to visit J&K as the holy pilgrimage has resumed after a gap of two years due to covid pandemic.

Keeping this in view, extensive arrangements have been made by the UT Government and Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board for a comfortable and memorable pilgrimage of devotees visiting the holy cave.

Kamili Reviews Implementation Of FPOs In Kashmir



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary in Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare Department (AP&FWD), Shabnam Shah Kamili on Friday held a preliminary meeting to review the Farmers Produce Organizations (FPOs) of J&K at Agriculture complex Lalmandi here.

The meeting was attended by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal; Director Horticulture Kashmir, Ghulam Rasool Mir; Director Sericulture, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri; Director Fisheries, Irshad Ahmad Shah; Director Animal Husbandry, Purnima Mittal; Director Extension SKUAST-K, Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, representatives of different FPOs in person while as the Jammu and Delhi based officers including the officer from NABARD, attended the meeting through video conferencing.

While addressing the meeting Secretary in AP&FW talked about the importance of an action plan for the FPOs in J&K. She said that all the stake holders must come together for the successful implementation of FPO initiative.

She said in coming days district wise action plans would be prepared so that the FPO inter-

vention could be introduce in all the areas of the UT.

While highlighting the importance of awareness among the farmers, she said that capacity building programmes would be organized for all the stake holders of the FPO initiatives including the members of FPOs. Pertinently the farmers producer organization (FPO) is an organization of producers of any agricultural, non farm products etc. It helps to illuminate the chain of intermediaries in agricultural marketing. The main aim of the FPO is that every member gets equally benefited.

Earlier, Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal gave a detailed presentation regarding the status of FPOs in Kashmir division.

He said the department has registered 40 FPOs till date and also informed the meeting regarding the various interventions taken by the department to raise awareness about the FPO's among the farming community.

Different heads of departments, representatives of FPO's, representatives of NABARD, SKUAST and other stake holders also expressed their views and feedback regarding the farmer's producer organization initiative.

2 Persons Killed As Tipper Falls Into Gorge In Poonch

Agencies

POONCH: Two persons were killed when a tipper they were travelling in met with an accident in Mendhar area of this mountainous district on Friday.

Official sources said that the tipper (JK12B-1569) on way from Mendhar to Poonch rolled down into a gorge on reaching near Nabna Major Morh Salnai, leading to on spot death of a 28-year-old person, Javid

Ahmed son of Mohammad Rafiq of Dara Dullian Haveli Poonch, and injuries to another person Afraz Ahmed (driver of the vehicle) son of Jahanger Khan of Pliallian.

He was shifted in serious condition to District Hospital Poonch where succumbed to injuries.

SHO Mendhar, Manzoor Kohli told a local news agency GNS that a case has been registered and further investigations taken up.

Man Booked Under PSA In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A man allegedly involved in militant and anti-India activities has been slapped with the Public Safety Act and detained by the police in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday, officials said.

Mohammad Hanief, hailing from Lower Guntal area in Surankote tehsil here, is in regular contact with Pakistan-based militants and handlers through social media and his activities are prejudicial and detrimental to the union territory's security, they said.

Acting on the dossier of the police department, the Poonch district magistrate ordered Hanief's detention under the Public Safety Act, a preventive detention law, to stop him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the union territory's security, they said.

He was continuously indulging in criminal activities and had created a "state of terror" amongst the peace loving people of the area, and has not mended his behaviour, they said, adding he has been lodged in the district jail.

Weatherman Predicts Respite From Scorching Heat In J&K

Says Light To Moderate Rains Likely To Occur On July 04 And 05



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid scorching heat in Jammu and Kashmir, the weatherman here has predicted light to moderate rainfall across the Union Territory on July 04 and 05.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Sonum Lotus said that the weather would remain mostly cloudy till July 05 here.

"As the Monsoon arrived yesterday, moisture level would increase, however, a day after hottest day of the season was recorded on Thursday, cloudy weather was visible today," he said.

He further said that during the next few days, temperature would remain in between 30-33 degrees Celsius and there is a possibility of light to moderate rain-

fall in J&K on July 04 and July 05.

Pertinently, several areas of Kashmir including Srinagar, Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora and other parts reel under intense heat wave as mercury continues to settle above 30 degrees Celsius for the past nearly one week.

The temperature started increasing just a day after four-day wet spell ended last week—(KNO)

Appreciate SC Observations Against Nupur Sharma: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Friday "appreciated" the Supreme Court's observations against suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma over her "derogatory comments on Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

However, she asked when the apex court will take cognizance of the Delhi Police's different yardsticks applied to Sharma and fact-checking website Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair.

Earlier in the day, the Supreme Court came down heavily on Sharma over her remarks on the Prophet (PBUH), saying her "loose tongue" has "set the entire country on fire" and that she is "single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country".

Sharma's remark against the



Prophet (PBUH) during a TV debate triggered protests across the country and drew sharp reactions from many Gulf countries. The BJP subsequently suspended her from the party.

The court's observations came in the backdrop of the brutal murder of a tailor in Udaipur by two men who had posted videos online claiming that they were avenging an insult to Islam.

"Appreciate SC's observations about the provocative comments made by Nupur Sharma. But when will they take cognizance of the different yardsticks used by Delhi Police vis a vis

Nupur Sharma & @zoo_bear?" Mufti said on Twitter.

Alt News co-founder Zubair was arrested by the Delhi Police on June 27 for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through one of his tweets posted in 2018.

Police, while seeking an extension of Zubair's custody by five days, had told the trial court that the accused was allegedly following a trend where he used religious tweets in an effort to get famous and that there was a deliberate effort to create social disharmony and hurt religious feelings.

Zubair's counsel had said that the photo which he used in his tweet is from the 1983 Hindi film 'Kissi Se Na Kehna' and that the movie was not banned.

However, the court rejected the submission, saying it was of no assistance to the accused at this stage.

DAK Demands Medical University For Kashmir On Doctors' Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On doctors' day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday demanded setting up of a medical university in Kashmir.

"Medical university in Kashmir is the need of the hour" said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said Jammu and Kashmir (JK) has dozens of medical institutions, including medical, dental and paramedical colleges, which are currently affiliated to Kashmir and Jammu universities. The two universities are already overburdened with the affairs of their own academic institutions and find it hard to cater to the needs of thousands of medical

and paramedical students.

"In absence of medical university, medical students suffer immensely as examination, results and awarding of degrees often get delayed," he said.

The DAK President said medical university would give new direction to medical curriculum that would change the health care scenario in JK.

"The varsity would provide competent caring physicians through quality undergraduate and postgraduate training that would shape the future of the health care in the region," he said adding "the quality of nurses and paramedics would also improve through outstanding education that would produce a paradigm change in patient care."

"The university would provide an environment that is conducive for research which would bring us on the scientific map of the world," said Dr Nisar.

"It would serve as an international magnet and will attract high quality professionals across the globe to practice, teach and research in an academic medical environment," he said.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said the medical university would integrate health care system of the valley and bring the health institutions under one umbrella.

"That will provide uniform quality health care to all and improve patient satisfaction and outcome," he added.

Revenue Official Held For Demanding Rs 25L Bribe

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Friday arrested a revenue official for demanding Rs 25 lakh for issuing a revenue document to a man in Akhnoor area of this winter capital.

The anti-graft body received a complaint against Ashok Sharma, Naib Tehsildar and his associates for demanding a bribe of Rs25 lakh for issuing a revenue extract (fard), an ACB spokesperson said Friday.

The complainant, he said, had claimed to have applied for issuance of fard in respect of land in the name of his wife measuring 1 kanal 19 marlas under khasra No. 440/299 situated at Mawa Karora, Sungal Morh, Akhnoor before then patwari Halqa Akhnoor Khas namely Ravinder Bhagat.

"It was alleged that after filing the application, the patwari Ravinder Bhagat and Naib Tehsildar, Ashok Sharma who were at that time posted in the area, approached the complainant through their tout Raman Gupta and asked for a bribe of Rs30 lakh for the issuance of the fard," he said.

The spokesperson said both of them contacted the complainant and on negotiation the amount was settled at Rs25 lakh.



"Thereafter, both Patwari and the Naib Tehsildar were transferred out of that place, but the amount of Rs25 lakh was still being demanded by Naib Tehsildar Ashok Sharma from the complainant," he said.

He further said that a tout named Raman Gupta sent the soft copy of fard to Chiku Gupta, the buyer of the land, who later forwarded the same copy on whatsapp to the complainant.

"The original copy of fard, which was stated to be retained by the Naib Tehsildar Ashok Sharma was not being provided to the complainant because he was demanding the bribe money of ₹25 lakhs," the Bureau spokesperson said.

He further said that the Naib Tehsildar demanded to pay the amount of bribe in parts, though he will provide the fard only after getting the full amount of Rs 25 lakh.

J&K Logs 94 New Covid Cases, Active Tally Crosses 500

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reordered 94 new covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours while the death toll remained at 4756 with no fatality due to the virus during the time, officials said on Friday.

They said that 62 cases were reported from Jammu division and 32 from Kashmir division, taking overall tally to 455183.

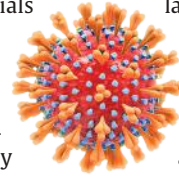
Giving district wise details, Jammu reported 51 cases, Srinagar 19, Kupwara 13, Samba four, Kathua three and Rajouri two while one case each was reported from Udhampur and Ramban. Among the total cases, 167117 are from Jammu division and 288066 from Kashmir.

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, 42 Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—26 from Jammu division and 16 from Kashmir Valley. So far 449882 people have recovered, leaving the active case tally at 545—353 in Jammu and 140 in Kashmir.

The officials said that there was no new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today. So far 51 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials said. They also informed that 8004 doses of covid-19 vaccine were administered during the time in J&K. (GNS)



Normalcy In J&K Cannot Be Achieved By Force: Dr Farooq

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Friday called for a united fight for the restoration of J&K's abridged democratic, constitutional rights.

He said this while interacting with a number of delegations who called on him at his Srinagar residence from Kargil, North, South and Central parts of Kashmir.

"Peace in J&K cannot be achieved by feeding bitter medicines to our people. It can only be achieved by restoring their fettered constitutional and democratic rights. Far from affording our people's rights enjoyed by their counterparts in other parts of the country, they are being treated with discrimination at every level. There are no exceptions to this wanton democratic decline in Jammu and Kashmir. Our party had particularly suffered immensely for strengthening the roots of democracy in the region. We lost a number of our workers and leaders in the struggle. Unfortunately the democratic march towards strengthening the institutions started by us at the cost of shouldering the coffins of our colleagues remains in suspended mode," Dr Farooq said, according to a party spokesperson.

Farooq, he said, also claimed that there was little support to the claims of the government on Jammu and Kashmir, instead



people of Jammu and Kashmir are at the epicentre of an emerging situation marked by "widespread development deficit, pervasive unemployment, deepening alienation, unprecedented administrative inertia and insecurity,"

"It is our obligation, as responsible citizens, to light the candle of democracy again in J&K," Dr Farooq said, necessitating the need of a united, constitutional and democratic struggle for the restoration of people's abridged constitutional, democratic and human rights.

"I see no way of achieving anything in J&K without a lasting unity between different sections of our society. We have to stop seeing ourselves as Hindu-Muslim, Shia-Sunni, Bareilly-Deobandi, Kashmiri-Dogra binaries. Unity in diversity must be our creed to last for all time and under all circumstances, otherwise there is no end in sight to our common problems in the shape of poverty, unemployment, and development. Our mutual discord will make our descent into darkness. Divided we cannot achieve anything, let alone get back our abridged constitutional and democratic rights," he added.

Youth Drowns, Two Minor Cousins Rescued From Wular Lake

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A young man drowned while his brother and a cousin brother were rescued on Friday after their boat capsized in Wular Lake in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Officials said that two brothers Muzaffar Ahmad and Zafar Ahmad both sons of Farooq Ahmad Kawa and their cousin Bilal Ahmad son of Mohammad

Ashraf were collecting (Kharoo) grass in a boat when their boat capsized in Wular Lake.

A police officer while confirming the incident said that two minor boys Bilal (16) and Zaffar (17) have been rescued immediately while Muzaffar Ahmad (20) died.

A case under relevant section of law is being registered and further investigation is on, the officer added. (KDC)

Rare Musk Deer Captured In Handwara

SRINAGAR: A rare musk deer commonly known as 'roose kat' was captured alive on Friday in Bhawan Watsar area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

A wildlife official Muhammad Sadiq said that the locals spotted the deer roaming in the fields of Bhawan Watsar of Rajwar last evening and simultaneously captured it.

The locals, he said, later handed over the rare animal to wildlife officials.

He added it was likely that the deer was frightened and might have come down from forests to an inhabited area situated at the bottom of Rajwar range forests.

Later, he said, the musk deer was taken to Dachigam Wildlife Sanctuary in Srinagar. (KNT)

JD YSS Flags Off Trekking Group To Gulmarg

'39 trekkers to take part in 5 days trekking expedition'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Joint Director (JD) Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Kashmir Bashir Ahmed on Friday flagged off a group of trekkers to Gulmarg from here.

About 39 girls from different government educational institutions are participating in this trekking camp.

Interacting with the trekkers, Joint Director (JD) Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Kashmir, Bashir Ahmed said that the objective of the trekking expedition is to promote imbibe a spirit of adventure in the youth, build self-confidence and remain physically fit and mentally alert.

JD, YSS said that it will be a fun and great experience for you to trek over the slopes and hills in Gulmarg where you will see a magnificent panoramic view of area from the top of the hills which will rejuvenate your inner soul.

JD also urged the trekkers to exhibit high standard of discipline and cooperation during the days of trekking. He also

urged all the girls to observe and learn about the fauna and flora of the places they will be visiting and pen it down for knowledge and reference.

"You are the future of Jammu and Kashmir and you all together have to build a new Jammu and Kashmir and that will only be possible when you inculcate in yourself the values of life, discipline and culture," he said.

Meanwhile, all the arrangements of transportation, boarding and lodging have been made for the successful conduct of the expedition by the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS).

Besides trekking, the young girl trekkers shall be taking part in campfire and other allied activities in the camp. Well-trained and highly efficient officials of the Department have been deputed to escort the contingent.

DYSSO Srinagar Balbir Singh and other senior officers of the Department were present at the flag-off ceremony which took place at Youth Hostel Srinagar.

Indian Women Prevail Over Sri Lanka By 4 Wickets



Press Trust of India

PALLEKELE: The experienced Deepti Sharma shone with the bat after her exploits with the ball, coming to the Indian women's team's rescue in a tricky chase for a four-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the first ODI here on Friday.

In the company of Pooja Vastrakar (21 not out), Deepti (22 not out) guided the team home in 38 overs after being set an easy target of 172, in Harmanpreet Kaur's first match as full-time ODI captain. Cruising at 123 for three, India nearly made heavy weather of what seemed a comfortable run-chase after Harmanpreet departed for a well-made 44, slipping to 138 for six. But Deepti and Vastrakar en-

sure India emerged winners.

India bowled out Sri Lanka for 171 in 48.2 overs, and then chased down the target with 12 overs to spare.

The three-match series is part of the ICC ODI Championship. Harmanpreet took over the reins in the 50-over format after the recent retirement of long-time skipper Mithali Raj.

Thanks to the Indian bowlers' excellent show in the series opener, Sri Lanka's decision to bat first on winning the toss did not yield the desired result.

Seasoned off-spinner Deepti and medium pacer Renuka Singh (3/29) were the wreckmanpreet departed for a well-made 44, slipping to 138 for six. But Deepti and Vastrakar en-

Sindhu, Prannoy Exit From Malaysia Open

Press Trust of India

KUALA LUMPUR: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu crashed out in the women's singles quarterfinals of the Malaysia Open badminton tournament after losing to her nemesis Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in a hard-fought three-game contest in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

Sindhu, seeded seventh, squandered a game lead to lose 13-21, 21-15, 21-13 to the second seed Tai Tzu, a silver medallist at the Tokyo Olympics.

By virtue of the win, the Chinese Taipei shuttler extended her domination over the Indian ace, leading 16-5 on head-to-head record. Sindhu has now lost six matches on the trot against Tai Tzu.

Thereafter the Indian challenge ended in the Super 750 event as HS Prannoy also made a quarter-final exit, losing to seventh seeded Jonatan Christie of Indonesia 18-21, 16-21 in 44-minute men's singles match.

Sindhu, playing against drift, made a slow start and trailed 2-5 in the opening game. But she soon got her act together and pocketed 11 points on the trot to go into the break leading 11-7.



The Chinese Taipei shuttler tried to make comeback into the contest by playing long rallies but Sindhu was up to the task to pocket the opening game.

Sindhu started the second game brightly but her fancied rival dominated the proceedings after the early exchanges to lead 11-3 at the break.

It was a close contest in the decider as both the shuttlers fought tooth and nail till 12 points before Tai Tzu put Sindhu under pressure with a mix of drop shots and smashes to clinch the third game and keep her title defence hopes alive.

Pant-Jadeja Stand Rescues India Against England



Agencies

BIRMINGHAM: Rishabh Pant combined with Ravindra Jadeja in an unbroken 76-run partnership for the sixth wicket to arrest India's slide in the opening test against England at Edgbaston on Friday.

Put into bat, India had lost both their openers in the morning session and they slumped to 98-5 after lunch with stalwart Virat Kohli among the batsmen dismissed.

They rallied, however, reaching 174-5 at tea with Pant leading their recovery with an un-

beaten 53 off 52 balls.

All-rounder Jadeja was on 32 at the other end with India scoring at five-runs-an-over in the second session despite losing three wickets.

Earlier, James Anderson (3-41) gave England a strong start on his return from an ankle injury that had kept him out of the third test against New Zealand.

The veteran seamer drew first blood when he had opener Shubman Gill (17) caught at second slip by Zak Crawley.

The same Anderson-Crawley combination went on to remove Cheteshwar Pujara who

made 13.

It was an atonement of sorts for Crawley who had dropped Hanuma Vihari in the previous over from Matthew Potts.

Vihari could not capitalise on the reprieve though.

Potts removed Vihari and, in his next over, struck a bigger blow when Kohli, in two minds whether to leave or play, dragged the ball onto his stumps to depart for 11.

India are 2-1 up in the series which could not be completed last year following COVID-19 cases in the India camp ahead of the final match at Old Trafford.

Stokes To Skip T20I Series Vs India; Returns For ODIs



Agencies

LONDON: England Test captain Ben Stokes will skip the Twenty20 series against India but will return for the one-day internationals, England's cricket board (ECB) said on Friday.

Jos Buttler takes over as white-ball captain after Eoin Morgan announced his retirement this week. England host India in three T20Is from July 7 followed by three ODIs.

The teams are currently playing the fifth Test of the series - which India lead 2-1 -- that was postponed last year due to COVID-19 cases in the tourists' camp.

England spinner Adil Rashid will not be involved in the one-day series after he was given permission by the ECB to miss them to make the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca.

ENGLAND T20 SQUAD: Jos Buttler (captain), Moeen Ali, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Rich-

ard Gleeson, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Tymal Mills, Matthew Parkinson, Jason Roy, Phil Salt, Reece Topley, David Willey

ENGLAND ODI SQUAD: Jos Buttler (captain), Moeen Ali, Jonathan Bairstow, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Sam Curran, Liam Livingstone, Craig Overton, Matthew Parkinson, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Phil Salt, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, David Willey

FIFA To Use New High-Tech For Offside Calls At Qatar WC

Agencies

GENEVA: FIFA will introduce new technology to improve offside calls at the World Cup in Qatar this year, using a limb-tracking camera system.

FIFA said on Friday it is ready to launch semi-automated offside technology (SAOT) that uses multiple cameras to track player movements plus a sensor in the ball -- and will quickly show 3D images on stadium screens at the tournament to help fans understand the referee's call.

It's the third World Cup in a row that sees FIFA introduce new technology to help referees.

Goal-line technology was ready for the 2014 tournament in Brazil after a notorious refereeing error in 2010. In 2018, video review to help referees judge game-changing incidents was rolled out in Russia.

The new offside system promises faster and more accurate decisions than are currently made with the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system, even though the 2018 World Cup avoided major mistakes on offside calls.

Controversy has since flared



in European leagues, especially where VAR officials draw on-screen lines over players for marginal calls. They have been mocked as "armpit offside" because of the tiny margins.

Each stadium in Qatar will have 12 cameras beneath the roof synchronized to track 29 data points on each player's body 50 times per second. Data is processed with artificial intelligence to create a 3D offside line that is alerted to the team of VAR officials.

A sensor in the match ball tracks its acceleration and gives a more precise "kick point" -- when the decisive pass is played -- to align with the offside line data, FIFA innovation director Johannes Holzmüller said in an online briefing.

Ensuring soccer's biggest event is a showcase for technological progress -- and avoids obvious errors that live on in World Cup lore -- has been a long-time FIFA goal. (AP)

Australia Crush Sri Lanka In 1st Test



Agencies

GALLE: Nathan Lyon and part-time spinner Travis Head wrecked Sri Lanka on a treacherous track to help Australia to a 10-wicket win inside three days of the opening Test in Galle on Friday.

The tourists were in the box seat once they carved out a first innings lead of 109 in the spin-dominated, low-scoring contest at the Galle International Stadium.

Lyon (4-31) combined with spin partner Mitchell Swepson (2-34) to mow down Sri Lanka's top order and Head polished off their tail to skittle out Sri Lanka for 113 in their second innings.

Opener David Warner needed four balls to seal the win, smashing a six off Ramesh Mendis to

bring up the victory.

Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne's 23 was the highest tally on Sri Lanka's sorry-looking scorecard, with all 10 batsmen dismissed by the spinners.

Lyon finished with a match haul of nine wickets but Cameron Green was named man of the match for his score of 77.

Australia captain Pat Cummins was pleased that they mastered difficult conditions to fashion 'an amazing win'.

"Turning up this morning I didn't think it was going to happen that fast," he said.

"We were really clear in our planning how everyone was going to go about it."

"I thought the bravery and the proactiveness shown, especially by our batters, was fantastic."

Liverpool's Salah Signs Contract Extension



Agencies

MERSEYSIDE: Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah has signed a long-term contract extension at the club, the Premier League side said on Friday.

"I feel great and (I am) excited to win trophies with the club. It's a happy day for everyone," Salah said in a statement on the club website. "It takes a little bit of time, I think, to renew, but now everything is done so we just need to focus on what's next."

"I think you can see in the last

five or six years the team was always going (upwards). Last season we were close to winning four, but unfortunately in the last week of the season we lost two trophies."

Salah scored 23 league goals for Liverpool last season to share the Premier League golden boot with Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-min.

The 30-year-old Egyptian scored 31 goals in all competitions for Liverpool and helped them win the League Cup and FA Cup.

Tottenham Signs Brazil Forward Richarlison



Agencies

LONDON: Tottenham has completed the signing of Brazil forward Richarlison from Everton.

The two clubs said Friday that Richarlison has signed a five-year deal with Tottenham, moving to London after four years at Goodison Park. British media reported that the transfer fee was 60 million pounds (\$73 million).

The 25-year-old forward made 152 appearances for Everton in all competitions, scoring 53 goals. He has scored 48 goals in a total of 173 Premier League appearances for Everton and Watford, the London club he joined from Fluminense in 2017.

Richarlison becomes Tottenham's fourth summer signing, fol-

lowing Fraser Forster, Ivan Perisic and Yves Bissouma. He adds another attacking option for manager Antonio Conte, who has relied heavily on Harry Kane and Son Heung-min for goals. Also on Friday, Manchester City signed Armenia Bielefeld goalkeeper Stefan Ortega on a three-year deal.

The 29-year-old Ortega joins the Premier League champions as backup to Ederson after his deal expired with the recently relegated Bundesliga side.

United States international Zack Steffen was City's No. 2 last season but is reportedly set to join Middlesbrough on loan.

Ortega is City's second summer signing following star striker Erling Haaland's high-profile arrival from Borussia Dortmund. (AP)