

## SC Judge Who Heard Nupur Sharma's Plea 'Social Media Needs To Be Mandatorily Regulated'

Press Trust of India

Supreme Court judge Justice J B Pardiwala on Sunday said the top court has only to keep the "rule of law" in mind while deciding on disputes as "judicial verdicts cannot be the reflection of the influence of public opinion".

Stressing on the primacy of the rule of law over popular public sentiments, Justice Pardiwala said balancing the intent of the majority populace on one hand and meeting its demand and affirming the rule of law on the other is an "arduous exercise".

"It requires extreme judicial craftsmanship to walk the



tightrope between the two, that is 'log kya kahenge, log kya sochenge' (what will people say, what will they think) is an enigma which haunts each and

every judge whenever he is to pen down a judgment," he said.

The apex court judge was speaking at the second Justice HR Khanna Memorial National

Symposium, organised by the Dr Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow and the National Law University, Odisha, along with the Confederation of Alumni for National Law Universities (CAN Foundation).

"I firmly believe that it is for the highest court of the country to decide things keeping only one thing in mind that is the rule of law.... The judicial verdicts cannot be the reflection of the influence of public opinion....

"I believe in a democracy, we have systemic agreements to live by court decisions. It does not mean that court decisions are always right and free of all other considerations. We simply agree to live by those. In a

democracy, law is more important," he said speaking on the subject of "Vox Populi vs Rule of Law: Supreme Court of India".

Justice Pardiwala also said digital and social media need to be mandatorily regulated in the country to preserve the rule of law under the Constitution as it is "dangerous" on their part to cross the "lakshmanrekha" and undertake personalised, agenda-driven attacks on judges.

"The judiciary cannot exist independent of the society but the rule of law is insurmountable," he said.

Justice Pardiwala said conviction in the constitutional values and a conceptual understanding of the rule of law **More on P6**

## Traffic Police Issue Advisory For Tourists, Yatries



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Traffic Police today issued advisory for tourists, yatries and truck movement to inform about travel timings and travel restrictions for NH-44 during Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2022.

According to advisory issued by the IGP Traffic Police, J&K, empty tankers and trucks upto 10 tyres shall ply via Mughal Road towards Jammu.

While as the loaded trucks upto 10 tyres including those loaded with fresh perishable items shall preferentially use Mughal Road **More on P6**

## International Religious Freedom India Slams US Panel For 'Misrepresenting' Facts

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: India on Saturday slammed the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) for its "biased" and "inaccurate" comments on the country.

The strong reaction from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came a day after the USCIRF alleged "repression" of critical voices, especially religious minorities and those reporting on and advocating for them in India.

"We have seen the biased and inaccurate comments on India by the US Commission on International Religious

Freedom (USCIRF)," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

He said the comments reflect a "severe lack of understanding" of India and its constitutional framework, its plurality and its democratic ethos.

"Regrettably, USCIRF continues to misrepresent facts time and again in its statements and reports in pursuance of its motivated agenda. Such actions only serve to strengthen concerns about the credibility and objectivity of the organisation," Bagchi said.

He was replying to media queries on USCIRF's comments on India.

## J&K Logs 76 Fresh Covid Cases

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With 76 fresh cases, Jammu and Kashmir's COVID-19 tally climbed to 4,55,333 on Sunday, while no new deaths due to the viral disease were reported, officials said here.

The Covid death toll in the Union Territory stands at 4,756, they said.

Of the fresh cases, 46 were reported from the Jammu division and 30 from the Kashmir valley, the officials said.

## Car Crushes Teenage Girl in Pakherpora

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A five-year-old girl was killed after being hit by a car in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Sunday.

An official said that a car hit the pedestrian girl, Arazo Jan daughter of Khazir Mohammad Mir in the Pakherpora area of the district, resulting in critical injuries to her. Jan was **More on P6**

## Congress, BJP In War Of Words Over LeT Militant

Captured Militant Linked To Saffron Party; BJP Says Cong Peddling Fake News

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: A political slugfest erupted between the BJP and the Congress in Jammu and Kashmir after a top Lashker-e-Taiba terrorist, overpowered by locals and handed over to the police, was reported to be an active member of the saffron party who was recently selected as its IT and social media cell in charge of the minority morcha in Jammu province.

As the news about villagers overpowering Talib Hussain Shah and handing him and his associate Faisal Ahmad Dar to the police surfaced, purported pictures of Shah with J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina and his participation in party functions emerged on social media.

The pictures included the one where Raina was presenting him a bouquet and a letter issued by party leader Sheikh **More on P6**

## LG Announces Cash Reward for Reasi Villagers

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today announced Rs 5 lakh cash reward to villagers of Tukson Dhok, Reasi for displaying great courage and bravery in apprehending two most-wanted terrorists. "I salute the bravery of villagers of Tukson Dhok, Reasi, who **More on P6**

**THE ARREST OF THE DUO IS A BIG success** for the security forces as a major conspiracy of Pakistan has been thwarted. I also came to know that he had shared the pictures of the BJP headquarters with his handlers across the border."



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# Novel Antibody Test Detects Covid Without Blood Sample

Press Trust Of India

Researchers in Japan have developed a new antibody-based method for the rapid and reliable detection of SARS-CoV-2 that does not require a blood sample.

The ineffective identification of SARS-CoV-2-infected individuals has severely limited the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the high rate of asymptomatic infections (16-38 per cent) has exacerbated this situation, the researchers said.

One of the methods for the confirmation of COVID-19 infection involves the detection of SARS-CoV-2-specific antibodies.

Testing strips based on gold nanoparticles are currently in wide-spread use for point-of-care testing in many countries.

These tests produce sensitive and reliable results within 10-20 minutes,



but they require blood samples collected via a finger prick using a lancing device.

This is painful and increases the risk of infection or cross-contamination, and the used kit components pres-

ent a potential biohazard risk, the researchers said.

"To develop a minimally invasive detection assay that would avoid these drawbacks, we explored the idea of sampling and testing the interstitial fluid (ISF), which is located in the epidermis and dermis layers of human skin," said Leilei Bao from the University of Tokyo.

"Although the antibody levels in the ISF are approximately 15-25 per cent of those in blood, it was still feasible that anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgM/IgG antibodies could be detected and that ISF could act as a direct substitute for blood sampling," said Bao, lead author of the study published in the journal Scientific Reports.

After demonstrating that ISF could be suitable for antibody detection, the researchers developed an innovative approach to both sample and test the ISF.

"First, we developed biodegradable porous microneedles made of polylactic acid that draws up the ISF from human skin," said Beomjoon Kim, senior author of the study.

"Then, we constructed a paper-based immunoassay biosensor for the detection of SARS-CoV-2-specific antibodies," Kim said.

By integrating these two elements, the researchers created a compact patch capable of on-site detection of the antibodies within three minutes.

This novel detection device has great potential for the rapid screening of COVID-19 and many other infectious diseases, and is safe and acceptable to patients, the researchers said.

It holds promise for use in many countries regardless of their wealth, which is a key aim for the global management of infectious disease, they added.

## Astronaut Study Reveals Effects Of Space Travel On Human Bones

Reuters

A study of bone loss in 17 astronauts who flew aboard the International Space Station is providing a fuller understanding of the effects of space travel on the human body and steps that can mitigate it, crucial knowledge ahead of potential ambitious future missions.

The research amassed new data on bone loss in astronauts caused by the microgravity conditions of space and the degree to which bone mineral density can be regained on Earth. It involved 14 male and three female astronauts, average age 47, whose missions ranged from four to seven months in space,

and strengthen, but the ones that disconnected in space can't be rebuilt, so the astronaut's overall bone structure permanently changes," Gabel said.

The study's astronauts flew on the space station in the past seven years. The study did not give their nationalities but they were from the U.S. space agency NASA, Canadian Space Agency, European Space Agency and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

Space travel poses various challenges to the human body - key concerns for space agencies as they plan new explorations.

For instance, NASA is aiming to send astronauts back to the moon, a mission now planned for 2025 at the earliest. That could



with an average of about 5-1/2 months.

A year after returning to Earth, the astronauts on average exhibited 2.1% reduced bone mineral density at the tibia -- one of the bones of the lower leg -- and 1.3% reduced bone strength.

Nine did not recover bone mineral density after the space flight, experiencing permanent loss.

"We know that astronauts lose bone on long-duration spaceflight. What's novel about this study is that we followed astronauts for one year after their space travel to understand if and how bone recovers," said University of Calgary professor Leigh Gabel, an exercise scientist who was the lead author of the research published this week in the journal Scientific Reports <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-13461-1>.

"Astronauts experienced significant bone loss during six-month spaceflights - loss that we would expect to see in older adults over two decades on Earth, and they only recovered about half of that loss after one year back on Earth," Gabel said.

The bone loss occurs because bones that typically would be weight-bearing on Earth do not carry weight in space. Space agencies are going to need to improve countermeasures - exercise regimes and nutrition - to help prevent bone loss, Gabel said.

"During spaceflight, fine bone structures thin, and eventually some of the bone rods disconnect from one another.

Once the astronaut comes back to Earth, the remaining bone connections can thicken

be a prelude to future astronaut missions to Mars or a longer-term presence on the lunar surface.

"Microgravity affects a lot of body systems, muscle and bone being among them," Gabel said.

"The cardiovascular system also experiences many changes.

Without gravity pulling blood towards our feet, astronauts experience a fluid shift that causes more blood to pool in the upper body. This can affect the cardiovascular system and vision.

"Radiation is also a large health concern for astronauts as the further they travel from Earth the greater exposure to the sun's radiation and increased cancer risk," Gabel said.

The study showed that longer space missions resulted both in more bone loss and a lower likelihood of recovering bone afterward. In-flight exercise - resistance training on the space station - proved important for preventing muscle and bone loss.

Astronauts who performed more deadlifts compared to what they usually did on Earth were found to be more likely to recover bone after the mission.

"There is a lot we still do not know regarding how microgravity affects human health, particularly on space missions longer than six months, and on the long-term health consequences," Gabel said. "We really hope that bone loss eventually plateaus on longer missions, that people will stop losing bone, but we don't know."

## Study: Exposure To Light At Night Might Cause Obesity, Diabetes, High Blood Pressure

ANI

A recent study has revealed that people who were exposed to any medium of light while sleeping during the nighttime ran the risk of being obese, and suffer from diabetes and high blood pressure as compared to those adults who were not exposed to any amount of light at night.

Light exposure was measured with a wrist-worn device and tracked over seven days.

This is a real-world (not experimental) study demonstrating the prevalence of any light exposure at night being linked to higher obesity, high blood pressure (known as hypertension) and diabetes among older adults. It will be published on June 22 in the journal SLEEP.

"Whether it be from one's smartphone, leaving a TV on overnight or light pollution in a big city, we live among an abundant number amount of artificial sources of light that are available 24 hours of a day,"

said study corresponding author Dr Minjee Kim, assistant professor of neurology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and a Northwestern Medicine physician.

"Older adults already are at higher risk for diabetes and cardiovascular disease, so we wanted to see if there was a difference in frequencies of these diseases related to light exposure at night."

Study investigators were surprised to find that less than half of the 552 study participants consistently had a five-hour period of complete darkness per day. The rest of the participants were exposed to some light even during their darkest five-hour periods of the day, which were usually in the middle of their sleep at night.

Because this was a cross-sectional study, investigators don't know if obesity, diabetes and hypertension cause people to sleep with a light on, or if the light contributed to the development of these conditions. In-

dividuals with these conditions may be more likely to use the bathroom in the middle of the night (with the light on) or may have another reason to keep the light on. Someone with foot numbness because of diabetes may want to keep a night light on to reduce the risk of falls.

"It's important for people to avoid or minimize the amount of light exposure during sleep," said senior study co-author Dr. Phyllis Zee, chief of sleep medicine at Feinberg and a Northwestern Medicine physician.

Zee and colleagues are considering an intervention study to test whether restoration of the natural light-dark cycle improves health outcomes such as cognition.

Zee offered tips to reduce light during sleep:

Don't turn the lights on. If you need to have a light on (which older adults may want for safety), make it a dim light that is closer to the floor.



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K O V I E W

Renewed Covid Surge

AFTER a drastic dip in the Covid infections across the country, there has been a renewed surge in the cases.  
Are we on the brink of a fourth wave? Not yet. Experts have said the spike is no cause for concern yet. At the same time, it won't be prudent to rule out the fourth wave and go about our lives without following Standard Operating Procedures or take lightly the advent of new highly transmissible virus strains. In January-February, the third Covid wave triggered by Omicron caught on despite a predominant majority of the country having been vaccinated. However, the vaccination did substantially reduce the hospitalizations and deaths. It remains to be seen what level of transmissibility and the virulence the new variants possess.

As things stand, despite the sudden spike in the cases, the number is too low to be taken seriously yet. So, coming days will be crucial as to the trend of infections. Any significant rise in the cases will require government intervention.  
India is unlikely to go that far as unlike Beijing, New Delhi doesn't follow zero-Covid policy. It is thus premature to rule out more Covid waves and we have to be prepared for them. The world has been through several successive waves of the pandemic which have infected millions and claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. With the abating of the Omicron wave which broke out early this year, there was a temporary sense of relief across the world. The economies started re-opening in most parts of the world. But fresh surges in some countries and now in India also should be a warning that the virus is here to stay for some more time. In fact, it has already become endemic now

O T H E R O P I N O N

Reduction in  
Unemployment Rate

These two statistics ought to be good news — more people seeking work and more people actually landing jobs. A little probing, however, reveals that all may not be fine as far as jobs and incomes are concerned. During the period between 2018-19 and 2020-21, the proportion of workers in the salaried class with regular wages and benefits fell from 23.8% to 21.1%. The proportion of casual workers with regular pay but no benefits also fell from 24.1% to 23.3%. On the other hand, the proportion of the self-employed, which includes small vendors and people working without any income for a family enterprise, increased from 52.1% to 55.6%. Within the self-employed category, there has been a sharp rise in the proportion of household helpers and unpaid women workers — from 13.3% to 17.3%. The definition of being employed is set at 30 days of work in the past 365 days, or in an alternative measure, as having more than one hour's work in the preceding week. These measures hardly conform to perceptions of having a steady job with a regular income.  
The picture that emerges is worrying: formal sector jobs are shrinking; even much of the casual work where an income accrues periodically is disappearing fast. The self-employed are the ones who are being forced to join the growing army of farm-workers, street vendors, and household helps with daily work available only for a few days, combined with either no income or a pitifully low income per day. Such workers are lucky if they find work for one or two days in a week. In developing countries, economic growth expands employment in the formal sector. India is witnessing a reverse trend. This, according to some labour economists, is a sign of 'distressed employment'. On top of poor-quality employment, incomes are hugely skewed. India's per capita income in 2021 prices, according to the International Monetary Fund, was \$2,191. If the income of the top 2-3% of the Indian population was excluded, the per capita income would plummet to about half. India is ranked 144 in terms of per capita GDP out of 194 nations. These figures are not really indicative of an economic powerhouse.

Telegraph India



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Violence In Intimate  
Partner Relationships

Kashmir is considered, especially by Kashmir's self image as one of the safest places, when it comes to the crime rate especially against women. Yet, our newspapers are often filled with reports of violence against women in intimate partner relationships.

Last year, one woman was murdered only because she asked his husband to pay her Mehr.

Mehr is considered a Sunnah of The Prophet, a gift given to the bride from the husband. It usually depends on the giving capacity of the groom and more importantly on what the bride demands. In the days of the companions, many brides are known to have asked for non-materialistic things as well. Though in current times it has become a necessity to ask for something in terms of money or jewelry because men in the society have become unreliable and this amount acts as a security in case of a divorce, extramarital affairs, polygamy or death. Ideally, Mehr is supposed to be paid at the time of the Nikah even though many people keep it pending, to be offered to the bride at a later point of time. Sometimes to the point of her death. And some other times the men ask their wives to forgo their Mehr as well. As a gesture of goodwill and faith.

Killing of one's wife is not new to Kashmir. A lot of brides have been burnt because they didn't bring enough dowries with them, or because they wouldn't meet the new demands for dowry, because they voiced their opinions, objected to their husband's extramarital affairs, had an argument with mother-in-law and the like. The list is never-ending. The number of domestic violence cases is even higher and is on an increase because of constant lockdowns, economic downfall and the

general stress of life. A similar increase in the number of domestic violence cases was seen when the state was shut for some six months after the martyrdom of Burhan Wani in 2016.

Thanks to patriarchy, the idea of a woman in our society is that of a dumb and mute person, who says nothing, hears nothing, does nothing. Even if the wrong being done directly impacts her. And this idea is not merely limited to Kashmiri society but plagues pretty much the whole of Indian Subcontinent. The idea that all women are damsels in distress and the men are taking pity on them and favoring them by marrying them and hence saving them. From what? Nobody really knows. So when a woman raises her voice for her rights, she meets ends like that of Afrozza.

Since men have this idea that their wives are supposed to do anything and everything they ask of her and his only duty towards her was that of marrying her, which he already fulfilled. They consider themselves supreme authority over their wives. Someone their wife should never say no to. Many people simply marry because, "We have nobody at home to cook" or "My mother remains ill most of the time." People forget that their wives are not unpaid maids and that they have their rights and needs. Like everyone else.

Women do not simply marry because they are a burden onto their parents or they cannot take care of their own selves. They, like men, are seeking partners. A relationship which harbors love, intimacy and companionship. Not violence and blind submission.

As more and more women are getting educated about their rights in a marriage, many young brides are refusing to bend and mold into the societal idea of a good wife. They are no more afraid of a divorce

or breaking off engagements. They no longer want to inherit the silence of their mothers and grandmothers. If something does not go well with their core principles, they have learnt to simply walk away.

This is also because of financial independence in the current generation. Since they do not depend on their husbands for financial assistance, they take the decision of asking for their rights or even separation more easily. Without fearing the consequences of what the society would say or more importantly who she might be dependent on if she takes such a decision.

The backlash from men, the violence and murders, also show how they have a sense of losing power and can do anything and everything to have that sense of control over things. For as long as possible. Part of the problem is also the fact that most men have seen their mothers enduring everything. They expect their wives to exhibit the same kind of behavior. The same tolerance our mothers and grandmothers showed when their husbands beat them up, or their mother-in-law treated them unfairly.

Probably, it is time for men to realize how they are supposed to treat women, what their responsibilities are towards their wives and how to let go of their conditioning and become good men. Unless that happens we will hear of many more Afrozza's raising their voices for their rights and many more Shabir's silencing these voices.

Hirra Sultan is a Srinagar-based author whose work on gender, health and society has appeared in many local publications

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer



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Encourage Sustainable Plastic

Being the third-largest producer of plastic waste in the world and using approximately 14 million tonnes of plastic annually, the Center's decision to ban single-use plastics beginning on July 1 is a significant one. It is a crucial component because plas-

tic trash has grown to be a significant source of pollution. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) claims that plastic is bad for the environment since it is not biodegradable and takes a long time to break down. Due to its difficulty in recycling, single-use plastic has spread across the environment,

disrupted the human food chain, and put human health in danger. Single-use plastics not only contribute to waste but also to the proliferation of microplastics, which are hard to collect and can disrupt ecosystems and food chains. In addition to a complete ban, it should be strictly implement-

ed by the government. There is an urgent need to boost the production of biodegradable products that are sustainable like jute, paper, and cotton as a substitute for plastics.

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# Iqbal’s Islamic Democracy

Haris Rashid

Though Iqbal later projected this model of democracy on to the whole world, he did not take non-Muslims into consideration. How would non-Muslims be accommodated and treated under such a model is a question that he left unanswered

EVEN as consensus over “resource curse” as a primary inhibiting factor for democratization in the Middle East is emerging, but for the sake of convenience, Islam is still blamed for being inconsistent with democracy because most of the Middle East countries are Muslim majority. While it is true that there are many dictators of Muslim majority countries who exploit Islam to justify their rule but their justification cannot be extended to claim that democracy itself is inconsistent with Islam. Dr Mohammad Iqbal came up with an argument that democracy is not only thoroughly consistent with Islam but it is also an important aspect of it. Iqbal argued for an Islamic democracy that would not only face up to but also address the challenges of Western democracy. For Iqbal, democracy was how it ought to be conducted and not how it was carried out in the West. He understood democracy provided more space to accommodate the wishes and aspirations of most of the people and that Western democracy could be made more democratic by applying the principles of Islam to it. Iqbal was well aware that democracy cannot solve all the problems but he believed that it could be refined to at least overcome some of these problems. He wrote that every “democratic government has attendant difficulties but these are difficulties which human experience elsewhere shows to be surmountable”.

In connecting democracy and Islam, Iqbal rejected the idea of the separation of religion and state. Laying out his vision of Islamic democracy, he based it on two important legal tools in Islam – Ijtihad which Iqbal describes as “to exert with a view to form an independent judgement on a legal question” and Ijma which means a consensus on a legal opinion. Ijma, in Iqbal’s opinion, was “perhaps the most important legal notion in Islam” that could be transformed into a permanent legislative institution. Since Ijtihad “vigorously asserts the right of private judgement”, it would be fitting to transfer the power of Ijtihad to a legislative assembly which until now remained in the individual representatives of different schools. To avoid any kind of mistakes on the questions of legal opinion, this assembly was to be helped and guided by a committee of learned men called Ulema. These elected representatives had no authority but they were just interpreters of divine revelations. Also, since Islam doesn’t accept any authority, Iqbal argued that Tawhid which roughly translates to the oneness of God and which forms the bedrock of monotheism, lets Muslims free because this principle demands “loyalty to God, not to thrones” and lets “man develop all the possibilities of his nature by allowing him as much freedom as practicable”. Further, it was also that this legislature should only be bound by a minimal set of rules, leaving much of what was to be decided in the hands of the people. Through Ijtihad and Ijma, Iqbal proposed that Muslims could one day govern themselves free from theological constraints. Iqbal further held that the legal order had to reflect the will of the popular and should mirror itself in society. It had to adopt current values and principles as long as they accommodated the constitutional limitations of Tawhid and the finality of prophethood. Iqbal based



this argument on the issue of Muslim women in Punjab who wanted to seek a divorce from their unwanted husbands and for that had been driven to apostasy because there was no other way to nullify the marriage. He wrote that “nothing could be more distant from the aims of a missionary religion” and vouched that these women should be provided with the rights to divorce their husbands while they still stay Muslim. Also, the fact that Iqbal is writing about democracy in Islam is in itself the reconstruction of Islam to incorporate current values of modern society. There is no direct mention of democracy in Islam per se, but it is only through joining the dots and reinterpreting Islam that Iqbal is justifying that democracy exists in Islam.

Iqbal also suggested equity instead of equality in his vision for Islamic democracy. In coparcenary in Islam, a sister gets half of what a brother gets. While defending this position, Iqbal argued that this difference was not because Islam considers women as inferior but due to the social position that the women in Islam occupy. Since a woman gets dower-money from her husband and the responsibility to maintain her is wholly on the husband, it was equitable that she only gets a half in inheritance. It is important to take note of this argument. While Western democracy treats everyone equally, everyone does not start at the same point nor does everyone occupy the same social status in society. Iqbal argued on similar lines when he pointed out that democracy in the West had not brought any change and people were still exploited with the advent of democracy, because it was up for grabs and people with power had seized it, becoming the same old exploitation disguised as democracy. It was this quest to liberate democracy from centralising and hegemonic tendencies that led Iqbal to put forward his own vision of Islamic democracy.

Since the fundamental principles in Islam are Tawhid and finality of prophethood, these liberate Islamic democracy from problems of territoriality or ethnicity. Added to that, having just one Caliphah, who is again not some

authority but only an interpreter, leads to the establishment of a global country in which the terms of nationality and race are used only for reference. As such, Islamic democracy introduces a new order which could well serve as an antidote to nationalism and could “furnish a model for the final combination of humanity”. This is important because “since the dawn of the modern democratic era in the late 19th century, democracy has expressed itself through nation-states and national parliaments ... But this arrangement is now under assault from both above and below”. Such a system puts national interests first while global issues take a back seat. The world is today faced with global problems like climate change and pollution that almost pose an existential threat to the planet that cannot be dealt with by a single country in isolation. In this light, the new order proposed by Iqbal through Islamic democracy deserves attention and could well address the challenges of globalisation.

With the caveats of Tawhid and finality of prophethood, Iqbal laid out a concrete democratic model of Islamic democracy. Based on the legal tools provided by Islam, this could provide for a more democratic society than that of the West and could provide people with the greatest freedom possible. After all, it does not have any authority but only interpreters; it does not seek allegiance to a state or a nation but God. Though Iqbal later projected this model of democracy on to the whole world, he did not take non-Muslims into consideration. How would non-Muslims be accommodated and treated under such a model is a question that he left unanswered.

*The views expressed in this article are the author’s own and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer*

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## Eco-Friendly Alternatives To Plastics for Everyday Life

The single-use plastic ban, which has come into effect from July 1, 2022, mandates that disposable plastics that are used only once be done away with. It’s an opportunity to do away with plastic altogether as much as possible

Earth.org

### Organic Cotton Bags to Replace Plastic Shopping Bags

As less than 5% of the 1 trillion single-use plastic bags discarded each year gets recycled, consider switching to organic cotton bags, which are free of chemical residues and decompose in landfill within 5 months. Remember to put a reusable bag in your handbag or backpack and car to make sure that you don’t need to buy a new reusable bag every time you go out!

### Bamboo Toothbrushes to Replace Plastic Toothbrushes

Globally, about 23 billion plastic toothbrushes are thrown away each year, each one taking up to 500 years to fully decompose. Bamboo is a natural material, is fast-growing and 100% biodegradable, decomposing in landfill within 6 months. Just be sure to pluck out the nylon bristles before you get rid of your toothbrush so that they too can be recycled!

### Steel Containers and Drinking Straws to Replace Plastic Containers

Consider switching out your plastic lunch container and straws for steel ones; steel can be infinitely recycled



Despite greater global awareness on the importance of recycling and its practices, more than 90% of global plastic waste still ends up in landfills and polluting our oceans with microplastics. Swapping out your plastics in your everyday life doesn’t have to be difficult and can go a long way to reduce your carbon footprint

and is 100% recyclable without losing its quality.

Natural Fibres to Replace Synthetic Fibres  
Natural fibres won’t shed microplastics when washed or used unlike

synthetic fibres like polyester or acrylic that are more problematic for the environment and can leach potentially toxic chemicals into the environment. Natural fibres include organic cotton, hemp and bamboo.

### Shampoo Bars to Replace Conventional Shampoo

Shampoo bars cut out the need for plastic bottles. Even better, many of them are free of palm oil, an ingredient linked to deforestation, like those of Ethique and Meow Meow Tweet. Additionally, they are more effective than most conventional shampoos because they aren’t pumped with water like conventional ones are, diluting the product; on average, a shampoo bar will outlast two to three bottles of liquid shampoo.

We hope that this list of plastic alternatives will inspire you to swap some key items in your life with plastic-free options instead. As you eliminate plastic from your life, you’re not only cutting your own carbon footprint, you’re modelling more sustainable living for those around you. Also, as demand for more sustainable business practices grows, companies will respond and use of harmful plastics can be stemmed.

### Beeswax Food Wrap to Replace Plastic Food Wrapping

While plastic wrap can be an effective and efficient tool to save and reduce food waste, it’s inevitably a single-use plastic that eventually makes its way to landfills. In 2019 alone, it was recorded that more than five million Americans had gone through more than 10 million boxes of plastic wrap. Try making a swap to reusable beeswax food paper. They are made out of materials including cotton, sustainably harvested beeswax and tree resin, which can be washed, compostable, and most importantly, reusable.

### Reusable Silicone Food and Steamer Bags to Replace Plastic Storage Bags

Food lovers and home cooks would often require plastic ziplock bags for certain dishes and marinating. Instead of disposing of them every time you’re done, opt for reusable silicone food bags which you can safely store, freeze, microwave and even put in boiling water for sous vide.

*The article was originally published by Earth.org*



## Gandhi College Wins Inter-College Judo C'ship



### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Physical Education Department of Gandhi Memorial College, Srinagar continued its winning spree in the Inter-college Judo championship by winning the overall title, bagging Two Gold, Two Silver and One Bronze medal.

The Judo championship was organised by the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, University of Kashmir.

The concluding ceremony of the event was attended by Prof Aneesa Shafi, Dean

Students Welfare, among other dignitaries of the University of Kashmir.

In her congratulatory message, the Principal, Prof (Dr) Asmat congratulated the students who brought laurels to the institute and stressed upon them to continue their endeavours in the field of sports.

She also lauded Parvez Ahmad, Director Physical Education Department, for harnessing the potential of students interested in sports and providing the right platforms to showcase their talents.

## India U-17 Women's Assistant Coach Sacked For 'Sexual Misconduct'



### Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian women Under-17 team's assistant coach Alex Ambrose has been sacked for alleged sexual misconduct, S Y Quraishi, a member of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) overseeing the All India Football Federation, said on Sunday.

Former India international Ambrose was suspended and called back from Norway for the "misconduct" with a player during a training and exposure tour of Europe.

"Alex Ambrose, Asstt Head Coach of Under 17 Women's team has been sacked for sexual misconduct. Further action under process," Quraishi tweeted.

The team is touring Europe as part of preparations for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India is hosting from October 11-30.

The Committee of Administrators (CoA), which is managing the affairs of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), had apprised the Sports Authority of India (SAI) about the incident.

Head coach Thomas Dennerby was a witness to the "incident" and he immediately reported it to the AIFF, since it involved a minor.

The U-17 World Cup matches will take place in three cities — Bhubaneswar, Goa and Navi Mumbai.

India have been clubbed with USA, Morocco and Brazil in Group A of the tournament. India will begin their campaign against USA on the opening day, followed by matches against Morocco and Brazil on October 14 and 17 respectively.

All of India's group-stage games will be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

## India Well Ahead Despite Rapid Bairstow Ton



### Agencies

**BIRMINGHAM:** A charged-up Jonny Bairstow smashed a rapid 106, his third hundred in four innings, providing the bedrock for England's 284 all out in reply to India's 416 on day three of the rescheduled fifth test at Edgbaston on Sunday.

India reached 37-1 at tea for an overall lead of 169 when Cheteshwar Pujara (17) and Hanuma Vihari (10) batting. According to latest reports, India were 104-3 after 37 overs.

Earlier, an on-field altercation with India's Virat Kohli appeared to fire up Bairstow who defied pressure and played some breathtaking shots to rescue England.

Bairstow refused to retreat into his shell and continued to attack the bowlers as he did in the home series against New Zealand last month. The best illustration of his superb touch was when he pulled Mohammed Siraj from outside the off-stump for the first of his two sixes.

Bairstow was adjudged lbw to

Thakur on 81 but the batsman reviewed the decision and replays confirmed an edge before the ball hit his pad.

A bowling change finally did the trick for India and Shami returned to dismiss Bairstow who slashed hard at a wide delivery and Kohli took a sharp catch at first slip. Sam Billings made 36 down the order but England still fell short of the 300-mark and conceded a lead of 132.

Mohammed Siraj claimed 4-66 for India while Bumrah returned figures of 3-68.

## Rohit Sharma Tests COVID Negative

### Press Trust of India

**BIRMINGHAM:** Indian captain Rohit Sharma is finally out of isolation after having tested negative for Covid-19 and will now be available for the white-ball series against England beginning with the first T20I in Southampton on July 7.

The 35-year-old all-format captain missed out on playing the rescheduled fifth Test against England as he tested positive on the second day of the four-day warm-up game against Leicestershire.

"Yes, Rohit has tested negative and as per medical protocols is now out of quarantine. However, he is not playing today's T20 warm-up game against Northamptonshire as he will need some recovery time and training ahead of first T20I," a senior BCCI official told PTI.

As per medical protocol, any player, who is out of quarantine, needs to undergo mandatory cardiovascular tests to check the lung capacity and how it is functioning post Covid-19.

The Indian team was



desperate to play Rohit but he tested positive thrice before the game day and hence India had a new captain in Jasprit Bumrah.

While Rohit will play from

the first game of the white ball series, the likes of Virat Kohli, Bumrah, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja will be available from the second game onwards.

## Zhou Involved In 1st-Lap Crash At British GP

### Agencies

LONDON: Zhou Guanyu was involved in a frightening first-lap crash Sunday that brought the British Grand Prix to an immediate halt as safety crews attended to the only Chinese driver in Formula One.

Zhou's car slide upside-down across the gravel and his Alfa Romeo seemed to be wedged between fencing and a tire barrier at the first corner. The race was red-flagged and George Russell, one of the drivers involved in the crash, sprinted from his car to the tire barrier to check on Zhou.

Team manager Beat Zehnder told German broadcaster Sky Sport that Zhou was speaking and was being transported to the medical center at Silverstone.

Russell appeared to be hit from behind at the start and

was knocked into Zhou, whose car went flying across a gravel trap and over a tire wall into the retaining fence. The car was skidding on the "halo" which protects the driver's head.

FIA, the governing body for F1, said Zhou and Williams driver Alexander Albon were being medically evaluated. Albon had spun into the pit wall.

"Both drivers were conscious and will be evaluated at the medical center. Further updates will be given in due course," the FIA said.

The drivers returned to the pits to await a restart. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz claimed his first Formula One victory. Red Bull's Mexican Sergio Perez was runner-up, 3.779 seconds behind the Spaniard, with seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton third for Mercedes in his home race and taking fastest lap for a bonus point.

## Roger Federer Hints At Wimbledon Comeback During Surprise Visit

### Agencies

LONDON: A gaping hole was left at Wimbledon this week when Roger Federer's name was missing from the men's draw for the first time since 1998 but the Swiss great hinted he could be back at his favourite hunting ground when he made a surprise appearance at the All England Club on Sunday.

"This court has given me my biggest wins and my biggest losses. I hope I can come back one more time," a beaming Federer told the 15,000 capacity crowd who hollered in approval.

Wimbledon's favourite son swapped his usual tennis whites for a dark suit and tie and was given a rousing standing ovation as he joined a number of Wimbledon champions dating back to the 1960s

for Centre Court's centenary celebrations.

The eight-times champion was the last to stride into an arena that had already welcomed the great and good of tennis, including Billie Jean King, Bjorn Borg, Chris Evert, Stefan Edberg, Venus Williams as well as the Swiss's Big Four rivals Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray.

The Swiss has not played a competitive match since bowing out in the quarter-finals of last year's championships to Hubert Hurkacz, the 6-0 mauling he suffered in the final set still a painful memory.

Weeks later he announced he had to undergo yet another operation on his knee and having already celebrated his 40th birthday, there were fears that fans would never again see Federer's silky racket skills in a competitive arena.

## Angry Nadal Gives Sonogo A Dressing Down

### Agencies

WIMBLEDON: Playing Rafael Nadal on clay is considered to be one of the most frustrating challenges in tennis. On Saturday's evidence, playing him on grass can be just as infuriating - just ask Lorenzo Sonogo.

The Italian had boldly talked up his chances of halting the Spaniard's charge towards a rare calendar-year Grand Slam by declaring "Grass is the best surface to meet him."

The 27th seed was left with egg on his face, and a public reprimand, after being on the receiving end of a 6-1, 6-2, 6-4

hammering that mercifully lasted only two hours.

Like a stern headmaster, a clearly irritated Nadal beckoned Sonogo to the net and gave him an earful about the etiquette of tennis in front of 15,000 wide-eyed fans and a global audience of millions

And what exactly had upset the usually calm and polite Spaniard?

A loud grunt made by Sonogo in the middle of a rally in the eighth game of the third set seemed to have tipped Nadal over the edge, especially since the Spaniard ended up losing his serve for the first, and only, time in the match.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 'Social Media

are needed to overcome the popular public sentiments, which at times are not in consonance with legal schemes.

"The rule of law is the most distinguishing feature of the Indian democracy. I firmly believe that there is no exception to it. The rule of law must prevail and public opinion has to be subordinate to the rule of law," he said.

The Supreme Court judge referred to jurists and said "we are the guardians of the right and we have to talk about things which people may not like to hear".

A judge, in an exceptional case, may have to be cognizant of the sentiments of the society and the effect of the judgment that he is going to deliver, he added.

Justice Pardiwala referred to various judgments, including the verdict that allowed the entry of women of all ages into the Sabarimala temple in Kerala and the one that decriminalised consensual gay sex, and said these were against the popular public sentiment but in conformity with the concept of rule of law.

"The will of the people must prevail. The Constitution of India provides for an elected president.... State legislatures are also elected. But the Supreme Court judges are not elected neither are the high court judges, yet the Constitution confers the powers to undertake the judicial review and writ that the courts can nullify the unconstitutional act of the executive and the elected representatives of the people assembled in Parliament and the state legislatures," he said.

This conclusion does not necessarily imply that the judiciary is superior to the legislature and it only supposes that the power of the people embodied in the Constitution is superior to

both, he added.

"The role of the judiciary and the role of the Constitution is the pious trust reposed by the people," Justice Pardiwala said.

Stating that judges must not participate in social media discussions, he said, "Judges never speak through their tongue, only their judgments." "The rule of law is a distinguishing feature of the Indian Constitution. Countries which do not have parliamentary systems also have the rule of law. Even a dictatorship can also claim that it rules by law," the Supreme Court judge said. PTI

### Traffic Police Issue

towards Jammu.

The timings of Mughal Road have also been increased from 7am to 4pm, for the present, subject to the daily assessment by Traffic authorities.

The advisory further said the movement via NH-44 the trucks with more than 10 tyres shall ply via National Highway-44. Trucks with more than 10 tyres loaded with fresh perishable items should reach Jakheni Naka/Qazigund Naka before 2pm. These trucks shall be parked separately and shall be given preference when traffic is released, it said.

It said the movement of Yatries/Tourists in Kashmir Valley other than via Yatra Convoys are advised to travel in the Kashmir Valley only between 7am to 6pm and must plan their travel so as to reach their destination within this time period.

In case the Yatries/Tourists fail to reach their destination within the stipulated time, i.e. by 6pm the security forces shall make such Yatries/Tourists halt for the night at the nearest lodgement Centre the Advisory reads, the

traffic advisory added.

### Car Crushes

immediately evacuated to CHC Pakherpora where doctors declared her dead on arrival.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and have set the investigation into motion. (KDC)

### Congress, BJP In

Bashir, assigning him the responsibility of new IT and social media in-charge of Minority Morcha (Jammu province) on May 9

While Raina dismissed the presence of Shah in his party as a "conspiracy hatched by Pakistan to target him and the party headquarters", Pradesh Congress Committee chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said the ruling party should answer to the nation the alleged presence of terrorists in their ranks and holding important party positions.

This is a second incident within two days where it has been alleged that terror accused had links with the BJP. The two people arrested in Udaipur were alleged by the Congress to have links with the Saffron party.

Congress leader Pawan Khera on Saturday had cited Facebook posts showing accused Riyaz Akhtari with local BJP leaders and sought to know whether the Centre had moved quickly to transfer the case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) due to this reason. The charge was denied by the BJP's IT cell chief Amit Malviya saying the accused were not BJP members and said the opposition party was peddling fake news.

Shah and Dar were in possession of two AK Assault rifles, seven grenades, a pistol and a huge quantity of ammunition when they were

confronted by Muslim villagers and disarmed before handing them over to police after tying them with ropes inside a dhok (mud-house) in the higher reaches of Gulab Garh.

While lauding the people for assisting police in capturing the two most-wanted LeT terrorists, JK BJP chief said "they were part of a conspiracy hatched from Pakistan to target him and the party headquarters".

"He introduced himself as a journalist and took my interviews several times at my party office sometime back. He developed close liaison with party activists and leaders after coming to our headquarters (Trikuta Nagar Jammu)," Raina told PTI.

Raina claimed that he came to know from the security agencies that Shah was a mole planted by Pakistan-based terrorists to target BJP headquarters and the leadership including him.

"The arrest of the duo is a big success for the security forces as a major conspiracy of Pakistan has been thwarted. I also came to know that he had shared the pictures of the BJP headquarters with his handlers across the border," he said.

Raina said terror organisations, frustrated by BJP's expansion in Jammu and Kashmir, have repeatedly threatened him over in the past many years and since they failed to target him, they hatched a conspiracy to plant their activist in the BJP to target him and other leaders of the party.

However, he said BJP is determined to wipe-out Pakistan-sponsored terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir and "we will not be cowed down by threats or conspiracies".

The BJP chief claimed he was also told by the security agencies that Shah was keeping a close watch on his movement in the twin districts of

Rajouri and Poonch and was passing the information to his handlers in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

"I have full faith in the training, ability and courage of our police and security forces who are determined to root out terrorism. With the arrest of Shah and his associate, the Pakistani conspiracy to target me has failed," he said.

Reacting strongly, the Congress chief spokesperson said, "This is for the first time that such a thing had happened (when an office bearer of a party is directly involved in terrorism)".

"BJP should answer to the nation about the presence of terrorists in their ranks holding important party positions. It is a very serious matter and a threat to the security of the nation," he said.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Director General of Police Dilbag Singh lauded the villagers for their courage and announced cash rewards for them.

### LG Announces Cash

apprehended two most-wanted terrorists. Such determination by common man shows end of terrorism is not far away. UT Government to extend Rs. 5 Lakh cash reward to villagers for gallant act against terrorists and terrorism", said the Lt Governor.

It is pertinent to mention that villagers of Tukson Dhok showed extreme courage in apprehending two most wanted terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba who had reached that area to take shelter after continuing counter-terror operation by Police and Army. They have been identified as Talib Hussain of Rajouri and Faisal Ahmed Dar of Pulwama. Two AK rifles, 7 Grenades, a Pistol and a huge quantity of ammunition were recovered from their possession."



## LG Visits Pantha Chowk Yatra Transit Camp



### I Truly Appreciate And Admire Contribution Of People Of J&K To Make This Yatra Successful: LG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today visited Shri Amarnathji Yatra transit camp at Pantha Chowk and interacted with the Shri Amarnathji pilgrims.

The Lt Governor enquired about the facilities being extended to the pilgrims, besides conveying his greetings and best wishes to the Yatris.

Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of the visit, the Lt Governor said the administration is ensuring that the movement of perishable items does not face any hurdle and trucks are allowed during the notified time.

Officials to ensure fruit growers, farmers and dealers transporting perishable items like fruits & vegetables do not face inconvenience on the national highway. It is top priority of the administration to streamline the traffic for both Yatris and traders of fruits & vegetables, Lt Governor said.

He expressed satisfaction over the arrangements put in place for the convenience of the yatris.

"I truly appreciate and admire the contribution of the people of Jammu Kashmir to make this Holy Yatra successful," said the Lt Governor.

The selfless service of civil society, volunteers and locals have made a huge difference in our effort to provide best possible facilities to the pilgrims, the Lt Governor added.

There is also perfect coordination among security forces. The number of pilgrims, who paid obeisance to Lord Shiva, has already crossed 50,000, the Lt Governor said.

## LWC UP Visits Bindru's Family At Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chairman, Labour Welfare Council (LWC), Government of Uttar Pradesh, Pandit Sunil Bharala met the family of Makhan Lal Bindroo here today.

During the visit, Bharala met Makhan Lal Bindru's wife and son at their residence and expressed solidarity. Interacting with them, Bharala said that Gol is committed to establish peace in Kashmir valley and resolve the issue of settling

Kashmiri Pandits.

Bharala assured the wife of Makhan Lal Bindru that the government is with them and that the central government will always stand shoulder to shoulder with them. He said that Union Home Minister, Amit Shah and Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha have extended all possible support to the family.

Pertinent to mention, Makhan Lal Bindru was killed by militants outside his famous medical shop at Srinagar in 2021.

# Kashmir Schools Witness 19.02% Hike In Student Enrollment

126 CAL Centers Established, 13000 Disabled Children Provided Medical Aid, Assistive Devices To Attract More Students Towards Govt. Schools



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Reflecting the improvement in education standards of Government schools, student enrolment in government-run schools has increased by more than 19.02 percent in the ongoing academic year in Kashmir.

In recent years, the School Education Department has recorded an unprecedented thrust, particularly in the elementary segment. The Samagra Shiksha has come as a boon, unleashing a series of initiatives seeking universal enrolment and retention, reduction of social, regional and gender gaps, mainstreaming of the children with special needs and promotion of quality parameters.

As per official figures, the highest percentage of new admissions was recorded in South Kashmir's Kulgam district wherein the student enrolment has increased by 19.2 percent.

"Before the enrollment drive, there were a total of 44,559 students enrolled in government-run schools. However, after the drive, the district has recorded new 10,156 admissions," official data reveals. Similarly south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a hike in student enrolment by 21.78 percent. The district has also witnessed 19,436 new admissions

this academic session.

Likewise, in Bandipora district student enrolment increased by 8.9 percent followed by Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district with 5.3 percent, frontier district Kupwara with 19.2 percent, Baramulla with 17.8 percent, Shopian with 3.8 percent, Pulwama with 4.8 percent and Srinagar with 3.3 percent.

Earlier the situation was different as the net enrolment ratio was at lowest at both elementary and secondary level in government schools in J&K as per the School Quality Education Index (SEQI) 2019 report of the National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.

Various initiatives launched by the school education department attracted students from private to Government schools. More so, over 1.50 Lakh Teachers were covered under elementary teacher training, 126 CAL (Computer Aided Learning) Centers were set up in the Upper Primary Schools besides 13000 disabled children provided medical aid and assistive devices.

"Free textbooks are provided to students of 1st to 8th standards each year. Seasonal Centers at various Bahaks (highland pasture's) were established for the children of the migratory

population besides NRBC centres were established for out-of-school children (drop out or never enrolled)", official data reveals. Other major interventions like extension of Mid-day Meal scheme to middle schools has tremendously helped in increasing the enrollment of these schools.

The SED has also enrolled around 1143 school dropouts in schools afresh besides enrolling 965 Children With Special Needs (CWSN) and 28295 students have switched from private schools to government schools.

Under the Special Enrollment Drive "AAO SCHOOL CHALEIN", 118176 students were enrolled in government schools of Jammu and Kashmir during the winter session. The drive emphasized on strengthening of pre-schooling of children in the age group of 3 to 5 years with focus on increasing overall enrollment in government schools by re-enrolment of dropout students and the children who have never been enrolled in school.

The School Education Department (SED) is holding a door-to-door campaigns to enhance the learner enrollment across the schools in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Amarnath Yatra Shadipora Transit Camp Wears Festive Look

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Shadipora transit Camp for Amarnath Yatris at Bandipora district wears a festive look as the locals have decorated the camp with lights and garlands.

The administration has facilitated the local farmers and artisans, govt departments and corporations to erect their stalls wherein they have put their products for sale including fruits, handicraft and handloom products besides other items required during holy pilgrimage.

The Artisans associated with various departments have erected their stalls at Shadipora Camp not only showcasing their performance but also selling the products. The stalls attract a large number of Yatris.

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom has erected a stall wherein the artisans of Sumbal and adjoining areas have put Handmade shawls and other clothing items on sale, selling their products directly to the customer without any third party intervention.

"We are directly selling the products to Yatris and they are liking our products," Said Shahnaz Begum who weaves shawl at home and has put them on sale at the camp.

"We always welcome the Yatris here with open arms. This is for the first time we have been facilitated to erect our stalls. We are earning too," She added.

The members of Self Help Groups associated with Jammu and Kashmir State Rural Livelihood Mission have also erected stalls at the camp selling their products including agro-products including Honey, Jams, handicrafts and Handloom products including Shawls, Suits, Curtains, Scarf, Bags, Embroidery Pheran, Bags, hand woven ladies/gents/ kids sweaters and caps, socks, mufflers etc.

Several farmers have also erected stalls selling fresh fruits to the Yatris including Apricots, Apples, Peach and Plum, HD Pear Saharanpuri, Apple Galamast, Apple shahanshah, Pear Nakh, Cherry Santrose, Walnut local, Honey

Local, Dried Cherry, Walnut Giri, Pickle, Apple Fuji, Apple Hazratbali, Almond Local, Plum Green gage etc while farmers also sell home grown organic vegetables including Lettuce, Cauliflower, Red Cabbage, Green Chillies, Cucumber, Brinjal etc. The stalls of Dry fruits including cashew, Walnut, Dried cashewnuts have also been erected at the camp.

"We are having good sales as pilgrims are happy to buy fresh Kashmiri fruits," said another young farmer.

He does not see this as a business merely. He said it is a cultural and social interaction where we and our younger generation is interacting with people from other society, culture and religion that will go a long way to bridge gaps between communities and build new relationships.

All the batches of Yatris are being warmly welcomed by locals including traders, PRI members and government officials. They are being welcomed by serving Saffron Samavar Kehwah,

The Yatris were also all praise for the locals. A group of Young Yatris said they were earlier sceptical about the visit but they soon realized that the saying that Kashmir is a heaven, and said it is so true and more important is that not only the valley is beautiful but the people are more beautiful at their hearts.

They thanked locals for welcoming them so warmly and hoped to come regularly to Kashmir. They said they will return to their native places as ambassadors of Kashmir as they will tell people about the positivity of this place.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad said all the arrangements have been put in place to ensure smooth stay of the Yatris at transit Camp. He said the Yatris make a brief halt at the camp and during that period we try to make them interact with the local population so that a cultural interaction takes place and people know each others cultures to gain goodwill for each other.

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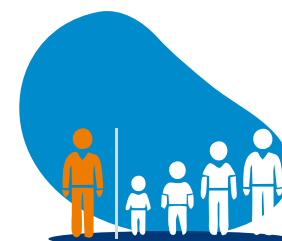
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