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## Unemployment Rate In J&K Dips To 17.2% In June: Report

Zaid Bin Shabir

**Srinagar:** The unemployment rate in the month of June for Jammu and Kashmir has declined to 17.2 percent, as per the Indian think tank Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's (CMIE) monthly frequency data.

According to the CMIE, the unemployment rate in the erstwhile state of J&K for the month of June, 2022 has declined to 17.2 percent in comparison to the higher rate recorded at 18.3 percent in May 2022.

The latest unemployment figures have also brought forth that Haryana has the highest



KO File Photo

Unemployment rate at 30.6 percent followed by Rajasthan where the UR stood at 29.8 percent. J&K has

the Third highest Unemployment rate in India, as per CMIE. As per the data available,

**ACCORDING TO THE CMIE, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** in the erstwhile state of J&K for the month of June, 2022 has declined to 17.2 percent in comparison to the higher rate recorded at 18.3 percent in May 2022.

unemployment figures in the last three months had hit a new high in March with a 25 percent unemployment rate recorded in the first quarter of 2022. The UR has astronomically risen since last year and has touched its worst value in 2022, when compared to the past five years. Pertinently, in April, the

unemployment rate was rising in J&K despite Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman's repeated assurances of a falling unemployment rate in J&K. June's unemployment rate is this year's fourth lowest figure after January, February and April where the UR was recorded at 15.2, 13.2 and 15.6 percent respectively.

The CMIE in its monthly report for the month of March 2022 had estimated the unemployment rate for J&K at 25 percent, which as per CMIE data, was the highest since 2016 when the unemployment rate was recorded at its worst— 29.9 percent.

Amid the unrest of 2016, J&K's unemployment rate stood at 25.3 percent in September, 26.3 percent in October and 29.9 percent in November.

As per CMIE, since the start of this year, there has been an increase of 11.8 percent in the unemployment rate. In the month of January, the data notes, J&K's UR stood at **More on P6**

## LPG Gets Costlier With Rs 50 Hike

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Cooking gas LPG price on Wednesday was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder, the third increase in rates since May on firming international energy prices.

Non-subsidised LPG now costs Rs 1,053 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital, up from Rs 1,003 previously, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Common households pay non-subsidised rates for the cooking gas they buy, after the government restricted subsidy to just poor beneficiaries who got connections under the Ujjwala scheme.

This is the third increase in the LPG rate since May and the fourth this year. The price was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder on March 22 and again by the same quantum on May 7. Rates went up by Rs 3.50 per cylinder on May 19.

Prices have gone up by Rs 244 per cylinder since June 2021. Of this, Rs 153.50 increase happened since March 2022.

Petrol and diesel prices, however, continue to be on freeze for the third straight month. The pause followed rates being hiked by a record Rs 10 per litre in a matter of 16 days beginning March 22.

In May, the government cut excise duty on petrol by Rs 8 per litre and diesel by Rs 6 per litre to cool soaring inflation.

At that time, the government also stated that Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy on cooking gas will be limited to only 9 crore poor women and other beneficiaries who got free connections under the Ujjwala scheme and the remaining users including households will pay the market price (also known as non-subsidised rate).

Originally, non-subsidised cooking gas was the one that consumers used **More on P6**

## 2 Militants Surrender During Gunfight In Kulgam: Police

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Two recently-recruited local Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants surrendered before the government forces during an encounter in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday, officials said.

The encounter broke out in the Hadigam area of the south Kashmir district during the night, police said.

"During the #encounter, 02 local terrorists #surrendered on the #appeal of their parents and police. #Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition recovered," the Kashmir Zone Police said in a tweet.

Meanwhile, Srinagar-based Defence PRO Colonel Emron Musavi said after it was ascertained that both the militants were newly-recruited locals and their families were desperate to get them back into the mainstream, the security forces showed restraint and did not engage them in a gunbattle despite being under fire.

"The militants were kept confined in the house with utmost restraint displayed by the Army and the Jammu and Kashmir police. The families of both terrorists were brought to the encounter site to appeal for their surrender.

"Repeated surrender appeals were made by the parents and security forces till the morning. Both terrorists finally surrendered by laying down their arms. They were subsequently handed over to the Jammu and Kashmir police. Warlike stores were also recovered from their possession," the PRO said.

He said the militants have been identified as Nadeem Abbas Bhat, a resident of Reshipura, Qaimoh, and Kafeel Mir, a resident of Mirpura, Qaimoh, who were part of a recently-recruited module of the LeT.

"These youngsters were brainwashed and tasked with carrying out anti-national activities and killings at the behest of the LeT and the ISI. Security **More on P6**



KO lensman Abid Bhat captures a breathtaking view of roaring river Sindh near Gagangeer in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district following two days of intermittent rainfall.

### Satya Pal's Bribe Claim

## CBI Raids 16 Places In Rs 2200Cr Power Project Case

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The CBI conducted searches at 16 locations across India over the alleged graft flagged by former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik in awarding contract for Rs 2,200 crore civil work for the Kiru Hydro Power Project in Kishtwar in 2019.

Officials on Wednesday said the search operations are spread across two places in Srinagar, five in Jammu, five in Delhi, three in Mumbai and one in Patna at the premises of middlemen and associates involved in the project.

In its three-month probe,



the CBI has detected some financial transactions between the accused public servants, including the then Chairman of the Chenab Valley Power Projects (P) Ltd Navin Kumar Chaudhary and middlemen, leading to fresh round of

searches, officials said.

"During investigation, evidences were found revealing the alleged role of middlemen, including the then chairman, and financial transactions between these middlemen and public servants, and accordingly, searches are being conducted at 16 locations," CBI spokesperson RC Joshi said.

The agency is conducting searches at the premises of Rupen Patel, Chairman and Managing Director of Patel Engineering Ltd in Mumbai, Vijay Gupta and Amrendra Kumar Singh among others, officials added.

Malik, who was the governor of Jammu **More on P6**

## Cracks In Congress? Mir Steps Down As JKPCC President

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Amid infighting in the Jammu and Kashmir Congress, JKPCC president Gulam Ahmed Mir on Wednesday resigned from the post of state unit chief.

In a letter to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, Mir has said that as a disciplined soldier, any decision taken by her regarding his successor shall be acceptable to him.

"As per the best traditions of the party, I put down my papers to facilitate the Congress president to appoint next chief of J&K



Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC)," he said in the letter.

J&K Congress has been battling with factionalism for a long time, with a group owing allegiance to senior Congress leader Gulam Nabi Azad. Notably, several **More on P6**



KO File Photo



**IF EVERY PARENT #APPEAL TO THEIR #TERRORIST SONS** to shun the path of #violence, whether they are trapped during live #encounters or have joined the #terrorism, many lives can be saved as in today's encounter two lives were saved."

### Shah Remembers Jan Sangh Founder

Observer News Service

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday that Jana Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee sacrificed his life to work for one nation, one constitution, one flag, ending permit raj from Kashmir and making it an integral part of India. Paying tribute to Mukherjee on his birth anniversary, Shah said that the nation will always remain indebted to him for his struggle and sacrifice. "Dr. Mukherjee was a unique thinker who believed that the basic purpose of power is not to rule, but to work with a dedicated spirit for nation-building. His philosophy of cultural nationalism and the **More on P6**

### Yashwant Sinha To Visit J&K To Seek Support

Press Trust Of India

Joint opposition candidate for the presidential election Yashwant Sinha will visit Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday to mobilise support, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said here on Wednesday. Abdullah, who spoke to reporters after shopping in the busy Lal Chowk area here, said Sinha will address a press conference as well here during the visit. Yashwant Sinha ji is coming here on July 9. There will be a press conference as well. You will be invited and you should come, the NC president said. Abdullah is known to spring surprises by such visits as he has visited Lal Chowk in the past as well **More on P6**

### Amarnath Yatra Resumes After Daylong Suspension

Agencies

After remaining suspended for a day, Amarnath Yatra resumed on Wednesday with improvement in weather conditions in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said here. News agency KNO quoting an official reported that Yatra has resumed through both routes from Chandanwari and Baltal in Pahalgam and Ganderbal areas respectively. Meanwhile, divisional commissioner Jammu also informed that temporarily suspended Yatra has resumed again after improvement in weather conditions. **More on P6**

### Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Resigns As Minister

Press Trust Of India

With Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi resigning on Wednesday and his Rajya Sabha term ending a day later, there will be no Muslim face in the Union Council of Ministers and among the BJP's 395 Members of Parliament Naqvi's resignation comes at a time when speculations are rife that he is likely to be made the new Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, replacing Manoj Sinha. Naqvi's name surfaced after indications from the Election Commission that Assembly elections in the Union Territory May be held before the year end. **More on P6**

### Leopard Mauls Minor Boy To Death

A minor boy on Tuesday was mauled to death by a leopard in Rajpora village in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Four-year-old Mehras Azad Mir was pounced upon by a leopard while he was playing outside his maternal uncle's home in Rajpora Zachaldara, reports said. The beast reportedly dragged the boy into dense forests. Alerted by his cries, the family and locals chased the leopard and retrieved the boy in critical condition. They evacuated the boy to NTPHC Zachaldara where the doctors declared him dead. The incident has created panic among the villagers and have demanded authorities to trap the leopard to avoid any **More on P6**

### 2 Soldiers Injured During Firing Practice



KO File Photo

Two soldiers were injured on Wednesday due to splinter injuries during a training exercise in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. "During a training exercise in Jhallas field firing range in district Poonch, two soldiers received splinter injuries", they said. The injured soldiers were admitted in a hospital for treatment, they added. (PTI)



# Politicians Live Longer Than The Populations They Represent: New Research

## The Conversation

In many countries, inequalities in income and wealth have been rising since the 1980s. It has been estimated that the top 1% of income earners globally earn 20 per cent of total income.

But inequality isn't just about wealth elite groups also have advantages over the rest of society in areas such as education and health. They also tend to live longer. Life expectancy of the top 1% of income earners in the US is almost 15 years longer than the bottom 1%.

Typically highly educated, and with salaries well above average population levels, politicians are one important elite group. They are often accused of being too unlike those they represent, and slow to make policies that would improve the welfare of everyday people. In a recent study we investigated differences in mortality between politicians and the public and found that politicians generally live longer than the populations they represent.

Our analysis is the most comprehensive so far, based on data from 11 high-income countries: Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, the UK and the US. Previously, similar studies tracking long-term trends in health inequalities have focused on just a few

countries, such as Sweden and the Netherlands.

Our study was based on more than 57,000 politicians, using historical data that in some cases dated back two centuries. To measure the inequalities, we matched each politician according to their country, age and gender to mortality data for the general public. Then, we compared the number of politicians who died each year with the number expected based on population mortality rates. We also calculated the difference in remaining life expectancy at the age of 45 (which is when, on average, politicians first get elected to office) between politicians and the public. For nearly all countries, politicians had similar mortality to the general population in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. But throughout the second half of the 20th century, lifespans of politicians grew more rapidly, meaning that in all countries we studied they lived longer than the general population.

The graph above shows the most recent estimates of life expectancy for politicians and the public. While life expectancy varies across countries, there is much less variation in the life expectancy of politicians. In most countries, politicians' remaining life expectancy at the age of 45 is around 40 years. The general public's life expectancy across countries is lower and more var-



ied (ranging from 34.5 years in the US to 37.8 years in Australia). Currently, politicians can expect to live between three and seven years longer than the public. Over much of the 20th century, the remaining life expectancy of 45-year-old politicians across all countries with available data increased by an average of 14.6 years. For the general population across the same countries, the average increase was 10.2 years.

Why politicians might be living longer

While gaps in income and wealth may partly explain these trends, they do not appear to be the only factor. Income inequality (measured by the share of overall income belonging to the richest in society) began to rise in the 1980s. In contrast, differences in life expectancy between politicians and the public began to widen as early as the 1940s. Politicians' survival advantage may be due to a variety of factors, including differences in standards of healthcare and

lifestyle factors such as smoking and diet. Cigarettes were widely popular in the first half of the 20th century and smoking was prevalent across all sections of society by the 1950s.

This is no longer the case. Public health measures, starting with bans on tobacco advertising, mean smoking rates have fallen, especially among more advantaged professional groups, such as politicians. It is also possible that the introduction of new campaigning methods (including television broadcasting and social media) changed the type of person who became a politician.

Women tend to live longer than men generally, but in most countries, data on female politicians were available only after 1960. We found that trends in life expectancy gaps between politicians and the general public were similar for women and men.

In many countries, the public expects transparency and disclosure about politicians' earnings. The other advantages they have, such as longer life expectancy, have been much less appreciated. Our study focused only on politicians in high-income, democratic countries where data were readily available. Conducting more analysis, particularly of low and middle-income countries, could improve our understanding of global health inequality trends and help find solutions.

## OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL ARAMPORA, PATTAN. FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC session 2021- 2022

S.NO.	Class	Monthly Ttution Fee	Annual Fee for previously/already enrolled students	Annual Fee for new/ fresh enrolled students
01	05 th Class	395=00	1010=00	1350=00
02	04 th Class	365=00	1010=00	1350=00
03	03 rd. Class	345=00	1010=00	1350=00
04	02 nd Class	335=00	905=00	1145=00
05	1 st. Class	310=00	905=00	1145=00
06	U.K.G.	280=00	415=00	830=00
07	L.K.G.	270=00	415=00	830=00
08	Nursery	230' 00	415=00	830=00

Note: 100% concession in tution fee is given to orphans students and 50% concession to handicapped studentsand wards of employees.

Chairman

## OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL HANJIWEERA PAYEEN, PATTAN FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC Session 2021- 2022

S.NO.	Class	Monthly Ttution Fee	Annual Fee for previously/already enrolled students	Annual Fee for new/ fresh enrolled students
01	05th Class	395=00	1010=00	1350=00
02	04th Class	365=00	1010=00	1350=00
03	03rd Class	345=00	1010=00	1350=00
04	02nd. Class	335=00	905=00	1145=00
05	1st. Class	310=00	905=00	1145=00
06	U.K.G.	280=00	415=00	830=00
07	L.K.G.	270=00	415=00	830=00
08	Nursery	230=00	415=00	830=00

Note: 100% concession in tution fee is given to orphans students and 50% concession to handicapped students and wards of employees.

Chairman

## OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN IMAM SAJAD (A.S) MEMORIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL GARIEND KALLAN, BUDGAM.

### FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC session 2020- 2021

S.NO.	Class	Monthly Ttution Fee	Annual Fee for previously/already enrolled students	Annual Fee for new/ fresh enrolled students
01	08"" Class	570=00	1770=00	1770=00
02	07"" Class	520=00	16650=00	1665=00
03	06"" Class	470=00	1665=00	1665=00
04	05"" Class	395=00	1010=00	1350=00
05	04"" Class	365=00	1010=00	1350=00
06	03rd Class	345=00	1010=00	1350=00
07	02nd.th Class	335=00	905=00	1145=00
08	1st.th Class	310=00	905=00	1145=00
09	U.K.G.	280=00	415=00	830=00
10	L.K.G.	270=00	415=00	830=00
11	Nursery	230=00	415=00	830=00

Note: 100% concession in tution fee is given to orphans students and 50% concession to handicapped students and wards of employees.

Chairman

## Office Of The Administrative Officer J&K Police Public School Bemina Srinagar.

Batmaloo:- 190001 e-mail: digagroff@jkpolice.gov.in

Fax: 245113 tell: 0194-2455064

Screening Exam/Test Notice

Pursuant to this office Advertisement Notice dated 01-06-2022, Screening Exam/Test for the engagement of below mentioned posts in J&K, Police Public School Bemina, Srinagar will be held on **09-07-2022 at 12.00 hours at Police Public School, Bemina Srinagar.**

S.No	Name of the Post
1.	PGT Chemistry
2.	PGT Physics
3.	PGT Political Science
4.	PGT History
5.	PGT Geography
6.	PGT Sociology
7.	PGT Mathematics
8.	TGT Social Studies
9.	PRT Hindi
10.	Computer Teacher PRT
11.	Lab Attendant

Candidates are advised to report at the venue 01 hour before the time of Screening Exams/Tests along with valid identity proof. Only candidates having prerequisite qualifications as per the guidelines of the CBSE will be informed by Administrative Office on their given personal Cell numbers for Screening Exam/Test.

No: GB/PPS-21/2022/8652  
Dated: 05-07-2022

DIPK-5559/22

Sajjad K. Bhat, SSP (Staff Officer)  
For Dy. Inspector General Of Police,  
(Administrative Officer)  
J&K PPS Bemina Sriangar

**NEHRU MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY**  
Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011  
(Autonomous Body set up by the Govt. of India)

The Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML), an Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Culture, seeks qualified candidates for appointment to various posts.

**Eligibility:** For details like qualifications and experience required, general instructions etc., please visit NMML **website: [www.nehrumemorial.nic.in](http://www.nehrumemorial.nic.in).**

Interested candidates may send their applications along with self-attested copies of educational qualifications and experience certificates, etc. to this office address i.e. The Director, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011 so as to reach latest by 05<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.

DAVP/ 09142/12/0022/2223



## Conference On 'Sustainable Technology For Power And Energy System' Concludes At NIT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The three-day IEEE international conference on Sustainable Technology for Power and Energy System which was organized by Electrical Engineering Department of NIT Srinagar in collaboration with Electrical Engineering Department of IIT Jammu concluded on Wednesday at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The conference was inaugurated on 5th July 2022 and the function was attended by the Chief Patron of the conference Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal. Prof. Sri Niwas Singh Director IITM Gawaliar was the Chief Guest on the occasion and Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur Director IIT Jammu was the Guest of honour.

In his inaugural address Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Sehgal highlighted the importance of energy generation, distribution, and optimal utilization on the global level and said that meeting the growing demand for energy in a safe and environmentally responsible manner was a key challenge for all the stakeholders.

He said such workshops

are aimed to provide a vibrant platform for young engineers

Director IIT Jammu, Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur said that the conference was aimed at discussion and promotion of latest research and technology, exchange of information and technical solutions in the areas of renewable energy, storage system, power system, and system security.

Prof. Sri Niwas Singh, who was Chief Guest at the conference appreciated both NIT Srinagar and IIT Jammu for jointly organizing the event. I hope that this collaboration should be a routine affair between these two institutes of the union territory, he said.

In his keynote address, he highlighted the importance of smart grid operation by implementing efficient transmission and distribution systems, consumer integration along with penetration of renewable energy.

In his special message, Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said such international conferences are the need of the hour. He appreciated the EED for organizing the conference on a relevant topic.



Devotees pray at the shrine of Hazrat Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (RA) popularly known as Shah-e-Hamdan in Downtown Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

## Urs Of Shah-E-Hamdan Observed With Religious Fervor

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The 657th "Urs" of Hazrat Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (RA) popularly known as Shah-e-Hamdan was observed with religious fervor and enthusiasm.

Every year, the Urs is observed on the 6th Zilhaj of the lunar calendar. Thousands of people including women and children thronged the Shrine of Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (RA) at Khanqah-e-Maula in downtown Srinagar.

A nightlong Shab was also observed at the shrine in connection with the Urs. The observance of the Urs commenced six days ago and concluded on Wednesday.

In the past two years the commemorations were held with the attendance of limited people because of the

Covid-19 pandemic. This time around things were different, thousands of devotees thronged the shrine where they recited verses from Holy Quran and held special prayers.

On the occasion, scholars shed light on the life and work of Hazrat Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (RA).

People were seen thronging book and food stalls which were setup in and around the Shrine.

Authorities had made all necessary arrangements for the convenience of devotees including transport, sanitation, drinking water and the installation of street lights.

Syed Ali bin Shahab-ud-Din Hamdani Abidi (1314-1384) also known as "Shah Hamdan" (King of Hamadan) was a Persian Sufi and a prominent Islamic mystic, Islamic scholar and

a great reformer. He was very influential in spreading Islam in Kashmir and has had a major hand in shaping the culture of Kashmir and contributed greatly in economic upliftment of Kashmiris.

He is accredited for introducing the skills of famed Iranian handicrafts amongst the people of Kashmir.

The Urs of Shah Hamdan (RA) was also observed with religious fervour at Jenab Sahab Soura, Aasar Sharif Kalashpora, Kabamarg and Khiram Sirhama in Anantnag and other places.

People while voicing their opinion said, "They were sad about the fact that Urs commemorations could not be held due to Covid-19 restrictions during the past two years, but devotees said they prayed for good times ahead".

## LG Distributes Motorized Tricycles For Specially-Abled Persons

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday distributed Motorized Tricycles for the specially-abled persons among the beneficiaries here at Raj Bhavan.

In the first phase, the government is distributing 1000 units of Motorized Tricycles and by the end of the current financial year, 3000 additional units will be distributed among eligible beneficiaries.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to serve disadvantaged sections of the society, the Lt Governor said, our endeavour is to make accessibility a right for specially-abled and ensure a barrier-free environment and a friendly access to public facilities and places.

Various schemes launched by the government aim to achieve the vision of building an inclusive society by



empowering socially, economically marginalized sections, creation of livelihood and skilling initiatives for youth and adequate support to senior citizens, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for introducing revolutionary reforms to empower the Divyangyan by granting them their due rights, besides extending benefits

of social welfare schemes.

Initiatives like Accessible India Campaign have ensured accessible infrastructure for specially abled, in government and private buildings, railway stations, airports, schools and colleges, added the Lt Governor.

On the occasion the Lt Governor also acknowledged the key role of voluntary organizations and District Administrations in creating an enabling environment for the specially abled persons to lead a dignified life.

The Lt Governor directed the Social Welfare Department to double their efforts for ensuring 100% saturation of beneficiary oriented schemes and chalk-out a comprehensive plan of action to extend all necessary support and assistance to specially-abled persons for their sustainable livelihood.

### FATEHA KHAWANI

With profound grief, we inform the demise of Mohammad Yaseen Bhat S/o Late Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Upper Sathoo Bala Barbar Shah Srinagar on 6th of July 2022 (Wednesday) May Almighty Allah grant Jannat Ul Firdous to the departed soul.



Fateha Khawani will be held on 8th of July 2022 (Friday) at 2:30 pm at our ancestral graveyard Zindshah Masjid Malkha Rainawari, Srinagar

#### BEREAVED

Rameez Raja Bhat. Shahid Yaseen (sons)  
7006913819. 7006886800

### اہلیہ حاجی محمد یسین نقاش کا انتقال، اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی جمعہ کو

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ حاجی محمد یسین نقاش گندہ پورہ عید گاہ مورنہ 5 جولائی 2022ء بروز منگلوار مطابق 5 ذوالحجہ 1443ھ منقصر علالت کے بعد اس دار فانی سے رحلت کر گئیں، مرحومہ کو ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع حضرت شیخ بابا اودود منگونی علیہ رحمۃ اللہ ماروڈ کنڈر پورہ عید گاہ میں سپرد خاک کیا گیا۔ مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی مورنہ 8 ماہ جولائی بروز جمعہ المبارک بوقت دن کے اڑھائی بجے ان کے آبائی مقبرہ میں انجام دی جائیگی۔

#### سوگوار

محمد یسین نقاش، فاروق احمد نقاش، معراج الدین نقاش  
شوکت حسین عثمانی، محمد یونس پٹو، غلام نبیلانی وانی  
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### OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL AHMADPORA, PATTAN.

#### FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC Session 2021- 2022

S.NO.	Class	Monthly Ttuition Fee	Annual Fee for previously/already enrolled students	Annual Fee for new/ fresh enrolled students
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10	L.K.Q.	270=00	415=00	830=00
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Note: 100% concession in tuition fee is given to orphans students and 50% concession to handicapped students and wards of employees,

Chairman

### OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL SYEEDPORA, SOPORE

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06	03rd. Class	345=00	1010=00	1350=00
07	02nd. Class	335=00	905=00	1145=00
08	1st. Class	310=00	905=00	1145=00
09	U.K.G.	280=00	415=00	830=00
10	L.K.G.	270=00	415=00	830=00
11	Nursery	230=00	415=00	830=00

Note: 100% concession in tuition fee is given to orphans students and 50% concession to handicapped students and wards of employees.

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- PATTAN: 01954-293507
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#### HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI  
CALENDAR  
07- Zil- Hajj  
1443

#### PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 42
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:49
ISHA	9: 29

## This Day In History

- 1777 - American Revolutionary War: Battle of Hubbardton
- 1798 - Quasi-War: the U.S. Congress rescinds treaties with France sparking the 'war.'
- 1807 - France, Russia & Prussia sign Peace of Tilsit
- 1898 - US President McKinley signs the Organic Act to annex Hawaii
- 1929 - Romania & Vatican sign concord
- 1941 - Nazis executed 5,000 Jews in Kovono, Lithuania
- 1941 -World War II: Beirut is occupied by Free France and British troops.
- 1943 - 3rd day of battle at Kursk: Germans occupy Dubrova
- 1950 - Korean War: UN Security Council establishes the United Nations Command to combat North Korean forces
- 1953 - Che Guevara sets out on a trip through Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador.
- 1973 - 78 drown as flash flood sweeps a bus into a river (India)
- 1978 - Solomon Islands declares independence from UK
- 1980 - Institution of Sharia law in Iran
- 1980 - The Safra massacre in Lebanon.
- 1981 - The solar-powered aircraft, Solar Challenger, successfully completes a 163 mile flight across the English Channel
- 1986 - Jordan government shuts al-Fatah offices
- 1988 - Soviet Union launches Phobos 1 to probe Martian moon (unsuccessful)
- 1988 - Five prominent anti-apartheid activists are released in Cape Town, South Africa after being detained for up to two years under the Internal Security Act

## From KO Archives

## Bid On Minster's Life In City Centre

Militants Attack Motorcade In Crowded Budshah Chowk

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister of state for Public Health Engineering, Syed Basheer Ahmad Andrabi, narrowly escaped a bid on his life when militants opened fire on his bullet-proof ambassador car and escort vehicle near the Budshah Chowk in the crowded heart of the city this afternoon.

Three of his security guards were injured in the attack, and the two vehicles damaged, while the attackers fled from the scene leading behind their weapons and two pherans. The Islamic Front group has claimed responsibility for the bid on the minister's life.

Two pheran-clad militants opened fire on the minister's cars from a close range when the vehicles slowed down near the old KMDA bus stand because of traffic jam, the KNS quoted the police as having said.

The attack took place at around 4:50 p.m. when the minister was returning from the secretariat to his official residence.

Three personal security guards of the minister were injured in the firing, the initial bursts ripping the tyres of the ambassador car and the escorting Gypsy.

Windowpanes of the two vehicles were smashed by the militants' sustained firing, but the attackers fled when the minister's guards and patrolling policeman began to return the fire.

According to eyewitnesses, the militants escaped in the crowd towards- Maisuma by lanes.

Police guards surrounded the minister and whisked him off to safety.

The police said that they had recovered two AK assault rifles, two pouches and two pherans from the Maisuma area.

The firing threw the heart of the city into panic and chaos, with people running for cover, and traffic coming to a standstill. Long traffic jams were witnessed on key crossings in the city centre, as policemen diverted vehicles and cordoned off the area in order to facilitate search operations.

The director-general of the police, the IGP, SSP Srinagar, SP East and other police officials arrived on the scene soon after the attack on the minister to oversee the operations.

(Kashmir Observer, 07 July, 2005)



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Ukraine dead-end

Russia on Monday captured the neighbouring Luhansk province in its ongoing military campaign in Ukraine. Luhansk is one of the two regions of the contested Donbas region that has been the site of pro-Russian resistance for eight years. The war has been grinding on over the last five months and shows no signs of ending anytime soon. Russia's war effort has by and large been of a subdued nature. The mighty Russian army has struggled to score victories and seems still a long way off from capturing Kyiv. But intermittent capture of the territory has kept the momentum going.

However, the US-led western military alliance NATO has so far ensured that Ukraine forces put up tough resistance to the advancing Russian army. The US and major European countries have supplied Ukraine with generous military aid to better defend itself against Russian aggression. The West has also got Russia's neighbours like Finland and Sweden to join NATO. Ambassadors of the NATO's current members have signed the bloc's "Accession Protocols" bringing Sweden and Finland further closer to joining the military alliance. The development has further riled Russia which opposes the expansion of NATO right up to its borders, a position that became the trigger for its invasion of Ukraine.

The conflict stems from Russia's legitimate fears of being encircled by the west and the NATO military bases reaching its doorstep. Many of the Eastern European countries which were once a part of the USSR-led Warsaw Pact have become a part of NATO, heightening Russia's insecurity. The growing likelihood of Ukraine also joining NATO became the last straw for Putin. While it is nobody's case to countenance the invasion of a sovereign smaller country by its powerful neighbour, the solution to the evolving fraught situation can be resolved if the US-led West and Russia sit down and work towards addressing each other's grievances and fears.

At a larger level, the war has become a great power battle royale. America faces one of its severest tests as the world's sole superpower. Some western experts have already written the epitaph of America's unipolar moment. In that sense, it would be interesting to see who blinks first in this great power war of nerves. And that could decide the new superpower of the world. But America, despite its recent setback in Afghanistan, its failure to have its way in Syria in the teeth of the opposition from Russia and Iran, remains the world's No 1 power. Its GDP and defence expenditure remains several times higher than its nearest competitor China. But in Ukraine we are at an interesting moment in history. The outcome of the war will determine the new global geopolitics if not the new superpower of the world.

OTHER OPINION

A Matter of Import

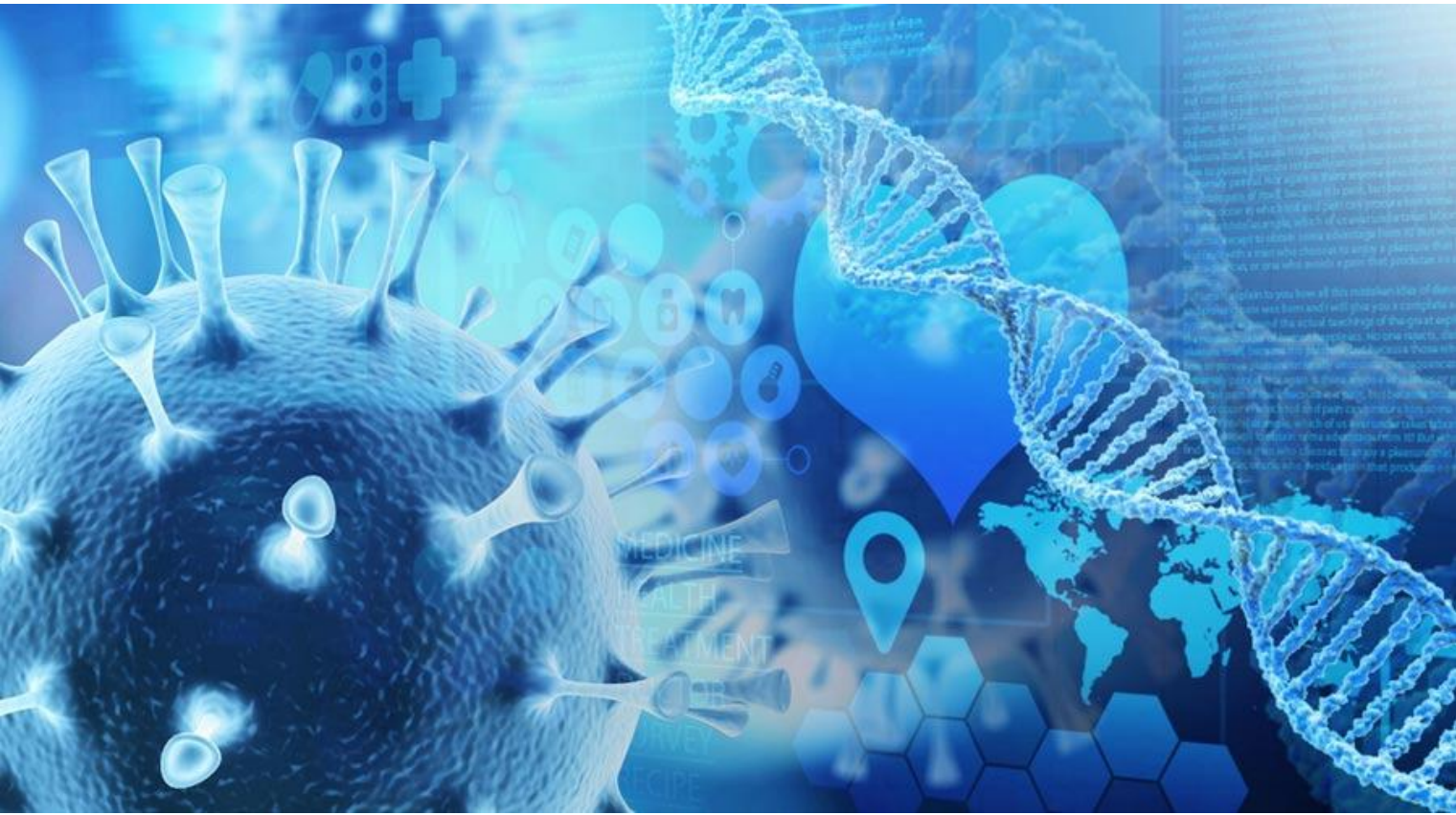
Worryingly, four of India's top 10 export items — engineering goods, cotton yarn, drugs and pharmaceuticals and plastic products — contracted from a year ago. Petroleum exports were up 98% from June 2021, but about \$0.7 billion lower than May 2022. Even as exports growth slid, imports surged by over 51% to \$63.6 billion in June, crossing the \$60 billion mark for the fourth month in a row. Coal imports, up almost 242% year-on-year, and petroleum inflows, up 94.2%, drove nearly three-fourths of this surge. And although gold imports, which had soared nearly eight-fold in May to touch 107 tonnes, moderated from over \$6 billion that month to \$2.6 billion in June, they were still 169% higher than a year ago and significantly over April's imports of \$1.7 billion. The trade deficit for Q1 adds up to a record \$70.25 billion, over two times higher than a year ago.

The tangible slowdown in exports, due to weaker global demand, is unlikely to change much soon, with recessions or sharp growth slowdowns expected in several developed markets. Domestic demand for imports of oil, fertilizers, coal and even gold — a safe haven for investors amid tumultuous financial markets — is largely inelastic, and elevated global prices for these will continue to escalate the import bill through this year. The weakening rupee, which tumbled further to 79.37 vis-à-vis the U.S. dollar on Tuesday, will raise import costs further. Analysts expect the rupee to scale the 82 to a dollar mark by the October to December quarter before recovering and the current account deficit to more than double to around 3% of GDP this year from 1.2% in 2021-22. Robust forex reserves notwithstanding, the persistent outflows of foreign capital from the financial markets have triggered concerns about the balance of payments situation. Last week, the Government imposed a windfall tax on crude oil production that could help bridge concerns about the fiscal deficit. It also placed restrictions on petroleum products' exports and acknowledged that gold imports were hurting the current account by raising customs duties to 15% from 10.75%. This may end up hurting petroleum exports further while import duties may not dent India's unparalleled appetite for the yellow metal as much as hoped. Coal imports, on the other hand, are expected to keep hitting record highs as the monsoon will affect domestic output. Policy makers may have little room to manoeuvre out of this vicious cycle, but missteps must be avoided and domestic inefficiencies hurting exports reviewed urgently.

The Hindu

What Lies Ahead

Considerable discussions taking place to prepare ourselves against future pandemic



Partha P. Majumder

To arrest outbreaks and spread of infections, genomic surveillance is necessary but not sufficient. Surveillance data must be freely shared globally. During the initial stages of the present pandemic, many countries did not deposit RNA sequence data to a central database for others to track. Such hesitancy is unacceptable. Nations must come to an agreement on sharing sequence data of infectious pathogens, not just during epidemics but also in normal times

The SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus harboured by bats crossed over to humans. The trigger for every viral pandemic in this century, including HIV, the influenza pandemic of 1918, and now Covid-19, has been a 'spillover' event — an infectious pathogen jumping onto humans after originating in animals. The possibility of a future pandemic is high; a major reason being environmental damage that is bringing humans closer to animals.

Considerable discussions are taking place to prepare ourselves against future pandemics. In a recent commentary in Nature, six eminent scientists stated, "A reactive response to catastrophe need not be the norm." UNESCO-TWAS (The World Academy of Sciences) has set up a Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19 comprising scientists, including me, from 14 countries of the developing world. This committee noted that "The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated... the critical importance of genomic surveillance and data sharing..." Many countries had rapidly put together infrastructure for RNA sequencing and RT-PCR testing. But this was not possible for many countries of the Global South. It may not even be possible in the near future. Therefore, multiple networks of cooperation to share expertise and sequencing facilities must be formed, especially in the Global South, to prevent future pandemics. If the current inequities across countries persist with respect to genomic surveillance, pandemics can never be prevented. To arrest outbreaks

and spread of infections, genomic surveillance is necessary but not sufficient. Surveillance data must be freely shared globally. During the initial stages of the present pandemic, many countries did not deposit RNA sequence data to a central database for others to track. Such hesitancy is unacceptable. Nations must come to an agreement on sharing sequence data of infectious pathogens, not just during epidemics but also in normal times.

Frequent episodes of spillover are worrying. Many of these spillovers have resulted in massive mortalities. How can we prevent spillovers? Those six scientists suggested four preventive measures: protection of forests; regulating wildlife trade; biosecuring farms; improving economic security of people to reduce their engagement in high-risk activities.

Deforestation brings us closer to wildlife that host pathogens. Agricultural productivity can be increased even without destroying forests through better management, redistribution of resources, and a strong political will. This was demonstrated in the Amazon rainforest during 2004-2012 when there was a 70% reduction in deforestation. Collecting date palm sap in earthen pots attached to trees is an important seasonal economic activity in many regions, including Bengal. The pots come in contact with bats that roost on palm trees. Bats often contaminate the pots with human pathogens. Indeed, in 2016, this practice was linked to Nipah virus infections in Bangladesh. In the Sunderbans, people enter

the forest to collect honey and firewood, coming in contact with pathogen-bearing wildlife. Training to modulate the way they perform these risky activities and economic rehabilitation of the marginalised would reduce spillovers.

The trade of live wild animals must be regulated to reduce public-health risk. China has banned trade and consumption of most terrestrial wildlife. The ban must continue in China and be imposed by other countries.

In sum, monitoring of pathogens using genomic technologies, global sharing of data and steps to prevent spillovers are essential to curtail pandemics. These require resources. Fortunately, the G20 has provisionally agreed to create a global fund for pandemics. An agreement to improve global approaches to pandemics is being discussed by the World Health Assembly and a draft global biodiversity framework is being negotiated by signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Rapid collective action is necessary to save humanity from another calamity.

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

The author is  
National Science Chair,  
Government of India



OBSERVER  
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Frequent Power Cuts

Though there has been impressive growth in power generation, power shortage still continues. We at present are sitting at the threshold of development and for that an uninterrupted power supply is most essential. Energy has been called the fuel of economic progress. In fact, now we remember with disbelief, the father of

electricity Thomas Alva Edison saying, "I will make electricity so cheap that only the rich can afford a candle", but we do not seem to achieve any of it."

Frequent power cuts have become a headache thereby obstructing our daily life routine. We are not able to use our gadgets because of this load shedding and thus we have become digitally blind. In this

hot and humid summer we are frequently falling ill and also not getting a proper sleep. Students are the worst sufferers of this problem. The Bi-annual examinations take place in this part of the year. It is hectic for them to be able to study properly and also prepare efficiently for their upcoming examinations. Also, in the nights, there are power cuts resulting in unavailability of cooling ap-

pliances which disturbs everyone's sleep schedule as it is impossible to sleep in this scorching heat without any cooling aid. The government should realise its responsibility towards the civic problems we face everyday and take measures to tackle the issues.

Beenish Feroz

Covid Fourth Wave and Eid

Eid is just round the corner and it is more welcome than ever as a lesser number of covid cases may allow us to spend it better. However, we must not get complacent. Experts have raised an alarm regarding an inevitable fourth wave of covid-19. If we do not follow SOPs, eid may make things take an ugly turn. To ensure that we do not pay a heavy cost of complacency, we must ensure that we celebrate

with caution.

Following rules is pivotal to saving lives. Choose to celebrate responsibly. Wear masks around people. Sit in gardens or ventilated spaces. Maintain good hand hygiene. Maintain social distancing while distributing qurbani and during congregational prayers, if and where they're allowed.

Remember, prevention is key. We can avert

the worst. The fourth wave can easily be prevented from getting worse by staying alert, vigilant and responsible. As Muslims, we must also ensure that we keep an eye open for those in need and ensure that they too have the means to celebrate a better eid.

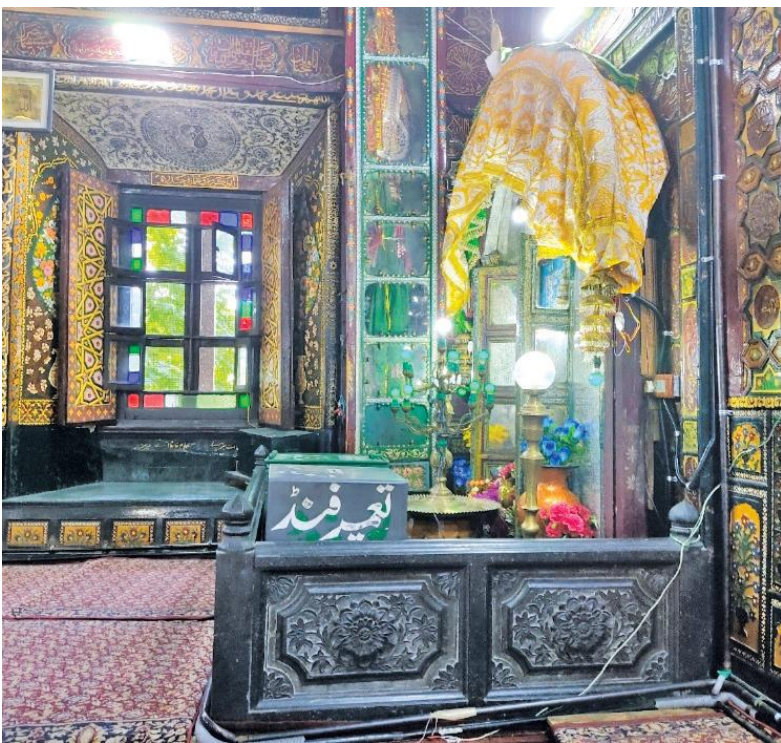
Shah Kafeel  
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# Guardian of Solace

Khanqah-e-Moula has looked over Kashmir ever since the premier saint of the shrine (ra) set foot to teach lessons that still fuel the spirit of the valley

Photos by Numan Bhat



Mehroob Mushtaq

One of the most significant shrines of Kashmir is Khanqah-e-Moula, tied as it is in popular memory to Kashmir's transition to Islam, thus bearing the status of an iconic landmark in the city. The shrine was originally built in the late 14th century to commemorate the Kubrawiya Sufi mystic from Hamadan in Persia, Syed Ali Hamadani, who played an important role in spreading the message of Islam amongst Kashmir's nobility.

Hazrat Ameer Kabir Ali Saani Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (A.B.U.H) known as Shah-e-Hamdan was born in Hamdan (Iran) on 12th of Rajab ul Murajab 714 Hijiri (1314 AD). His father Syed Shahabudin was a descendant of Iman Hussain (AS) and mother Fatima was the descendant of Imam Hassan (AS).

At a young age, Syed Ali Hamdan (A.B.U.H) mastered all the available knowledge in theology, philosophy and Sufism and traveled extensively seeking knowledge and practising spiritualism till he became a scholar of repute, and a saint. He spent his life in propagating Islam and undertook extensive tours through difficult terrains and across hazardous routes.

Syed Ali Hamdan (A.B.U.H) came to Kashmir for the first time in 774 Hijiri (1372. CE) with the message of complete submission to only one "Allah" and blessed the people with the true teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). This visit lasted for 4-6 months. During this brief stay, he held intellectual and spiritual debates with scholars and priests of temples. His second visit lasted for two and a half years (781 Hijiri to 784 Hijiri) when 700 missionaries accompanied him. The third visit lasted for about a year in 785 Hijiri (1383 A.D).

In 796, Hazrat Ali Hamdani's son Hazrat Meer Syed Mohammed Hamdani (774- 854 Hijiri) came to Kashmir with 3 000 Scholars to complete his father's mission and stayed in Kashmir for 22 years and built several Khanqahs in Kashmir and Ladakh.

According to the present Imam of the Shrine, Ghulam Mohammed, Syed Ali Hamdan (A.B.U.H) freed Kashmir from the clutches of ignorance and ill practices. He brought with him the new hope of a new life of peace, respect, dignity and equal rights in a society neck deep in caste based discrimination. He not only empowered Kashmiris spiritually but also aided the uninterrupted economic and cultural growth of Kashmiris.

He brought with him skilled technicians, engineers and architects from different parts of the world (Persia, China,

Iraq, Egypt, Syria, and Russia) who gave Kashmiris indispensable lessons in craft and wisdom for years to come.

The shrine itself is proof of this. This Sufi shrine is an example of excellence in wooden architecture. The building is a wonderful melange of wood carving, colourful green-and-yellow painting on the walls and a dominant spire on top. This Shrine is also an excellent example of indigenous wood architecture that draws inspiration from Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic architecture. The shrine bears a wooden structure with marvelously carved roof space and hanging bells. The interior of the shrine is richly carved with ancient religious sermons and historical inscriptions.

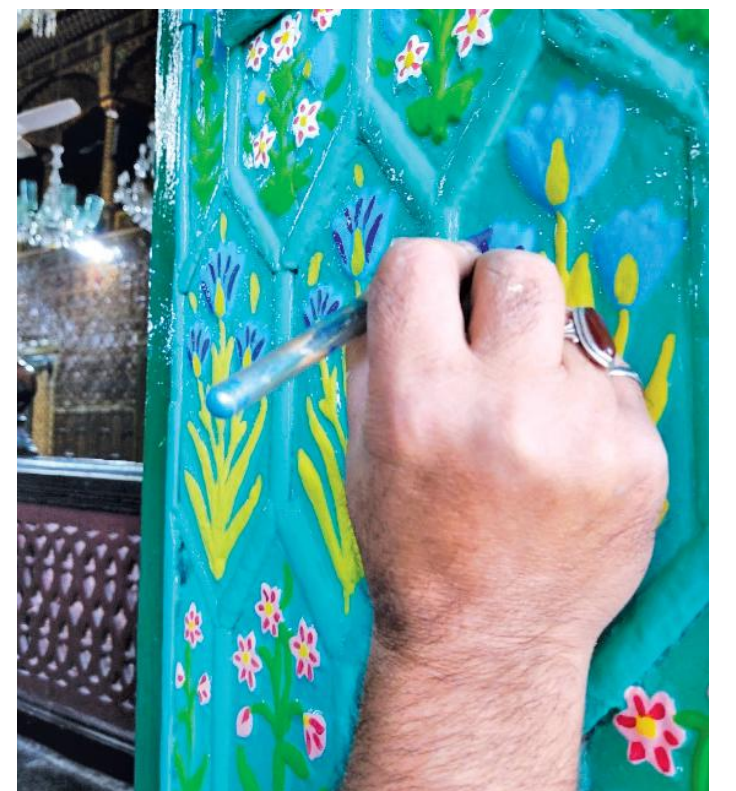
One local lady of the area who has shared a bond with the shrine over the years, succinctly summarised the contributions of the great saint. She said, "Syed Ali Hamdan (A.B.U.H) was not only a religious leader but also a civil and social reformer. He taught Kashmiris the way of civil administration within a just society hinged on the spirit of communal harmony, universal brotherhood, honesty and equality"

It was only in his three visits that Syed Ali Hamdan (A.B.U.H) fulfilled his mission of bringing Islam to Kashmir through proselytizing, teachings and writings. As a result of this all round revolution brought about, Kashmir achieved a respectable fame in countries like; Hind (India), Persia and Russia, who established political relations with it and sent their Ambassador and received Kashmiri ambassador in these countries.

Syed Ali Hamdan (A.B.U.H) was also a prolific writer of Arabic and Persian and he has to his credit over 172 writings in the form of books and treatises. Besides, he was a Sufi Persian poet of great repute. Few Publications worth mentioning are Aurad-Fathiyah, Risala Dah Qayida, Manqabat ul Jawahir. But 'Aurad-e-Fathiyah' is the most popular in Kashmir. It was gifted to the people of Kashmir and is recited to this day daily after Fajr and Isha prayers.

Other saints and scholars of Kashmir like Sheikh-ul-Alam, Noor-ud-din Noorani, Hazrat Sheikh Yaqoobi Surfi, Sultan-ul-Afreen Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Mukhdoom, Hazrat Sheikh Baba Davoodi KHAKI, Hazrat Habibullahi Nowshehri, Hazrat Mirza Akmal-ud-Din Badakshi and Lala Arifa all have accepted Shah Hamdan as their Spiritual guide and leader.

In 786 Hijiri he left for performing Hajj via Pukhli Pakistan and breathed his last there due to some illness at the age of 71 years on a Wednesday on the 6th Zulhijjah 786 Hijiri (19th January, 1385 A.D.).





## Chhari Mubarak To Be Taken To Pahalgam Base Camp For Special Prayers

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The saffron-robed holy mace of Lord Shiva, popularly known as Chhari Mubarak', will be taken from its abode here to Pahalgam, the traditional base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, on July 13 for special prayers, marking the commencement of the religious yatra' to the 3,880 metre high cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas.

As per the age-old tradition, rituals namely Bhoomi-Pujan', Navgrah Pujan' and Dhawajarahan' connected with traditional commencement of annual pilgrimage of Chhari-Mubarak Swami Amarnath Ji shall be performed at Pahalgam on auspicious occasion of Ashad-Purnima' (Vyas-Purnima) on July 13, custodian of the holy mace, Mahant Deependra Giri, said in a statement here.

After performing the rituals, Chhari Mubarak would return to Dashnami Akhara here on the same day.

He said the Chhari-Mubarak will be taken to the historic Shankracharya Temple here on

July 28 and Sharika Bhawani Temple on July 29 before rituals are performed for Chhari-Sthapana at Shri Amareshwar Temple Dashnami Akhara here on July 31.

After performing Chhari-Pujan at Dashnami Akhara here on the auspicious occasion of Nag-Panchami' on August 2, Mahant Giri will carry the Holy Mace to Holy Cave Shrine on Shravan-Purnima' which falls on August 12.

There will be night halts at Pahalgam on August 7 and 8, Chandanwari on 9, Sheshnag on August 10 and Panchtarani on August 11.

Mahant Giri urged the government to make all the necessary arrangements and take the appropriate preventive measures for the safety and security of the sadhus and pilgrims accompanying the Holy Mace.

He also advised sadhus and members of civil society, who intend to join Chhari-Mubarak, to get themselves registered and stated that only registered pilgrims with valid Yatra permit shall be allowed to accompany Chhari-Mubarak during the pilgrimage.

## Ajmer Dargah Cleric Arrested For Call To 'Behead' Nupur Sharma

Agenceis

**Jaipur:** A cleric of the Ajmer dargah, who on camera allegedly offered his house to anyone who beheads now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma for her derogatory remark against Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), has been arrested, police said on Wednesday.

Officials said accused 'khadim' Salman Chisti is a "history-sheeter" and that he might have recorded the video in an inebriated condition. The Ajmer police had registered an FIR against him on Monday night.

"Salman Chisti was caught last night (Tuesday)... He is a history-sheeter at the Dargah police station," Dargah police station SHO Dalbeer Singh Foujdar said. Ajmer Assistant Superintendent of Police Vikas Sangwan said Chisti was caught at his residence in Khadim mohalla.

"Prima facie, he made the video in inebriated condition. He is being interrogated further," the ASP added.

In the video, the cleric is purportedly seen and heard announcing he would gift his house to anyone who brings Sharma's head to him. Chisti is also allegedly heard saying he would shoot her dead for insulting the Prophet (PBUH).

"You have to give a reply to all Muslim countries. I am saying this from Ajmer, Rajasthan, and this message is from Huzur Khwaja Baba ka darbar," he purportedly says in the video, referring to the Sufi shrine that sees many Hindu visitors, apart from Muslim devotees.

Last week, four people were arrested in connection with another provocative speech allegedly delivered at the main gate of the Ajmer dargah on June 17.

Though that video was in circulation earlier, the arrests were made following the killing of an Udaipur-based tailor Kanhaiya Lal by two men, who said they were avenging an insult to Islam.

## AC Approves Up-Gradation Works At Transport Nagar, Jammu

Project To Provide Relief To 1.25 Lac Daily Commuters And Approximately 1700 Business Units



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday accorded administrative approval to the proposal of the Jammu Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (JMRDA) for improvement/upgradation of the road network and allied infrastructure at Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The Administrative Council approved the improvement/upgradation of the road network and allied infrastructure at Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu at an estimated cost of Rs. 33.57 Crore. The project will be completed in 12 months.

The Transport Nagar area is visited by approximately by 1-1.25 Lac commuters daily, besides hosting a parking area for 150 buses with passenger shed and booking counters. Besides, there are 1685 shops, 96 warehouses/ godowns & offices / public corporations in the area.

The project aims at decongesting the area, facilitating users in hassle-free movement, and improving the economic/commercial activities by

providing proper facilities both in terms of road/drain network and other amenities.

The improvement/upgradation works will include laying of thick bituminous macadamization; surface drainage; factory-made chamfered concrete paver blocks; and internal roads of 7.50 Mtr width including intersection of major roads, over lean concrete, cement concrete, and RCC drain along the sides of major roads.

Currently, the area is in a very dilapidated condition due to an incremental increase in traffic causing damage to road surface creating large potholes and hampering smooth plying of vehicles and conduct of day to day business activities.

## Govt Okays 100-bedded Mother & Child Health Care Hospital In Rajouri

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday approved proposal of Health and Medical Education Department to construct a 100-bedded Mother & Child Health Care Hospital at Lamberi Rajouri,

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The sanctioned hospital will be constructed under National Health Mission (NHM) at an estimated cost of Rs. 47.232 Crore and will be completed by 2024-25.

The new 100 Bedded Mother & Child Care Hospital will be equipped with facilities for emergency ward, OPD, IPD and operation theatres. Apart from MCH services, the hospital will also provide general healthcare and accidental services to the common masses besides serving the emergent health needs of tourists & pilgrims.

Being centrally placed, the MCH will serve a large population of Rajouri and Poonch districts and will also serve as accidental hospital on the Jammu-Poonch National Highway. It will be an important focal medical health centre for the populace of Nowshera, Sunderbani, Kalakote and adjoining villages, besides serving as a referral health facility for various PHCs like Lamberi, Seri, Garan and

Sub Centres like Kheri, Patrari, Hanjana, Dandesar etc.

The Administrative Council also approved up-gradation of the 30-bedded Community Health Centre at Billawar, Kathua to a 100-bedded Sub-District Hospital at an estimated cost of Rs. 28.18 crore. The project will be completed in financial year 2023-24.

The project will strengthen the healthcare services of the area and help increase life expectancy and decrease IMR/ MMR in the region, besides meeting the long pending demand of the common masses of Billawar, Kathua. It will also create more employment opportunities both for operationalization of the project and by way of development of additional support services around the project area.

## FIR Against Mahua Moitra For 'Kali Remark'; BJP Demands Arrest; Moitra Says 'Bring It On BJP'

Agenceis

**New Delhi/Kolkata:** An FIR was registered on Wednesday against TMC MP Mahua Moitra in Bhopal for allegedly "outraging religious feelings" as the row over her comment on Goddess Kali intensified with the West Bengal unit of the BJP demanding her arrest and Moitra daring the saffron party to "bring it on", saying she was not afraid of its "goons".

She also said that she was a "Kali worshipper and not afraid of anything".

Moitra on Tuesday triggered a controversy with her remarks that she has every right as "an individual to imagine Goddess Kali as a meat-eating and alcohol-accepting goddess", as every person has the right to worship god and goddess in his or her own way.

While her party, Trinamool Congress distanced itself from the comment and condemned it, senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said he is "taken aback by the attack" on Moitra and urged people to "lighten up and leave religion" to individuals to practice privately.

Demanding her arrest, the Bengal BJP said it would move the court if no action was initiated against her in 10 days by the police.

Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari said hundreds of police complaints had been lodged against Moitra across the state.

"The TMC government and the state police have been very active in seeking police action against Nupur Sharma. But they have not taken any action against Mahua Moitra. There can't be a different set of rules for BJP and TMC leaders. We will wait for ten days and then move the court, he said.

"According to the norms of the Sanatan Hindu dharma, Goddess Kali is never worshipped as a goddess who consumes alcohol and meat. Hindus had been revering Goddess Kali for ages as a symbol of power against evil. Her comments have hurt religious sentiments. We demand her arrest in light of the statement against Goddess Kali," BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar said.

In BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh, the crime branch of the state police has registered an FIR against the TMC MP under section 295A of the Indian Penal Code (outraging religious feelings), an official said in Bhopal.

"Moitra's statement has hurt the religious feelings of Hindus. We will not tolerate

disrespect to any Hindu Gods and Goddesses at any cost," Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said in a statement.

The FIR was registered on the complaint of a local tea-seller, who accused Moitra of hurting his religious feelings, according to the police.

Reacting strongly to the BJP attack, Moitra tweeted "Jai Ma Kali! The goddess Bengal's worship is fearless & non-appealing."

"Bring it on BJP! Am a Kali worshipper. I am not afraid of anything. Not your ignoramus. Not your goons. Not your police. And most certainly not your trolls. Truth doesn't need back up forces," Moitra tweeted.

Earlier, Tharoor said he was "taken aback by the attack" on the Trinamool Congress MP, and urged people to "lighten up and leave religion" to individuals to practice privately.

In a series of tweets, he said, "I am no stranger to malicious manufactured controversy, but am still taken aback by the attack on @MahuaMoitra for saying what every Hindu knows, that our forms of worship vary widely across the country. What devotees offer as bhog (offering) says more about them than about the goddess".

"We have reached a stage where no one can say anything publicly about any aspect of religion without someone claiming to be offended. It's obvious that @MahuaMoitra wasn't trying to offend anyone. I urge every1 to lighten up & leave religion to individuals to practice privately," he said.

Distancing itself from Moitra's comment, the TMC on Tuesday tweeted "the comments made by @MahuaMoitra at the #IndiaTodayConclaveEast2022 and her views expressed on Goddess Kali have been made in her personal capacity and are NOT ENDORSED BY THE PARTY in ANY MANNER OR FORM. All India Trinamool Congress strongly condemns such comments."

Moitra's controversial comment came just days after suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma created a controversy with her remarks on Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), which triggered protests across the nation and angry reactions from the Gulf nations.

The Kolkata Police has summoned Sharma in connection with the comment.

BJP's Mahila Morcha also staged a protest in Kolkata and demanded the arrest of Moitra.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Unemployment Rate

15 percent. Though in the month of February it dipped down to 13.2 percent but in March the rate took an ugly turn and jumped to a grueling 25 percent.

The latest UR for the month of June has brought some respite as it has come down 8 percent from the unemployment rate recorded in March.

The data for the month of March had also come at a time when the passionate J&K administration had gone ahead to say that the employment in the erstwhile state will gradually increase. "Private investments in J&K would increase to Rs 70,000 crore to give fillip to employment and a peaceful environment in the region," J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had said.

Pertinently, a superficial look at the month of march, when J&K was standing at an unemployment rate of 25%, had brought into forth that roughly over 1.1 million people were jobless in J&K.

Another credible labor survey report which substantiates the chronic unemployment scenario in the region was published by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for April-June 2021 quarter. As per that survey, J&K registered a staggering unemployment ratio of 46.3 percent.

Meanwhile, as per CMIE, India's national average was recorded at 7.7 percent where urban rate stood at 7.4 percent and rural rate was recorded at 7.8 percent.

Although the government has started the recruitment process for more than 40 thousand posts in 2020-21, most of them are still in the process.

### LPG Gets Costlier

to buy after exhausting their quota of 12 cylinders at subsidised or below-market rates. However, the government stopped paying subsidy on LPG to households in mid-2020.

Non-subsidised LPG costs Rs 1,052.50 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Mumbai, while it is priced at Rs 1,079 a bottle in Chennai and Rs 1,068.50 in Kolkata.

Rates differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT. Prices are higher in states with higher taxes.

Alongside, oil firms also reduced the price of commercial LPG cylinders -- the ones used by establishments like hotels and restaurants.

It now costs Rs 2,012.50 per 19-kg cylinder in the national capital, down from Rs 2,021 per cylinder.

International oil prices have been on the rise this year. They jumped to a 13-year high of USD 140 per barrel in March before shedding some of the gains. Brent was trading at USD 103.92 per barrel on Wednesday.

To compound things, the Indian rupee tumbled to Rs 79.24 to a dollar, making imports costlier.

India relies on overseas purchases to meet about 85 per cent of its oil requirement, making it one of the most vulnerable in Asia to higher oil prices.

While India has surplus oil refining capacity, it does not manufacture enough LPG to meet domestic demand and imports significant quantities from nations such as Saudi Arabia.

### 2 Militants Surrender

forces remain committed to encouraging misguided youngsters to lay down arms and facilitating their return from the path of terrorism," Colonel Musavi said.

People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti lauded the security forces and the two militants' family members, who persuaded them to lay down arms and surrender.

She said such efforts should continue in order to give a second chance to those youngsters who have joined militant ranks.

"Two lives saved thanks to the efforts of their families and the support extended by security forces. These kinds of efforts must be continued so that youngsters who join militancy are given a second chance to live their lives," the PDP president said in a tweet.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said many lives can be saved if every parent appeals to their children, who have joined militant ranks, to shun the path of violence.

"If every parent #appeal to their #terrorist sons to shun the path of #violence, whether they are trapped during live #encounters or have joined the #terrorism, many lives can be saved as in today's encounter two lives were saved," the IGP wrote on Twitter.

### CBI Raids 16

and Kashmir between August 23, 2018 and October 30, 2019 had claimed he was offered a Rs 300-crore bribe for clearing two files.

"After going to Kashmir, two files came to me (for clearance), one belonging to Ambani and another to an RSS-affiliated man who was a minister in the previous Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP-BJP coalition government and claimed to be very close to the prime minister (Narendra Modi)," Malik had said.

"I was informed by secretaries in both the departments that there is a scandal and I accordingly cancelled both the deals. The secretaries told me that 'you will get Rs 150 crore each for clearing the files' but I told them that I have come with five kurta-pyjamas and will leave with that only," Malik had told a gathering at an event at Jhunjunhu in Rajasthan in October last year.

In its FIR pertaining to the alleged malpractice in awarding contract for civil works package of Kiru hydroelectric power project registered in April this year, the CBI had said guidelines related to e-tendering were not followed.

The CBI had also conducted a round of searches after the registration of the FIR. "The case was registered on allegations of malpractice in awarding the contract worth Rs 2,200 crore (approximately) of civil works of Kiru Hydro Electric Power Project (HEP) to a private company in the year 2019," Joshi had earlier said.

The agency has booked Navin Kumar Chaudhary, M S Babu, former MD, M K Mittal and Arun Kumar Mishra, former directors and Patel Engineering Ltd.

"Though a decision was taken in 47th Board meeting of CVPPPL (Chenab Valley Power Projects (P) Ltd) for re-tender through e-tendering with reverse auction after cancellation of ongoing tendering process, same was not implemented (as per decision taken in 48th board meeting) and tender was finally awarded to Patel Engineering Ltd.," the FIR has alleged.

### Mir Steps Down

leaders of Azad faction had resigned from their posts in support of their demand for change in the leadership in J&K last year.

Mir, who was appointed as J&K Congress chief in March, 2015, has been serving the state unit as its head for past over seven years.

As the trouble of factionalism continued in the party unit, the Congress high command is believed to be in touch with the leadership in Jammu and Kashmir to iron out differences,

keeping in mind that Assembly elections in the Union territory can take place soon.

There have been differences among Azad and Mir and the leaders supporting the former have complained against the latter.

"The factionalism was affecting the party despite Mir having made all efforts to end it," a senior party leader said, adding the Azad group had one-point agenda to remove Mir.

### Shah Remembers

idea of adopting policies according to the original culture of India will always guide us," the Home Minister said, according to an official spokesperson.

"At one time a permit had to be obtained to enter Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee sacrificed his life to work for one nation, one Constitution, one flag, ending permit raj from Kashmir and making it an integral part of India," he added.

### Yashwant Sinha

without his elaborate security cover. The NC leader also greeted people on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, which will be celebrated on Sunday.

I greet people on Eid and pray that it is celebrated well. People should take care and also help the poor, the Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar said.

### Amarnath Yatra

"The Yatra which was suspended temporarily and halted in Jammu due to bad weather conditions has now been resumed on account of improved weather conditions," Divisional Commissioner Jammu tweeted.

Amarnath Yatra was suspended on Tuesday due to inclement weather conditions in Jammu and Kashmir.

### Mukhtar Abbas

According to media reports the BJP had decided not to field Naqvi in the recent Rajya Sabha polls in light of his likelihood to get the LGs post.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Cabinet meeting earlier in the day lauded Naqvi's contribution to the country as minister.

Naqvi, who later submitted his resignation to Modi, was among the three BJP Muslim MPs whose term ended during the recent round of Rajya Sabha polls to 57 seats across 15 states

but none of them were renominated by the party.

The term of two others, former Union minister M J Akbar and Syed Zafar Islam, has already ended.

It will be after a long time that the BJP will not have any Muslim MP. This will also be a rare occasion when the Union council of ministers will not have a Muslim member.

The opposition has been accusing the BJP of not giving adequate representation to Muslims, but the saffron party has maintained that its MPs work for all communities and are not representatives of any religion.

Over the decades, Muslim BJP MPs have had a nominal presence in Parliament. Naqvi himself has been a Rajya Sabha member for three terms, Najma Heptulla for two terms and Shahnawaz Hussain, currently a minister in the Bihar government, was elected to Lok Sabha twice. Naqvi was a Lok Sabha member for one term as well.

Sikander Bakht, a founder member of the party and one of its first three general secretaries, was a Rajya Sabha member twice.

To questions about the development, BJP minority morchha chief Jamal Siddiqui asserted that politics should not be attached with religion and that MPs are elected as representatives of the people and not of any religion.

"So even if someone from our religion or caste is not there, we should understand that our own countrymen are there. Responsibilities keep on changing in the BJP and I am confident that the party will ensure representation of all communities," he said.

The party also has Muslim lawmakers in some states, including one each in Bihar and UP.

However, there is a buzz about the party's outreach to Muslims, India's largest minority community, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked BJP leaders at its recent national executive meeting in Hyderabad to cultivate deprived sections in communities other than Hindus as well.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also highlighted the party's good performance in local polls in some regions with a sizeable Muslim population.

### Leopard Mauls

such incident in future, a local news agency GNS reported.



## Mehbooba Fires Fresh Salvo At BJP

‘Oppn Leader Found Photographed With Militants Would Have Been Slapped With FIRs’

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** If an opposition leader would have been photographed with arrested Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant Talib Hussain, he would have been slapped with FIRs and the BJP trolls would have been crying for his blood, the PDP said on Wednesday.

In the party's newsletter released here, the PDP -- headed by Mehbooba Mufti -- took a dig at the BJP and alleged that Hussain, apprehended by villagers in J-K's Reasi district, happens to be in-charge of BJP IT cell.

Similarly, the man who killed Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur and made a video of the gruesome is also a saffron party worker, it said.

Both men have been photographed with BJP top leadership including the Home Minister. Could you imagine an opposition leader being photographed with these men? They would have been slapped with multiple FIRs and BJP trolls would have been crying for their blood, the PDP said in the newsletter.

It said while the rest of the country was being conditioned to living in abject poverty at the mercy of government handouts, we are being conditioned through punitive measures to accept the abuse to our rights and dignity.

Of all the crimes we could commit as Kashmiris, advocating for ourselves carries the greatest punishment. And punished we are through measures like arrests, killings, raids and chance encounters so that we learn to accept abuse and not stand up for ourselves, it said.

Referring to the killing of LeT militant Showkat Sheikh in an



encounter in Kupwara, who was first arrested in Shopian, the party said while the ultra was being investigated in police custody there was an encounter in Kupwara and the police claimed he was among the militants killed there.

For a Kashmiri to walk to his corner shop has become a risky proposition. If he is lucky he will be briefly accosted by military, but there is a good chance he may never make it home and instead make the headlines for being shot in a chance encounter, the newsletter said. The PDP said Kashmiri people speaking up and advocating for themselves was scarier for the Centre.

They say you never know who you truly are until your back is against the wall. We cannot stick our head in the sand. Fear is a primal emotion that will keep us stuck and turn us into zombies that do and say exactly what the oppressor wants us to.

We can't control the situation but we can control how we respond to it by coming together and taking care of each other. In order to fight what you're afraid you must become scarier than what scares you. And what's scarier for GOI but people speaking up and advocating for themselves, the party said.

We've still got some fight left in us and ultimately, we will prevail. By any means necessary, the newsletter added.

### ROW OVER 'MILITANT'S ARREST'

## BJP Trying To Escape Responsibility: Cong

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Wednesday accused BJP of twisting facts and trying to hide behind security threat over the alleged presence of LeT militant Talib Hussain Shah in its ranks.

The Congress said the NIA probe, as demanded by the saffron party into the case, must also investigate the BJP leader's connection with the dreaded militant, security lapse over the militant's presence in home minister's meeting and the failure of security agencies to detect his presence in the BJP for years together.

Alleging that the recently arrested LeT militant was part of a new terror plan to target the party and its leaders in Jammu and Kashmir, BJP on Tuesday demanded a probe into the matter by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Shah along with his associate Faisal Ahmad Dar were overpowered by the villagers of remote Tukson Dhok in Reasi district early Sunday and later handed over to police. Two AK assault rifles, a pistol, seven grenades and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from them.

Reacting sharply to the BJP statement to distance itself from Shah and its demand for a NIA probe, Congress said it is failed attempt to escape the responsibility and demanded that NIA should also investigate the BJP leaders connection with

the dreaded militant.

This is an attempt by BJP to hide facts and divert attention to escape responsibility for appointing a dreaded militant in the ranks of the party, besides facilitating him to several important meetings with top leaders and functionaries in the government, especially the Home Minister. BJP cannot take U-turn now and say that he was not associated with the party, JK-PCC leaders led by working president Raman Bhalla said in a joint statement here.

The Congress questioned BJP leaders attempt to hide behind security threat and said when BJP leaders are themselves responsible for the LeT militants induction into the party and facilitating his presence at important events like home ministers meeting.

It is surprising for the nation that such a dreaded militant could meet the Home Minister which is a grave security breach. The heads should roll and all those responsible for playing a dirty or irresponsible role should be booked under law, the statement said.

It said NIA and other agencies should also investigate the sheer lapses in the security of the Home Minister and all others by virtue of the LeT militant's position in the BJP.

It should be also investigated that how such a militant escaped the eyes of intelligence agencies for years together and became an active leader of BJP and met top functionaries, the statement said.

## Govt Raises Ex-Gratia Relief To Kin Of Soldiers From J&K



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday raised ex-gratia relief from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh in favour of the next of the kin of the soldiers from Jammu and Kashmir who lay down their lives in the line of duty in the Union Territory.

The decision in this regard was taken in the Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieu-

tenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, an official spokesperson said.

The Administrative Council approved the enhancement of ex-gratia relief from Rs. 5.00 lacs to Rs. 25.00 lacs in favour of NoK of those Defence Personnel who hail from J&K and attain martyrdom within the territorial jurisdiction of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Similarly, the Administrative Council also sanctioned ex-gratia relief of Rs. 25.00 lacs in

favour of NoK of those Defence Personnel hailing from Jammu & Kashmir, who attain martyrdom in consequence of official duties outside J&K/ within the country.

These provisions will be made effective from 01.02.2022 and will remove the disparity between relief provisions in J&K and other States/UTs. The decision will also boost the morale of the soldiers who hail from J&K and are serving in adverse weather and terrain conditions.

## KP Employees Protest Demanding Their Relocation

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmiri Pandit employees working under the prime minister's employment package on Wednesday held a protest sit-in near the city centre here, demanding their relocation.

Scores of the Kashmiri Pandit employees assembled at Pratap Park, near Lal Chowk city centre here and held a sit-in.

The employees have been protesting against killing of their colleague Rahul Bhat inside his office in Chadoora on May 12.

They have been demanding their relocation in the wake of spurt in target killings. The protests will continue till the government acts, the Pandits said.

The government has done nothing and stayed silent on our demand for relocation. If the administration talks to us, then only can a solution be found, Pankaj Kaul, an employ-



ee who resides in Sheikhpora Colony in Budgam district, said.

Another protesting employee Nirupama said the KP employees do not feel safe and secure.

We do not have any security or safety. Our protests will continue till they do not take any step towards our relocation, she said.

Nirupama said either they should be relocated or the administration should give them a breathing time till zero militancy is achieved here.

Until the target killings do not stop, we will not go to our offices. The administration should take steps for our safety and security, she said.

## Bukhari Welcomes Govt's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Initiative

Says Nothing Unusual In Hoisting Tricolour In Every Household In J&K

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Apni party president Syed Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday said that there is nothing unusual in hoisting Tricolour in every household in Jammu and Kashmir and that people here have been hoisting the Tricolour in the past as well.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here, Bukhari said that hoisting Tricolour in every house as per some scheme is a welcome step.

"There is nothing unusual in it, but maybe those enforcing it are making it unusual. We have been hoisting the flag in the past as well, so there is nothing



new in this," he said.

On being asked about whether the government has any doubt over the nationality of Kashmiris, he said that they don't have any doubt about that as people of J&K are no less than anyone.

"The way people of Jammu and Kashmir have been sac-

rificing themselves for the country, I don't think people of any other states would have done anything like that," he added.

He also said that there is nothing wrong in meeting the Prime Minister or Home Minister, as is being said. "If meeting the PM or HM to restore and seek the rights of the people is a sin, then we will commit this sin a thousand times. Tomorrow, if we have to get back our statehood, who will implement that? It is PM and the HM who will do that, so we have to work with them for restoring the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said--(KNO)

## PAGD An Expired Injection: BJP Leader Chugh

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Terming the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) an expired injection, BJP's national general secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday claimed that the National Conference, PDP and the Congress have lost credibility among the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the questioning of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Talib Hussain Shah is underway to remove the lid over his plans as the BJP has zero tolerance for terrorism and anyone taking up arms against the nation will be buried in a grave.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function at the party headquarters here to pay homage to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mookherjee, Chugh said the PAGD, also known as Gupkar alliance, is a failed alliance.

Responding to a question about the National Conference and the PDP, two major constituents of the PAGD, announcing that the grouping will jointly contest the next assembly elections, he said Gupkar alliance is an expired injection which has tested and failed in District Development Council (DDC) elections as people do not like Abdullah's, Mufti's and Congress dynasts.

The eight-phased DDC elections, held in November-December in 2020, were swept by the PAGD by winning 110 seats, while the BJP emerged as the single largest party by getting 75 seats. Congress, which is not part of the PAGD, won 26 of the total 280 seats.

The three families (Abdullah's, Mufti's and Congress) conspired against J-K and looted its resources and the people. Whether they fight together or separately, they will fail



as they failed in the DDC, Block Development Council (BDC) and Panchayat elections, he claimed.

Both the NC and the PDP had boycotted the panchayat and urban local bodies elections in 2018.

They (NC, PDP and Congress) have lost their credibility among the people who do not like those who nourished terrorism and were singing the songs of Pakistan and China, Chugh said.

Asked about the recently captured LeT militant who was reported to have links with the BJP and a part of a terror conspiracy to target saffron party leaders, he said, His questioning is underway and the reality will come before everyone. As far as BJP is concerned, we will not be cowed down by such threats. We will continue to work for the nation.

He said the BJP has "zero tolerance against terrorism and corruption which is based on our ideology.

We have finished terrorism from J-K and reduced the shelf life of the terrorists and the operations against them will continue, he added.

Anyone who takes up arms against the nation at the behest of Pakistan and kills innocents will be sent to graves, the BJP leader said.

Earlier, Chugh, along with J-K BJP chief Ravinder Raina and other senior leaders of the party, paid rich tributes to Mookherjee on his birth anniversary and recalled his contribution for national integration.

## Guidelines For Homestay, Paying Guest House Registration Notified

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In order to facilitate more and more people to join the tourism trade, the Government has notified procedural guidelines for registration of Homestay and Paying Guest Houses in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Orders to this effect were issued by Secretary, Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez here, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the aim of notifying these guidelines is to create a hassle free environment for those wishing to register their properties as Homestays/Paying Guest Houses by simplifying many of the procedural requirements and minimising the formalities.

An added benefit of introducing the concept of Homestays is to promote local culture, cuisine, handicrafts etc. thereby enhancing the employment opportunities

for local inhabitants. Homestays/ Paying Guest Houses would also be encouraged at the 75 new tourist destinations recently put on the tourist map by the Department. This is expected to increase the tourist footfall by considerable measure.

It may be recalled that the Department of Tourism in recent times has taken several path breaking steps to upgrade tourism services, extend the touring seasons, adding more destinations to the tourist map, making J&K round the year destination, golf promotion, a rigorous promotional campaign, thrust on adventure and heritage tourism, to name a few.

As a sequel of these efforts, J&K has witnessed a huge tourist footfall over the past one and a half years and many experts say the tourist footfall of the past six months has been the highest in the last 15 years.

## DPS Srinagar Holds Alumni Meet



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Delhi Public School Srinagar, held its alumni meet on July 2nd, 2022 wherein decade old alumni came together to relive and recreate their memories. The event welcomed alumni from the batch of 2009-2019 who are now well established in renowned companies and also in their respective well-known jobs. The meet which was organized by the Alumni Department headed by Ms. Syed Sumera, with an aim to celebrate the success of alumni of DPS Srinagar, and interact with the alumni who are now associated with various international colleges and universities, multinational companies further motivating them to achieve the best.

Mrs. Kiran Dhar and Mr. Vijay Dhar, founder and Chairman of DPS Srinagar were the Guests of Honor in this alumni meet. The inaugural ceremony commenced with the School prayer followed by the felicitation of Mrs. and Mr. Vijay Dhar by the alumni. The alumni were addressed by Shafiq Afshan – the Principal, who noted "It is our utmost pleasure and pride to meet our alumni who represent and manifest our legacy. Through their role as ambassadors, they carry forward the vision of the school to create a sustainable human legacy".

In his address the chairman, Mr Vijay Dhar noted that the students are the soul of the School, and they

remain to be so even once they graduate – for they represent the institute wherever they go. He further noted that the alumni of the school are an inspiration to the students and marked that "DPS Srinagar is a family, and we consider each stakeholder's contribution to the institute of utmost and equal importance. You, being an alumnus, play a substantial role in this, for you add value to the institute by bringing together your experiences from the industry and contributing to the school."

The alumni working in various fields in the world shared their experiences of school and exchanged nostalgic tales. They reiterated that the staff and teachers of the school contributed largely to their success.

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CONTACT NO. 9990750052  
For further details please refer our website [www.pawanhans.co.in](http://www.pawanhans.co.in)

## PMDP Projects Witnessing Tremendous Progress Since 2019: Govt

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Central Government funded projects under Prime Minister Development Package (PMDP) which were languishing or were being executed at snail's pace are witnessing a tremendous progress since 2019, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

He said that out of total of 53 projects sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 58,477 crore under the PMDP, 29 projects have already been completed or substantially completed. Among these projects, 18 projects are under the jurisdiction of the Government of India and 35 under the Government of J&K.

As per official details, twelve more projects will be completed during the current financial year and another six projects are likely to be completed by end of 2023.

Central Government is providing unstinting support in accelerating the pace of development in Jammu and Kashmir which has

resulted in the rapid transformation of the entire Union Territory on all fronts.

The transformation in each sector has brought economic stability, enabling the UT to march towards a golden future as the government is making every effort to ensure that the benefits of development reach all sections of the society.

According to officials, from 2015 to 2020, only 7 projects were completed out of 53 but in the last two years over 22 projects have been fully/substantially completed. According to a parliamentary committee report, the J&K Government has informed the panel that as of December 2019, around 46 per cent of funds have been spent under the package while seven projects have already been completed.

The PM's package was announced on 7 November 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi involving an outlay of Rs. 80,068 crore. The Reconstruc-

tion Plan essentially rests on five Pillars- Humanitarian Relief, Crisis Management, Social Infrastructure Development Projects and Economic Infrastructure. The Reconstruction Plan aims at expanding economic infrastructure, expanding provision of basic services, providing thrust to employment and income generation and providing relief and rehabilitation to the victims of September, 2014 floods and to strengthen Disaster Management Framework of the J&K.

This involves humanitarian relief to the affected families of September 2014, floods in the form of enhanced ex-gratia relief for reconstruction of houses; assistance for rehabilitation of livelihoods in the form of interest subvention for traders / self employed / business establishments etc.; rehabilitation Package for one time Settlement of displaced persons of PoK and Chhamb and provision of transit accommodation and additional jobs for the Kashmiri migrants.

Similarly under Crisis management component which costs Rs 5858 crs, includes undertaking a Comprehensive Flood Control Project for River Jhelum and its tributaries including dredging and de-silting; assistance for permanent restoration of damaged public infrastructure assets; assistance under World Bank assisted Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery project; strengthening the Disaster Management Framework in the State, including setting up of EOCs and allied infrastructure etc.

In Social infrastructure component creation of two AIIMS like institutions for health care in J&K; stepping up of support for creation of infrastructure in District Hospitals; Sub District hospitals and PHCs was decide besides establishment of IIM, Jammu; IIT Jammu; 1,00,000 youth to be trained for self employment and wage employment placement linked skilled training under HIMAYAT scheme; construction of indoor and outdoor stadiums to

encourage sports persons and to increase the economic activity in the region.

The fourth component involves action on projects in sectors relating to tourism, agriculture, horticulture and urban development and funding for externally aided projects etc.

The Economic Infrastructure component includes taking up major projects in sectors such as Power, Road, Transport and Highways, Urban Development such as Pakal Dul HEP, Srinagar-Leh 220 KV Transmission line; two Pilot Solar Power projects in Leh and Kargil; funds for Power sector Reforms; funds for augmentation of T&D System; preparation of DPRs and implementation/installation of Small Hydro Projects, four laning and improvement of different sections of Jammu-Srinagar Highway; five projects for improving road Connectivity in the State under Bharat Mala; Improving Urban infrastructure in the Capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar etc.



## JKCA Cautions Cricketers Against 'Conman'



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) Sub-Committee on Wednesday released a press statement cautioning young cricketers of J&K against an impostor who deceived the youth by calling himself a JKCA Selector.

"It has been reported to the JKCA by a young cricketer from Kolkata that one person named Rahul Tiwari is carrying a Selector's Identity Card issued by JKCA and is collecting money from young players with the assurance that he will get them selected in the JKCA U-19/U-23 teams," the press release quoted Sub-Committee member Anil Gupta as saying.

"On further enquiry, it came to my notice that the Identity Card is fake and carries the signature of Ex-CEO of JKCA and a BCCI Of-

ficial. JKCA does not issue such Identity Cards to the Selectors," the press release added.

"JKCA has filed a complaint at Ram Munshi Bagh Police Station Srinagar and Cyber Crime Branch, Srinagar since the con-man Rahul Tiwari had also got a forged Player Registration Form in the name of Cricket Association Srinagar. Also the address shown in his ID card is Moti Bagh, Srinagar whereas no such locality exists in Srinagar.

"JKCA once again advises the young and budding cricketers not to fall to prey to such con-man and assured them that the system of selections in JKCA is totally transparent and JKCA has not deputed anybody to select / recommend players from outside the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir," the statement concluded.

## Malaysia Masters: Sindhu, Prannoy Move Into 2nd Round



Press Trust of India

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu had to toil before emerging victorious in the opening round of the Malaysia Masters while compatriot Saina Nehwal made a second consecutive first-round exit here on Wednesday.

The seventh-seeded Sindhu took close to an hour to knock out China's He Bing Jiao 21-13 21-15 and move to the second round.

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina, on the other hand, squandered a one-game lead to go down 21-16 17-21 14-21 to Kim Ga Eun of South Korea.

The world number 24 Indian had also made a first-round exit from the Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament last week.

In the men's singles, HS Pran-

noy sailed into the second round after he claimed a comfortable 21-19 21-14 victory over Frenchman Brice Leverdez.

In the other men's singles events, B Sai Praneeth and Parupalli Kashyap also moved to the second round, but with contrasting wins.

While Praneeth hardly broke a sweat against Kevin Cordón, registering an easy 21-8 21-9 win over the Guatemalan in less than half an hour, Kashyap came back from a one-game deficit to beat local favourite Tommy Sugiarto 16-21 21-16 21-16.

Praneeth will take on Li Shi Feng in the pre-quarterfinals.

However, it was the end of the road for Sameer Verma, who went down fighting to fourth seed Chinese Taipei shuttler Chou Tien Chen 21-10 12-21 14-21.

## Ons Jabeur Makes History For Arab Women At Wimbledon



Agencies

**WIMBLEDON:** To the many "firsts" filling Ons Jabeur's résumé, add a new one: First Arab woman to reach the semifinals at a Grand Slam tournament.

The third-seeded Tunisian improved on last year's quarterfinal run at Wimbledon by doing one better on Tuesday at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament. She beat Marie Bouzkova 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 on Centre Court.

"It means a lot," said the 27-year-old Jabeur, who is ranked No. 2 in the world. "I was hoping that I could get to this stage for a long time already. ... I was talking a little bit to (former Moroccan player) Hicham Arazi, and he told me, 'Arabs

always lose in the quarterfinals and we are sick of it. Please break this,' I was, like, 'I'll try, my friend.'" She tried and it's true, she did it.

In the semifinals, Jabeur will face another newcomer to this stage at a major tournament — Tatjana Maria.

Jabeur has been setting record after record for Arab players in recent years. She became the first Arab woman to reach the quarterfinals at a Grand Slam tournament in 2020 at the Australian Open. In 2021, she was the first Arab player to break into the top 10 of the men's or women's rankings, then became the first Arab to win a WTA title, and topped it off with her record run to the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

## India Take On England With T20 WC In Mind



Press Trust of India

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Experimentation will go out of the window as India will get down to finalising their best eleven for the World Cup during the three-match T20 series against an ultra-aggressive England, beginning here on Thursday.

Skipper Rohit Sharma, who missed the fifth Test in Birmingham after contracting COVID-19, will be travelling to the port city on Wednesday and is expected to feature in the series-opener.

Test players including Virat

Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant will join the T20 squad from the second game onwards.

Their absence would give fringe players like Ruturaj Gaikwad and Sanju Samson one more game to make a statement though they seem to have fallen in the pecking order in India's list of probabilities for the World Cup in Australia.

A niggler meant Gaikwad could not open alongside Ishan Kishan in the two games in Ireland and if Rohit is back, he will have to warm the bench once again.

In the bowling department, pacer Umran Malik will be brimming with confidence after defending 17 runs in the last over of a high-scoring second T20 against Ireland. However, he remains a work in progress and needs to improve on his accuracy.

India have about 15 T20 games to play before the T20 World Cup in Australia in October — three against England in the current series, five against the West Indies (July 29-August 7), about 5 in Asia Cup (August-September) and three against Australia (September).

## Dhawan To Lead India In Away ODI Series Against West Indies

Rohit, Kohli among those rested



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Shikhar Dhawan was on Wednesday named India captain for the three ODIs against the West Indies in the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, while Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant were among those who have been rested for the series beginning on July 22 in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Two other senior players, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Shami have also been rested. Hardik Pandya, who recently made his India comeback following a successful IPL, is also

not a part of the side. Deepak Hooda, Sanju Samson, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Avesh Khan, who are not part of ODI squad for the series in England beginning July 12, have been included in the 16-member team for the West Indies tour.

Shubman Gill, who last played an ODI in December 2020, has also got the selectors' nod.

Ravindra Jadeja has been named Dhawan's deputy for the series.

Dhawan, who only plays ODI, had first captained the side during the tour of Sri Lanka last year when the Test specialists

were in England.

There has been criticism from some quarters regarding the appointment of too many captains of the Indian team over the past one year with Bumrah, Pant, Rahul, Hardik, Dhawan leading the side due to scheduling and injury issues, and as part of workload management.

All the three games will be played in Port of Spain.

The games in the West Indies are the only ODIs India will play before the T20 World Cup in Australia and therefore, senior players being rested doesn't come entirely as a surprise.

## ICC Test Ranking: Pant Surges To No. 5, Kohli Drops Out Of Top-10

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** India's star wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant blazed his way into a career-best fifth position in the latest ICC Test rankings announced on Wednesday, even as the out-of-form Virat Kohli dropped out of top-10 for the first time in six years.

Pant's meteoric rise in the rankings comes after his heroics in the recently-held COVID-delayed fifth Test between India and England in which he scored 146 and 57 across two innings.

It is worth mentioning that Pant scored two tons and three half centuries in his last six Test innings.

However, former India skipper Kohli dropped four places to 13th in the batting rankings, thanks to a prolonged lean run.

Interestingly, it is for the first time in six years that Kohli has found himself out of top 10 in the Test rankings.

Current Indian captain Rohit



Sharma, who missed the Edgbaston Test after testing positive for COVID-19, also dropped one place in the rankings.

England batter Joe Root, who reigned supreme at Edgbaston with a sublime 142 in England's second innings, consolidated his position at the top of the rankings with 923 points, with Australians Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith taking the second and

third positions respectively.

Jonny Bairstow, who is in the form of his life and played a pivotal role in guiding England to a historic victory with his unbeaten 114, climbed 11 places to 10th in the rankings.

Bairstow has so far scored 1218 runs at an average of 55.36 with six centuries in the current ICC World Test Championship cycle.

## Cricket, Welcome Distraction For Sri Lankans In Crisis



Press Trust of India

**GALLE:** The sport of cricket has become a welcome distraction for Sri Lankans looking for a break from the effects of the economic crisis in the country long lines to buy fuel and cooking gas and school and work are disrupted because there is little access to public transport.

The cricket-crazed South Asian island nation is facing its worst economic crisis in recent memory, enduring acute shortages of food, fuel, and medicine. The government has shut schools and universities and has limited fuel supplies.

"Yes there is a problem in the country, people have become poor and helpless with all kinds of problems. We have been living a monotonous life and sometimes spent five, six-seven days in fuel lines," said Ujith Nilantha, who watched the first test between Sri Lanka and Australia with his 10-year-old son last

week in the southern city of Galle.

"There is no happiness for children, and we can't provide what the child needs. When we watch this (cricket) it brings mental healing," added Nilantha, whose livelihood in the tourism sector has been disrupted after arrivals fell with the energy crisis.

Nilantha said he had planned to suggest his son play cricket, an expensive game by Sri Lanka's standards, but his life changed quickly with the economic crisis and his plans were shattered.

She added that "We love cricket but we can't spend all our time on cricket, with the employment problems and all of that. But I expect to get some relief from the pressures by watching cricket."

Australia won the first test match by 10 wickets, leaving Sri Lanka a chance to square the series when the tour concludes with the second test starting Friday, also at Galle.

## Ghana Recruits 5 Players Now Eligible For World Cup Duty



Agencies

**ACCRA:** Four months before competing at the World Cup, Ghana's national team added five new recruits who are now eligible to play in Qatar.

Brighton defender Tariq Lamptey had played for England Under-21s, Hamburger SV pair Stephan Ambrosius and Ransford-Yeboah Königsdörffer both represented Germany Under-21s and Athletic Bilbao forward Iñaki Williams played one friendly for Spain, where he was born, six years ago. Another Germany-based player, Patric Pfeiffer, is a forward at Darmstadt.

The Ghana soccer federation said Wednesday all five have switched nationality to represent the African country.

"This follows exhaustive engagements between the leadership of the (federation), the players and their parents in the

last few months," the Ghana soccer body said in a statement.

FIFA eligibility rules let countries recruit players from their global diaspora in certain cases. Players are allowed to switch allegiance to a new national team if they never played a competitive game for the first country they were eligible to represent.

Ghana qualified for its fourth World Cup, and first since 2014, by eliminating Nigeria in a two-leg playoff in March.

Coach Otto Addo's team was drawn in a World Cup group with Portugal, South Korea and Uruguay. The Uruguay game will be a rematch of their controversial 2010 World Cup quarterfinal in South Africa, when Ghana was denied a late winning goal by Luis Suárez's handball save, missed the subsequent penalty, then lost in the shootout.

The World Cup starts in Qatar on Nov. 21.

## Sierra Leone Probes Scorelines Of 91-1 & 95-0



Reuters

**FREETOWN:** The Sierra Leone Football Association (SLFA) has launched an investigation into two first division matches that finished with scorelines of 91-1 and 95-0, describing them as impractical results.

The West African country's soccer governing body said it was investigating officials and players who were involved in the two fixtures, in which Gulf FC defeated Koquima Lebanon 91-1 and Lumbenbu United were beaten 95-0 by Kahula Rangers.

The SLFA said it had zero toler-

ance for match manipulation or anything of the sort. "The general public is therefore assured that the said matter will be thoroughly investigated and anyone found culpable will face the full force of the law," it said in a statement.

If confirmed, the two scorelines would rank among the highest recorded in soccer history.

The highest is thought to have occurred in Madagascar in 2002 when AS Adema beat SO l'Emyrne 149-0. The SO l'Emyrne players intentionally scored one own goal after another in protest over refereeing decisions with which they disagreed.