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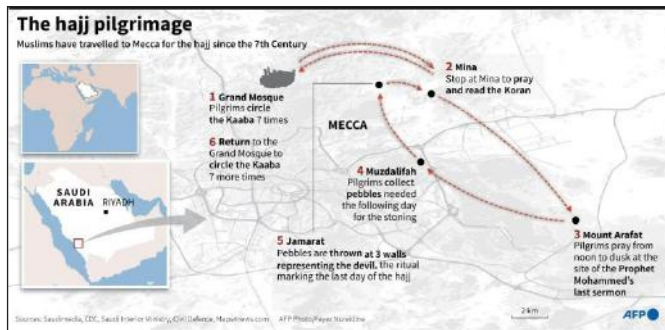
Forgiveness & Unity Mark Start Of First Hajj After Pandemic

Special Arrangement

Makkah: It is a scene that stirs hope and relief for Muslims around the world.

One million pilgrims from across the globe amassed on Thursday in the holy city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia to perform the initial rites of the Hajj, marking the largest Islamic pilgrimage since the coronavirus pandemic upended the annual event a key pillar of Islam.

The Hajj is a once-in-a-lifetime duty for all Muslims physically and financially able to make the journey, which takes the faithful



along a path traversed by the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) some 1,400 years ago. Pilgrims spend five days carrying out a

set of rituals intended to bring them closer to Allah. Hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life are

experiencing a different kind of equality in Saudi Arabia this week, as they gather in Mina's tented city to conduct their Hajj pilgrimage.

More than a million international and domestic pilgrims started their pilgrimage on Thursday in Makkah then moved in buses to Mina — eight kilometres to the east of Makkah, where they will stay for the next three days as part of the pilgrimage.

The Mina valley is an open space covered with more than 100,000 air-conditioned tents extending over 2.5 million square

metres that can accommodate more than 2.6 million people.

Mina is known as the largest tent city in the world. Pilgrims must stay in Mina during Hajj and perform the Stoning of the Devil ritual at the Jamarat. The ritual is performed between sunrise and sunset in the final days of the Hajj.

Mina is also a place to put aside differences and interact on an equal footing.

"Mina is a place that can humble the powerful, who don't normally mix with the likes of us back home. I will not mention names but this very rich

guy who refused [to allow] me to marry his daughter six years ago, just because I earn a low income, came and shook my hand and we prayed together side by side here at Mina," said Rashed Al Sabti, 33, a filing clerk at the UAE's Ministry of Health.

Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam and a once-in-a-lifetime obligation for every Muslim, provided they are able to travel to Makkah and perform it.

This Friday, pilgrims will leave Mina and travel to Mount Arafat, five kilometres from Makkah, where the Prophet Mohammed is **More on P6**

Govt Transfers 6 JKAS Officers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday ordered transfer and posting of six JKAS officers, while ACR Anantnag has been assigned additional charge of Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Anantnag.

According to an order, Rakesh Kumar, JKAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Culture Department, is transferred and posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Reasi.

The order stated that Abdul Qayoom, JKAS, Deputy District Election Officer, Reasi, is transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, Information Department, Naresh Kumar, JKAS, Deputy Director, Tourism, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Kishtwar, vice Masood Ahmad Bichoo, JKAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

It added that Abdul Jabbar, JKAS, Deputy District Election Officer, Poonch, is transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Tourism, Jammu. "Further, the officers who have been assigned duties relating to Amarnath Yatra-2022 shall join at their new places of postings after completion of Yatra," the order reads.

Meanwhile, in a separate order, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Anantnag has been assigned the additional charge of CEO Municipal Council Anantnag.

"In the **More on P6x**

After 2019 A New Era Was Established In Kashmir: HM

Says J&K Admin Has Established Decisive Domination Over Militancy

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The administration in Jammu and Kashmir has established a decisive domination over militancy under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday.

"Today, under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Jammu and Kashmir is on the path of peace and development. Sinha has established a decisive domination over terrorism there under the leadership of PM Modi," Shah said addressing a function here through video conferencing.

The home minister was speaking after unveiling of the 'Statue of Peace' of philosopher and social reformer Ramanujacharya in Sonawar.

Shah said the administration headed by Sinha has also delivered development to the



people of Kashmir without any discrimination.

"For a long time, the nation had a hope that Jammu and Kashmir will be irreversibly integrated with the nation by removal of Article 370 and Article 35A, and that hope was fulfilled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On 5 August 2019, a new era was established in Kashmir," he said.

He said he was feeling peace that the Surya (Sun) temple in Srinagar had been restored and renovated.

"...The unveiling **More on P6**



A man displays four-horned sheep at a makeshift market established inside Srinagar's Eidgah, days ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Land Okayed For Residential Quarters For KP, IB Employees

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday approved transfer of land for the construction of transit accommodation for Kashmiri Pandit employees and residential accommodation for the employees of the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau (SIB).

The approval on the proposals of Revenue Department to transfer various parcels of land for public purposes was taken in the Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, an official spokesperson said.

The AC, he said, approved the transfer of land measuring

36 Kanal 14 Marla situated at village Kulangam Bagh, Tehsil Handwara, District Kupwara in favour of Department of Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction for construction of Transit Accommodation (IBHK) for Kashmiri Migrant Government Employees under the PM Development package.

Pertinently, in the year 2008, Government of India provided a package offering 3000 government jobs to Kashmiri Migrants with an additional approval of 3000 government jobs in the year 2015.

"The proposed project will provide housing facilities to these Kashmiri Migrant employees and will

effectively help in strengthening the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Migrants to the Kashmir Valley aimed at restoring inclusiveness in the Kashmiri society that existed prior to 1990," he said.

Moreover, the spokesperson said, approval was also given to the transfer of land measuring 35 Kanal situated in village Chowadi, Tehsil Bahu, District Jammu in favour of Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau (SIB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, for construction of residential accommodation for their employees.

The project, he said, will strengthen the functioning of counter-intelligence agency thereby boosting **More on P6**

G-20 Meeting In Kashmir?

There's No Need To Speculate At This Stage: MEA

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Days after China and Pakistan voiced concerns over reports of India planning to hold events relating to G20 in Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday that there is no need to speculate on the issue at this stage.

MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said a large number of events will be held across India as part of its presidency of the grouping.

"India will assume the presidency of G20 from December 2022. Apart from the summit next year, a large number of G20 events at different levels will be

organised across the country during our presidency," Bagchi said.

"There is no need to speculate at this stage," he said at a weekly media briefing while responding to a question on the issue.

After reports emerged that India plans to host G20 meetings in Jammu and Kashmir, China last week voiced its opposition to it echoing close ally Pakistan's objection, and underlined that relevant sides should avoid "unilateral moves" that may "complicate" the situation.

As part of the preparations for the events, the central government is learnt to have written to all states and Union territories.

The presidency of the G20 rotates every year **More on P6**

Soldier Injured In Accidental Firing Dies

Observer News Service

Jammu: A soldier who was injured in an accidental firing during a training exercise in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district succumbed to his injuries, officials said on Thursday.

The soldier was identified as Sepoy Rishkesh Choubey of the Army's Mahar Regiment, they said.

Choubey was among two soldiers who suffered splinter injuries during a training exercise at the Jhallas field firing range on Wednesday evening, the officials said.

They were hospitalised. Later, Choubey succumbed to his injuries, they said.

General Officer Commanding (GoC), 16 Corps, Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh and all ranks salute the braveheart for his supreme sacrifice, a Jammu-based defence spokesperson said.

Vijay Kumar Promoted To ADGP Rank

Observer News Service



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ministry of Home affairs, Government of India on Thursday ordered promotion of three IGP rank officers of AGMUT Cadre as ADGPs.

The officers promoted include incumbent Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar, Gareeb Das and Alok Kumar.

Besides Viplav Kumar has been granted proforma promotion ADGP rank, the MHA order said. (GNS)

Hybrid Militant Held In Awantipora: Police

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a hybrid militant of Al-Badr from South Kashmir's Awantipora.

Aamir Ahmed Parry of Kashwa Chitragam in Shopian was arrested by a joint team of police, army's 42 RR and the CRPF personnel at a checkpoint established in Beigund area of Awantipora, a police spokesperson said.

The checkpoint, he said, was established on specific information regarding movement of militants.

"Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including a pistol & 4 pistol rounds were recovered from his possession," the spokesperson said.

"In this connection, a case under relevant sections of law was registered and investigation has been initiated," he added.

Army Porter Injured In Mine Blast

Observer News Service



Observer News Service

Jammu: An army porter was injured in a mine blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday, officials said. The blast occurred in Dallen sector, leaving Tanveer Hussain injured, they said.

He was admitted to the military hospital at Poonch for treatment, they said.

Cylinder Blast Kills Man In Bandipora

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A man was killed and another injured in a gas cylinder blast in Kodara area in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday, officials said.

They told a local news agency GNS that a gas cylinder blast took place at Dravipati of Kodara, resulting in critical injuries to two persons. The duo, the officials said, was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment where one of them succumbed to injuries shortly after.

The officials identified the slain as Sajad Feroz and the injured as Iqbal Ahmed. They further said that the house belonging to Mohammad Shafi Khan, where the incident took place, was also damaged.

DC Reviews Progress Of Developmental Works In Old City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review progress of various developmental activities in Old City, a meeting of senior officers was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Thursday.

Aijaz took a Department wise appraisal about the

eration of Cable Car services from Rainawari to Ziyarat Makhdoom Sahib (RA).

He directed the Tehsildar Eidgah to submit a viable proposal and details of space to be utilised for establishing Sunday Market as demanded by the Traders of the area. He also directed the Ex. Engineer UEED to expedite the work for improving the drainage system to arrest the water logging issues. The R & B Department was asked to expedite ongoing work for macadamization and road repairs in the area.

With regard to functioning of Street lights in the area, the DC was informed that all defunct street lights have been made functional in the area from Safa Kadal to SKIMS Soura via Dr Ali Jan Road.

Aijaz Asad directed the officers to work in coordinated manner to ensure all works taken up are completed in a time bound manner so that demands put forth by the trade bodies and other people are fulfilled for overall development.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Fazlul Haseeb, Joint Commissioner, SMC, Chief Planning Officer, SDM West, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Executive Engineers of R&B, KPDC, PHE, UEED, Drainage Circle and other officials.



present status of activities undertaken for development of Shahr-e-Khaas including opening of Sunday Market in Eidgah area, installation and repairing of Street lights, construction of public convenience at prominent places in Shahr-e-Khaas, construction of 2nd story of SDA shopping complex, allocation of space for car parking in important areas in Shahr-e-Khaas, op-



REMARKABLE RAM: In Srinagar, a four-horned sheep caught everyone's attention on Thursday. KO Photo Mehroob Mushtaq

LG Reviews Eid Arrangements At Hazratbal Shrine

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor on Thursday visited the Hazratbal shrine here and reviewed arrangements for the Eid-ul-Azha festival which will be celebrated on Sunday.

The LG was accompanied by chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir K Waqf Board Darakshan Andrabi and other senior officials.

Sinha reviewed the arrangements for electricity, sanitation, and water supply among others for devotees who will offer Eid prayers at the revered shrine overlooking the famous Dal Lake, officials said.

The LG also asked the administration to make necessary arrangements in the event of rain on Sunday, they said.



Taking to Twitter, Sinha said the festival teaches people to be kind, charitable and work for the greater good of humanity.

"Paid obeisance at Dargah Hazratbal. Reviewed the arrangements being made for the auspicious occa-

sion of Eid-ul-Zuha, which teaches us to be kind, charitable and to work for the greater good of humanity. Prayed for happiness and prosperity for people of J&K UT," the LG wrote on Twitter.

Mayor Reviews Arrangements Ahead Of Eid-ul-Azha

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of Eid Ul Azha, Mayor Srinagar Junaid Azim Mattu took a detailed review of arrangements to be put in place by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC).

Mayor while reviewing various measures passed on several directions to be followed rigorously on the eve of Eid ul Adha.

directed officials to maintain upgraded sanitation in all the wards

of Srinagar city, especially in and around all religious places.

He also said that the city dwellers should be able to utilize the dedicated services of SMC for collection of Animal hides easily and promptly.

"I urge people not to throw animal hides with municipal waste" Junaid said.

He asked the officials to ensure the functioning of streetlights across the city.

He also passed directions to de-

Amid Rise In Drowning Incidents, Youth Throws Swimming Pool Open

Agencies

Srinagar: Amid the frequent drowning incidents in Kashmir, a youth from Tankipora area of Srinagar has constructed a swimming pool for people, especially youth with an aim to prevent the loss of lives in water bodies.

Imran Ahmad, who hails from Tankipora, Habbra Kadal, has started a new business unit and according to him the idea of coming up with a swimming pool is aimed at preventing the loss of lives in

the water bodies.

"There is a lack of swimming pools in Kashmir and the youth as well as the minors through the water bodies to beat the heat amid the scorching heat. It has been seen that many people have died after drowning in the water bodies at different places. This initiative was aimed to prevent the loss of lives," he said.

Ahmad, who is Managing Director of swimming pool cum restaurant namely "The Diet Hut" has thrown his business unit open for the general public from Thursday. (KNO)

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- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 41
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:49
ISHA	9: 29

This Day In History

- 1709 - Battle of Poltava; Russians defeat Swedes, end of Swedish empire as a major power
- 1716 - Great Northern War: Battle of Dyneken, a Danish-Norwegian force under Peter Tordenskjold trapped and defeated a similar Swedish force.
- 1792 - France declares war on Prussia
- 1796 - US State Department issues 1st US passport
- 1862 - Theodore R Timby is granted a US patent for discharging guns in a revolving turret, using electricity.
- 1943 - 4th day of battle at Kursk: Gen Model uses last tank reserve
- 1943 - British air raid sinks U-232
- 1943 - US invasion fleet passes Bizerta Tunisia
- 1944 - British troops march into Caen, Normandy
- 1950 - Gen Douglas MacArthur named commander-in-chief, UN forces in Korea
- 1963 - US bans all monetary transactions with Cuba
- 1966 - US airline strike (until Aug 19th)
- 1968 - Israeli-Egyptian artillery duel along Suez Canal
- 1969 - US troop withdrawal begins in Vietnam
- 1972 - US sells grain to USSR for \$750 million

From KO Archives

Pace Of Dialogue Unsatisfactory: Pakistan

'Abandon wullar barrage'

ISLAMABAD - As Pakistani and Indian officials continue discussions on various issues under the ongoing composite dialogue, Islamabad on Monday said progress towards resolution of issues between the two countries has not been in accordance "with what it had."

"We want a meaningful progress towards the resolution" of disputes with India to build a lasting trust between the two countries," Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani. said at the weekly press briefing here.

On the upcoming visit off Pakistani and Indian Prime Ministers to the United States, he said it was a coincidence that both the leaders were visiting Washington this, month but added that they would be in the US on different dates.

"The United States like the rest of the world is interested" in the peaceful resolution of the issues confronting the two nations for bringing peace and stability in the region," he noted. Jilani said that after a long time there had been frequent high level contacts between the leadership of India and Pakistan, adding that these engagements gave hope of an early resolution of all outstanding issues, including Kashmir.

"We do want to proceed with people to people contact but issue of Kashmir needs to be resolved, otherwise "the trust level between India and Pakistan would not improve," Mr Jilani stressed.

When asked about reports that Pakistani diplomats were being harassed in India, he said Islamabad had sought more details from its mission if New Delhi.

On the recent Indo-US defence pact, Jilani said Pakistan has conveyed its concerns over the induction of sophisticated weapons to India. "It will perpetuate an arms race in which Pakistan does not want to enter," he said, maintaining that it will remain a matter of concern for Pakistan. Elaborating reports on the grant of permission by the Ministry of Commerce to import certain goods from India, he said all such items would be allowed through the Wagah border.

Meanwhile Pakistan on Monday asked India to abandon too Wullar Barrage project over river Jhelum, saying it will restrict the flow of water which is against the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty. "Under the Indus Water Treaty, only 0.1 Million Acre Feet (MAF) of water storage is allowed while the Indian project envisages a storage of 0.324 MAF, which is 32 times more than what the treaty allows," Jalil Abbas Jilani told the press meet He said "the Indian design contemplates construction over river Jhelum, while the treaty States that no man-made structure is allowed over the river. "The Wullar Barrage construction is therefore in violation of the Indus Water Treaty," Jilani, who visited New Delhi, last week as part of Pakistan's delegation which held talks with Indian water officials on the issue, said.

He said extensive discussions were held over two days which covered all the technical aspects related to the project. The 1960 treaty gives exclusive rights to Pakistan over three of the six rivers which flow from India - Indus, Jhelum and Chenab. On the Baglihar dam issue, presently being arbitrated by a World Bank neutral expert between Islamabad and New Delhi, Jilani said the two countries have agreed on a time schedule in a meeting held recently in Paris.

He added India has sent the data and documents related to the Baglihar dam to Pakistani experts who will study and substantiate their objections.

"Pakistani experts will inspect the site 'in the first week of October before the joint inspection by experts of the two countries."

(Kashmir Observer, 08 July, 2005)

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL KRIPALPORA BALA, 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 tuition fee is given to orphans students and 50% concession to handicapped students and wards of employees.

Chairman



NOTICE

It is notified for information of all the candidates whose result of the qualifying examination is awaited that they can also apply online provisionally for admission to various programmes notified vide Admission Notification No. 01 of 2022 Dated: 29-06-2022. However, such candidates shall have to upload the declaration with the online application form as per the format available on the University website www.iust.ac.in (under Admission Tab) and accordingly submit the result of the qualifying examination to the Office of Dean Academic Affairs within a period of 07 (seven) days from the date of University Entrance Test (if any) of the said programme or as and when required by IUST. For any further query/information, the candidates may contact the following:

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K O V I E W

Shanghai Hope

The upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conference in Tashkent in the last week of July has generated some hope of a meeting between the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan. Both External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Pakistani counterpart, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will attend the conference. The conference will be followed by the SCO Heads of State Council meeting due to be held in Samarkand on September 15-16 this year, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Russian President Putin, Chinese President Xi, Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and heads of Central Asian States are among the invitees. If the foreign ministers are able to meet, this could potentially pave the way for a meeting between the prime ministers of the two neighbours.

The Shanghai summit is held every year at the level of prime ministers and deals mainly with the trade and economic agenda of the SCO. The event, however, allows a chance for the heads of state to meet. Also, as happens in the multilateral meetings attended by India and Pakistan, they indirectly take potshots at each other. India always brings up terrorism sponsored from across the border, and Pakistan makes counter-accusations and also seeks to highlight the situation in Kashmir. This acrimonious exchange is a routine spectacle at the United Nations, where the mutually antagonistic positions are ritualistically rehearsed at various meetings.

The SCO meetings have witnessed the reiteration of this spectacle. If anything, it also underlines the lingering estrangement between the neighbours that has further deepened since New Delhi's withdrawal of Article 370 in August 2019. The situation can be expected to improve if the leaders of the two countries deem it in their core interest to engage.

And if not, then we can only hope that the current climate of distrust and antagonism doesn't lead to further escalation of tensions. More so, when due to long suspended talks, the two countries lack the diplomatic tools to manage the fallout. It is therefore important that the neighbours get back to the dialogue and work towards the resolution of their longstanding issues for durable peace in the region.

The only hope for a redeeming difference lies in a summit meeting between the prime ministers of the two countries. They owe it to the peoples of their respective countries to resume a long-stalled dialogue to forge a way forward and renew hope for reconciliation and lasting peace in South Asia.

OTHER OPINON

Inflation Targeting

Yet inflation targeting purists attack the Reserve Bank for its intervention, never mind that India has achieved higher growth and lower inflation than most countries in these very difficult times. Never mind that it is dangerous to apply textbook economic theory based on perfect markets regardless of the time and the place. Such market purists, and those who would gain from the additional business created, have long been pushing India towards full capital account convertibility. It would have been in deep trouble if it followed that advice. Capital flows are welcome but along with domestic market deepening so diversity increases but volatility is contained.

Another group wants less intervention and more rupee depreciation in order to improve the current account deficit. But less intervention can lead to a chaotic fall and jittery markets as we saw in 2011. As inflation rises with nominal depreciation, real appreciation will result, defeating the policy. It is real appreciation that affects trade. It is best for policy to prevent over-depreciation due to global risks. After about 4 per cent nominal depreciation, India's real effective exchange rate against a basket of 40 countries is approaching 100. That implies the real exchange rate is too depreciated since India has had relatively more structural reform and productivity growth. Future corrections toward equilibrium will require a rise of the rupee. High oil prices are a risk for India's balance of payments, but multiple types of adjustments have the best chance of succeeding.

Market participants want clear communication and no surprises for markets. Forward guidance is an important part of inflation targeting. But when markets tend to over-react and are influenced more by the US than by Indian policy, the best way to introduce a policy change may be by surprise. Thus markets had priced in excessive rate hikes after the US Fed began tightening. The steep surprise hike in Indian repo rates prevented additional rate hikes from being priced in as domestic rate-rising began. Yields have actually softened now. The overnight index swap rate, which is influenced too much by overseas non-deliverable forward markets, expected the repo rate to rise to 7.34 per cent and has since fallen to a still excessive 6.77 per cent. To predict correctly, markets must pay more attention to Indian conditions and internalise the inflation target. Both inflation targeting and markets have to mature further together.

Inflation targeting is an art that requires skill, attention to context and an open mind.

The Indian Express

A Tale of Two Castes

How Kashmir's Sheikhs Are Different from Bangalore's Dalits



Maheen Sajjad

EARLY mornings in Bangalore, as I like to call it, a city of junctures, are mildewed, with an emphatic fume of incense coming from the temple, next door to the building I stay in, and an even stronger stench of garbage trucks.

I recall, one time, my landlady called us all downstairs to her floor because someone had dumped the garbage in the bin in "all wrong ways." Results: the intestines of the garbage were floored, and thus scouring was to happen.

Nonetheless, after a session of obeyed scutlebutts, the lady that collects garbage from our building; the one that wears a green jacket that reads something in Kannada on the back, walked by and then, like how disturbances in the force are real, and there is such a thing as some magical transcendent field of energy, the landlady spotted her like a speed scanner, almost toppled her coffee over.

The lady who only picked trash bags ended up washing our bin that day and was paid a little extra for that. One of the residents later by that date, showed me a picture that they took of mine, strangely looking at the landlady. I don't exactly remember what transpired in my mind, but I recall thinking that back in Kashmir, we wouldn't have waited for the cleaning lady or someone else to come and clean our house dustbins for us. Not because it is unethical, but because asking someone to do something like that for you is too blatant and makes the hierarchical system look too obvious.

A woman sweeper in Bangalore.

I was raised in a family of workers; in a literal sense, people who work for the community but nonetheless are seized by capitalist rationales. My caretaker, Noora, was the only one I remember spending time with as a child. In those years, the first person I would call if I stumbled would be him, and so in terms, he had an assertive role to play in bringing me up in all fitting conventions.

Noora stopped working for us nearly a decade ago. He calls us once or twice every six months, but that's irrelevant. What's relevant is that Noora juggles three jobs a day, which to me sounds, in a literal sense insane.

He comes from a Scheduled caste, specifically Sheikh, and he's one of three brothers in his family who refuses to stick to his varna practices. From what I've noticed, moving away from your traditional varna practices is something that is somewhat uncommon in Kashmir but actually very common in metropolises like Bangalore.

The Kram division of the past in today's time does stand still but doesn't necessarily stand true for banal reasons. In college, with one of our professors in class, we once discussed the differences between Jati practices and Varna practices in a country like India. What that three-hour-long conversation led to was, us halting and agreeing with Ambedkar's reasoning that Varna conventions are just a facade, that behind it all, it's all basic Jati practices.

If we look at the valley, there're undoubtedly differences in how different communities are regarded based on the types of jobs

“
In contrast to Bangalore, where the Dalits are trying to create a safe space by leaving their surroundings, learning new skills, voicing their opinions, and then instituting all their learnings back home, there's nothing of the sort to be seen here in Kashmir

they perform or are expected to perform.

Haenz, a tribe of people in Kashmir known as the descendants of Noah, is one example of how some communities still stick to the same varna practices for several reasons, including adherence and obligations, in this case, fishing.

A fisherman casting net in frozen waters of Dal Lake.

For a project, I once interviewed women from the fishers community, and during our exchanges, one thing that prominently stood out was that the community marries among itself; that the community cannot marry their children outside of their ground, outside of a setting where people don't fish. The reasons for this, if you go around asking, are just that there is a hierarchy implicated in the ways people take up jobs.

The fishers community finds it difficult to marry outside their culture because they believe they will be treated differently because of their profession. In retrospect, this understanding emphasizes the existence of a kind of separation that persists in the valley as well, which is comparable to Varna practice (concern with one's occupation), behind which lies the rigid system of Jati practices (concerned with birth), but isn't always labelled as such.

The prominence of this blatant difference,

however, is more obvious in a setting outside Kashmir, such as a city like Bangalore.

Over the years I've lived there, the division of labour and what it does to a community have repeatedly caught my attention. Given that Bangalore is a melting pot of cultures, ethnicities, and traditional practices, I couldn't help but notice how the people of the Dalit community there constantly think about giving back to their roots.

Noora left home at a very young age. He still lives in the city while his family lives in Anantnag. The three jobs he juggles are all for the benefit of his family, and that's verbatim where the epicentre is. His repayment is specific to his family rather than his community, which is very common among different scheduled caste and tribe communities in Kashmir. It's about repaying your family and not the community that you belong to, and that's what stands in opposition to something that the Dalit community outside Kashmir does.

A sweeper in action.

The Casteless Collective and other small associations and organizations are straightforward examples of how marginalized communities in the present have banded together to challenge the hierarchy in a way that is particular and distinctive to them. Although the level of marginalization is not as severe, it's somewhat troubling that there's a lack of comparable unity in communities here in Kashmir.

In contrast to a setting like Bangalore, a metropolis, where the Dalits are trying to create a space that is safe and specific to them by leaving their surroundings, learning new skills, voicing their opinions, and then instituting all their learnings back home, there's nothing of the sort to be seen here in Kashmir.

There're many layers to this argument, and religion is a major driving force in this division. The valley is primarily inhabited by Muslims, and as such, Islam does not have a caste class hierarchy, so the division is not purposefully and openly presented. It does, however, still exist.

Furthermore, the economic conditions of the state in general, when compared to a metropolis, are far better, in terms that severe problems like people dying because of hunger aren't every day in Kashmir while it's the opposite in Bangalore.

Taking all of this into consideration, there are plausible explanations for why there're differences, why there're changes taking place, and how individuals take on duties and strive to carve out space for themselves. All of this is valid in a city like Bangalore where there is greater communal cohesion. This isn't necessarily the case, though, for a region like Kashmir because the majority of the inequities aren't explicitly addressed, despite the fact that they still exist.

And because of this unspoken suffering around the differences, the reasons given and measures taken for it are as obscure, which distinguishes Kashmir from Bangalore.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer



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Unnecessary Speed Breakers

Speed breakers are vital and needful. However, concerned departments should gauge the necessity and futility of speed breakers at different place. It is unfortunate that each step ahead,after a few meters on the main as well as link roads? we find unnecessary

mountain-like speed breakers.

Who is allowing them to build the same if people in the name of speed breakers are making obstacles on roads and creating a nuisance for commuters every day. Why does the concerned department turn a dead ear towards this?

Speed breakers at each step are causing inconvenience to general masses. Even ambulances face inconveniences while ferryin critical care patients.

Indeed, speed breakers are very important and are playing a great role in preventing accidents but

roads are getting converted into mountains by them. I am optimistic that the concerns I have raised will be taken positively and be addressed urgently.

Adnan Amin

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

Screen Addiction

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Wasim Kakroo

Children enjoy playing games on their parents' smartphones or watching YouTube videos on those devices. The use of screens increased manifold during COVID-19 pandemic as children used screen for educational purposes as well as for dealing with the boredom of lockdown. Parents also find it easier to manage their children for a long period if they provide mobile phones to them due to their own busy schedule. However, this seemingly harmless tactic of engaging children can have damaging effects on the brain of children. Children have a danger of eventually being addicted to screens.

Screen addiction is a group of negative behaviors with negative outcomes that can occur when we use technology excessively throughout the day. Constantly playing video games, watching TV, or scrolling through social media functions as a kind of digital drug for our brain.

Dopamine released by using a screen might impair impulse control. Screen time, it turns out, has a similar impact on the frontal cortex of the brain as cocaine. Screen usage triggers a pleasure/reward cycle that, like drugs, can have a negative impact on your life. They can develop screen addiction disorder.

SCREEN ADDICTION DISORDER:

It is an addiction to screens, such as a computer, a phone, or a television. It also includes addiction to video games. Children can't control how much time they spend on screens, which can result in poor sleep hygiene, delayed speech, and poor social skills. Due to screen addiction, many even forget the regular routine of eating, studying, and other activities.

The child may gradually distance themselves from all of their routine activities and their family members. They may struggle to focus and pay attention, which results in a decline in interest in their studies. Due to their dependence on technology, they also struggle to memorise the lectures. The physical issues linked to it include soreness in the neck, spine, and eyes and fingers.

SYMPTOMS OF SCREEN ADDICTION DISORDER:

Symptoms may include:

- Children are not able to set screen time limits.
- If you make them limit their screen time, they will have emotional disturbances and aggressive attitudes.
- Gradually drifting away from family and other relationships.
- Lack of enthusiasm for games, books, and other things that are relevant.
- Screens serve as a mood enhancer



“Given that kids need to explore their surroundings and develop their motor abilities, screen time has a major negative effect on kids. If kids are glued to an electronic device the entire time, this movement for exploration and curious behavior won't occur

- for them.
- Symptoms of withdrawal and anxiety, which may cause depression.

SOME OF THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF SCREEN

USE INCLUDE:

- Behavior issues: Children in elementary school who spend more than two hours a day watching TV or using a computer are more likely to experience emotional, social, and attention issues.
- Effect on sleep: Children of all ages, but particularly those under the age of ten, suffer from inadequate sleep as a result of spending too much time in front of screens, particularly on portable devices. Because screen light disrupts the brain's natural sleep cycle, it can cause insomnia.
- Effect on physical activity level and childhood obesity: Excessive TV watching habits have been linked to childhood obesity in several studies.
- Effects on cognition and brain development: Research indicates that children who use screens for more

- than two hours a day do worse on tests of language and thinking and receive lower grades.
- Speech delay.
- Cyberbullying and exposure to predators.
- Lack of physical activity causes body weight problems and poor bone health, which over time can lead to heart disease and other health problems.

Given that kids need to explore their surroundings and develop their motor abilities, screen time has a major negative effect on kids. If kids are glued to an electronic device the entire time, this movement for exploration and curious behavior won't occur.

SCREEN TIME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KIDS:

Based on research, following screen time recommendations have been put forth:

- No screen time for babies under 6 months old.
- Children between the ages of six months and two years should only connect socially with adults or use screens for video chats with loved

- ones.
- No more than 2 hour per day of screen time for children ages 3 to 8.
- School-aged children: there is no defined time limit, but parents should restrict gaming and social media use.

PARENTING TIPS ON HOW TO CUT BACK ON SCREEN TIME:

- Sit together in family and discuss with kids the adverse effects of excessive screen use.
- Discuss with them the various alternative ways of enjoying free time and help them in making those alternatives available to them.
- Devise a family media policy and stick to it: If kids do not respect the policy, limit access to or remove TVs, tablets, gaming consoles, and cell phones.
- Find out how much time your child spends online and what she posts or reads on social media. Some kids watch R-rated movies, acquire drugs, access pornography, go into sex chat rooms, send nude images

- to boyfriends and girlfriends, cyberbully other kids, or get cyber bullied themselves. If you found out that your kid is involved in any such thing, install parental controls on all the gadgets they use.
- Inform adolescents that whatever they put out there online can harm them one way or the other so that they share the information online responsibly.
- Children's bedrooms should not have TV. TV in your child's bedroom raise the dangers of drug abuse, obesity, and exposure to sexual content.
- Discourage using electronics at the dinner table. The benefits of eating meals together are diminished if everyone is glued to their smartphones. Put your personal phone away and listen to your children instead.
- Set up desktop computers in the living room or another public space so you can keep an eye on their online activity.
- Don't allow phone use around bedtime, so that children may get a good night's rest.
- Look over the cell phone bill carefully for any unnoticed use of the internet. Again, if necessary, set restrictions or remove the device for a set time.

SEEK SUPPORT FROM MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS:

If your child has developed screen addiction and if you have tried all the parenting tips that were discussed above, then it warrants consultation with a clinical psychologist, who can help you devise a more scientific strategy to help you and your child deal with it. A clinical psychologist may try to understand the various predisposing, precipitating and maintaining factors that have led to screen addiction in your child's case. They can also try to understand what measures you, as a parent, have already exhausted to deal with the problem. Based on overall assessment, they can develop a treatment plan and implement it with the cooperation of parents.

If screen addiction has become severe and if it has built up anxiety or mood issues, then it may also warrant services of a psychiatrist who can recommend medicines to deal with severe mood issues or withdrawal issues.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

How Do We Measure Well-Being?

Henry S. Richardson
Erik Schokkaert

Opinions differ on the definition of well-being. Yet there's a growing consensus that it cannot be reduced to material consumption and that other aspects of life, such as health and good social relations, are essential to being well.

Increasing well-being is generally accepted as one of the essential components of social progress, but if different aspects of life all contribute to well-being, can or should we construct an overall measure of it? For example, is "happiness" a good measure?

Before we can begin to monitor social progress in terms of well-being, we need more clarity on the concept itself.

MEASURING HAPPINESS

One possibility is to use large opinion surveys in which individuals answer simple questions on their degree of happiness or life satisfaction. These have revealed robust patterns, confirming that economic growth has a weaker than expected effect on satisfaction, and that other aspects of life, such as health and unemployment, are important.

These simple survey measures seem credible. But according to psychologists, happiness and life satisfaction do not coincide. Life satisfaction has a cognitive component – individuals have to step back to assess their lives – while happiness reflects positive and negative emotions that fluctuate.

A focus on positive and negative emotions can lead to understanding well-being in an "hedonic" way, based in pleasure and the

absence of pain. Looking instead to individuals' judgements about what is worth seeking suggests a preference-based approach (a possibility we discuss below). People judge all sorts of different things to be worth seeking.

In other words, happiness may be an element in evaluating one's well-being, but it is not the only one.

THE CAPABILITY APPROACH

Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen has pointed out that understanding well-being on the basis of feelings of satisfaction, pleasure, or happiness have two problems.

The first he calls "physical-condition neglect". Human beings adapt at least partially to unfavourable situations, meaning the poor and the sick can still be relatively happy. One striking study by a team of Belgian and French physicians has shown that even in a cohort of patients with chronic locked-in syndrome, a majority reported being happy.

The second problem is "valuation neglect". Valuing a life is a reflective activity that should not be reduced to feeling happy or unhappy. Of course, Sen admits, "it would be odd to claim that a person broken down by pain and misery is doing very well".

We should therefore not fully neglect the importance of feeling well, but also acknowledge it is not the only thing people care about.

Together with Martha Nussbaum, Sen formulated an alternative: the capability approach, which stipulates that both personal characteristics and social circumstances affect what people can achieve with a given amount of resources.

Giving books to a person who



cannot read does not increase their well-being (probably the opposite), just as providing them with a car does not increase mobility if there are no decent roads.

According to Sen, what the person manages to do or to be – such as being well-nourished or being able to appear in public without shame – are what really matter for well-being. Sen calls these achievements the "functionings" of the person. However, he further claims that defining well-being only in terms of functioning is insufficient, because well-being also includes freedom.

His classic example involves the comparison between two undernourished individuals. The first person is poor and cannot afford food; the second is wealthy but chooses to fast for religious reasons. While they achieve the same level of nourishment, they cannot be said to enjoy the same level of well-being.

Therefore, Sen suggests that well-being should be understood in terms of people's real opportunities – that is, all possible combinations of functionings from which they can choose.

The capability approach is inherently multidimensional; but those seeking to guide policy often think that rationally dealing with trade-offs requires having one single ultimate measure. Adherents of the capability approach who succumb to this thought often mistrust individual preferences and apply instead a set of indicators that are common to all individuals.

So-called "composite indicators" – like the United Nations' Human Development Index, which adds together consumption, life expectancy and educational performance at the country level – are a frequent outcome of this kind of thinking. They have become popular in policy circles, but they fall victim to simply adding up scores on different dimensions, all deemed equally important.

TAKING INDIVIDUAL CONVICTIONS SERIOUSLY

Beyond the subjective approach and the capability approach, a third perspective – the preference-based approach to well-being – takes into account that people disagree about the relative importance of different life dimensions.

Some people think that hard work is necessary to have a valuable life while others prefer to spend more time with family. Some think that going out with friends is a key, while others prefer reading a book in a quiet place.

The "preference-based" perspective starts from the idea that people are better off when their reality matches better what they themselves consider to be important.

Preferences thus have a cognitive "valuational" component: they reflect people's well-informed and well-considered ideas about what a good life is, not merely their market behaviour.

This does not coincide with subjective life satisfaction. Recall the example of patients with the locked-in syndrome reporting high levels of satisfaction because they have adapted to their situation. This does not mean that they would not prefer to have their health back – and it certainly does not mean that citizens without locked-in syndrome would not mind falling ill with it.

One example of a preference-based measure, advocated by the French economist Marc Fleurbaey,

directs people to choose reference values for all non-income aspects of life (such as health or number of hours worked). These reference values will depend on the individual: everyone probably agrees that not being ill is the best possible state, but a workaholic lawyer is likely to place a very different value on work hours than someone with an arduous and hazardous factory job.

Fleurbaey then suggests that people define a salary that, combined with the non-income-based reference value, would satisfy the individual as much as their current situation.

The amount by which this "equivalent income" differs from the person's actual work-based income can help answer the question: "How much income you would be willing to give up for better health or more free time?"

Some psychologists are sceptical about preference-based approaches because they assume that human beings have well-informed and well-considered ideas about what makes a good life. Even if such rational preferences exist, one struggles to measure them because these are aspects of life – family time, health – that are not traded on markets.

DOES ALL THIS MATTER IN PRACTICE?

The following table, compiled by the Belgian economists Koen Decancq and Erik Schokkaert, shows how differing approaches to well-being can have practical consequences.

It ranks 18 European countries in 2010 (just after the financial crisis) according to three possible measures: average income, average life satisfaction and average "equivalent income" (taking into account

health, unemployment, safety and the quality of social interactions).

Some results are striking. Danes are much more satisfied than they are wealthy, while France is the opposite. These large divergences are not seen when comparing equivalent incomes, however, which suggests that satisfaction in these two countries is heavily influenced by cultural differences.

Germany and the Netherlands also do worse on satisfaction than on income, but their equivalent income rankings confirm that they do relatively worse on the non-income dimensions.

Greece has a remarkably low level of life satisfaction. Cultural factors may play a role here, but Greece is also characterised by high income inequality, which is not captured by the averages in the table.

These differences among various measures of well-being hint at the important issues involved in deciding which measure of well-being – if any – to select. If we want to use the measure to rank nations' performance at providing well-being, then we will be pulled towards a single, simple measure, such as subjective happiness. If we seek to keep track, for policy purposes, of whether individuals are doing well in the respects that really matter, we will be pulled towards a more multi-dimensional assessment, such as that offered by the capability approach. And if we are most impressed by disagreement among individuals as to what matters, we will have reason to understand well-being along the lines suggested by the preference-based approach.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Rajnath To Brief Members Of Consultative Committee On Agnipath

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will brief the members of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Defence, comprising MPs from ruling as well as opposition parties, on Monday, on various aspects of the recently-launched Agnipath recruitment, the ministry said on Thursday.

The three service chiefs and defence secretary are also likely to be present in the meeting, the defence ministry said.

The committee on Defence chaired by Singh has 20 members, including 13 from Lok Sabha and around 7 from Rajya Sabha, according to the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry website.

It includes members from almost all parties. Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, National Conference supremo Farooq Abdullah and TMC leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay are among its members.

"Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh is scheduled to brief the Committee members about various aspects of the



recently-launched AGNIPATH scheme, through which recruitment of soldiers in all the three Services will henceforth take place," the ministry said in a statement.

Defence Secretary, three Service Chiefs and other senior officials of the ministry are likely to be present, it added.

After the scheme was unveiled on June 14, violent protests took place in several states for nearly a week and various opposition parties demanded its rollback.

Earlier this week, the Indian Air Force (IAF) said it has received 7.5 lakh applications under the "Agnipath" recruitment scheme. The registration process under the scheme began on June 24.

Man Booked For Offering Rs 2 Crore Reward For Nupur Sharma's Tongue

Press Trust of India

Gurugram: The Nuh police has booked a man for allegedly declaring a Rs 2 crore reward for cutting off the tongue of now-suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma over her derogatory remarks on Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) during a TV debate.

The action by the police came after a purported video of Salaheri resident Irshad Pradhan declaring the reward surfaced on social media.

In Chandigarh, asked to comment on the issue, state Home Minister Anil Vij said strict action would be taken as per the law.

"Those elements who want to disturb peace in the country will be dealt with strictly," he said.

The video purportedly showed Pradhan offering the reward to a Youtuber on behalf of entire Mewat to cut off Sharma's tongue. Tension had erupted in the area after the video was widely shared on



social media.

"Bring her tongue and take Rs 2 crore. Do it and take the money right now," the man is heard purportedly saying in the video.

Nuh Superintendent of Police Varun Singla said police have identified the accused and booked him under relevant provisions of the IPC.

"Action will be taken as per the law. Our social media cell too has been pressed into action to ensure no such instigating content is supported or

circulated in the district," he said.

"We appeal to people to not spread such videos and communal content," Singla added.

The Police said that the FIR against Irshad Pradhan and others was registered at the City Nuh police station.

"Main accused Irshad did not just say this on video but later also uploaded the same on his Facebook page. Police teams are conducting raids to nab him," a senior police officer said.

Naqvi To Move Out Of Official Residence On Friday



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: With his resignation from the Union cabinet and Rajya Sabha term coming to an end, senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi will move out of his official residence along with his family on Friday and shift to a private accommodation here, sources said.

Though the former minority affairs minister had at least one month's time to move out, he has decided to leave his official 7, Safdarjung Road residence on Friday itself after his tenure as Rajya Sabha member ended on Thursday, they said.

Naqvi, who resigned as a Cabinet minister on Wednesday, wants to set an example by moving out just a day after his Rajya Sabha term ended Thursday, a source close to him said.

Naqvi will be moving to a

private accommodation in east Delhi on Friday, the sources said, adding that his office paraphernalia will be cleared out within the next couple of weeks.

Earlier in the day, Naqvi handed over the charge of the Minority Affairs Minister to his party colleague Smriti Irani, who has been assigned the charge of the ministry, in addition to her existing portfolio of Minister for Women and Child Development.

Wishing Irani, Naqvi said in a tweet, "Your energetic & dynamic leadership will further strengthen PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's commitment to 'Development with Dignity' of all sections."

The Prime Minister is learnt to have lauded Naqvi for his contribution to the country and the people during Wednesday's Cabinet meeting.

TV Anchor Seeks Urgent Hearing In SC On Plea Against FIRs Lodged For Doctored Rahul Gandhi Video

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday said the plea of a TV news anchor, facing FIRs in some states for playing a doctored clip of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, seeking clubbing of the cases and protection from coercive action is likely to be listed on Friday, subject to clearance from the CJL.

A vacation bench comprising Justices Indira Banerjee and J K Maheshwari, which on Wednesday had ordered listing of the plea of Rohit Ranjan for hearing on Thursday, said it was awaiting an assignment from the CJL.

"It has not been assigned to us. It is awaiting assignment by the chief justice. It may not be assigned to us," said the bench.

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for the news anchor, said the petition was directed to be listed for hearing today, but it has not figured in the list of business and urged that it

be assigned to some bench on Friday.

"Let us see. The case papers are with the CJL. List the matter tomorrow subject to clearance by the CJL, the bench said.

The top court on Wednesday agreed to hear on Thursday the plea of the news anchor who is facing several FIRs in some states for playing a doctored clip of Gandhi.

Ranjan later apologised and the news programme was withdrawn.

In a petition filed through, lawyers' firm Karanjawala and Co, the news anchor has sought relief including the quashing of FIRs or complaints or their clubbing and transfer to one place.

Ranjan has also sought a direction that no coercive action be taken against him for the withdrawn programme for which he and the channel have apologised.

The petition has sought security for the journalist, his family members, and his colleagues associated with the programme in question.

"The present writ petition is being filed under Article 32 of the Constitution praying for the quashing /clubbing of almost identical criminal complaints. FIRs were filed across the country against the petitioner. The petitioner prays for the stay of coercive action during the pendency of the present petition," the plea said.

It said Ranjan "anchored /hosted a programme on Zee News on July 1, 2022. The news show inadvertently misattributed certain quotes and the error was immediately rectified. An unconditional apology was tendered by the petitioner and Zee News and the news show was withdrawn even prior to the registration or filing of any FIR and complaint".

However, subsequently, multiple FIRs and complaints have been filed against the petitioner under various provisions of law for the same incident and were almost set right by the petitioner, it said.

Referring to various judgements, it said, there can be no second FIR and consequently there can be no fresh investigation in respect of the same cognizable offence or incident giving rise to one or more cognizable offences.

"Since it is impossible for the petitioner to approach various courts/policy stations all over the country in respect of such FIRs/complaints, the present writ petition is being filed under Article 32 against the violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 19 (1) (a) (freedom of speech and expression) and Article 21 (right to life and liberty) of the Constitution," it said.

Furthermore, the issue was covered under the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Programming Rules against the broadcaster, it said.

"Therefore, when there is special law dealing with the issues in question, there was no question to invoke the criminal

statute or registration of FIRs," it said.

On Tuesday, a police team from Chhattisgarh reached Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad town to arrest the anchor from his home but he was instead arrested by the Noida police who released him on bail later on Tuesday night.

"Zee News anchor Rohit Ranjan was picked up from his home for questioning on Tuesday morning by a team from Noida Sector-20 police station in connection with an FIR lodged under IPC 505 (public mischief) on a complaint by his own channel over a doctored video played during his show on July 1," a Noida police officer had told PTL.

In Raipur, Senior Superintendent of Police Prashant Agrawal told PTL that a case was registered against Ranjan and others at Zee News on Sunday for allegedly promoting enmity between different groups and outraging religious feelings of people based on a complaint by Congress MLA Devendra Yadav.

In his complaint, Yadav said a video,

in which Gandhi described those attacking his Wayanad office as children and said he had no ill-will against them, was "mischievously" used by the TV channel on July 1 to suggest he was forgiving the killers of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal.

The FIR in Raipur was lodged under IPC sections, including 153A (promoting enmity between different groups), 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class), 467 (forgery), 469 (forgery to harm reputation), 504 (intentional insult).

On July 2, a day after the video was aired, Ranjan apologised for mistakenly playing Gandhi's statement out of context by linking it with the Udaipur murder case.

"It was a human error for which our team is apologetic. We apologise for it," he had tweeted in Hindi. One of the FIRs has also been lodged in Rajasthan as well for the same incident.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Forgiveness & Unity

believed to have delivered his last sermon.

Pilgrims spend the day praying at Arafat until sunset, then walk the seven kilometres to the third holy site, Muzdalifah. There, they perform the sunset and night prayers and spend the night worshipping under the open sky.

This year, the Hajj is open to just 1 million foreign and domestic pilgrims who have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, tested negative for COVID-19 and are between 18 and 65 years old. Authorities estimate 85% have arrived from abroad.

While this year's attendance is far below the pre-pandemic influx of 2.5 million pilgrims, it represents a significant step closer to normal after the kingdom restricted the event to a small number of Muslim residents for the past two years.

The ritual was almost scrapped in its entirety in 2020, when as few as 1,000 residents were permitted to take part. Some 60,000 residents attended last year. The unprecedented restrictions sent shockwaves through the Muslim world and devastated many believers, who often save up and wait for years to make the pilgrimage.

Pilgrims at the holy site this year are not required to be masked or socially distanced, as during the past two years. However, Muslims are still prohibited from kissing or touching the cube-shaped Kaaba, the metaphorical house of God at the center of Makkah that pilgrims circle as they complete the Hajj.

The Qur'an says that all Islam's followers who are physically and financially able should make the pilgrimage once in their lifetime.

The Hajj follows a route Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) walked nearly 1,400 years ago and is believed to trace the footsteps of Prophets Ibrahim and Ismail.

Although no longer in the shadow of the pandemic, this Hajj is taking place amid Russia's war on Ukraine, a conflict that may be thousands of miles from the homes of many Muslims but has sent the prices of staple foods soaring and spread misery across the world.

This year's Hajj also showcases de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's latest efforts to loosen social restrictions and transform the kingdom. Saudi Arabia officially began allowing women to perform the Hajj without a male guardian, or mahram," last year.

The Hajj in Islam is meant to be a great equaliser and unifier among Muslims. Pilgrims wear simple clothing: For men, it's typical to wear a white draping garment, while women wear conservative dress and headscarves, forgoing makeup, nail polish and perfume to draw closer to God.

But even Makkah cannot escape the world's

wealth gaps: The well-heeled may pay some USD 3,000 a night for five-star hotels overlooking the Kaaba. For most people, however, the pilgrimage means sleeping in simple accommodations or on the ground around the mosque to perform daily prayers ahead of the hajj.

With many more people applying to perform the Hajj each year than the kingdom can accommodate, the Saudi government controls the flow of visitors through annual quotas based on each nation's Muslim population.

The visa regulations have grown stricter after deadly incidents in recent years. In 2015, several thousand pilgrims were crushed to death in a stampede. This year, tight quotas were sharply reduced. Indonesia sent just over 100,000 people, the world's largest contingent.

Regional powerhouse Iran, Saudi Arabia's political foe that in 2016 barred its citizens from making the pilgrimage amid an escalating geopolitical rivalry, sent over 39,000, down from 88,550 in 2019.

Iran has criticised the kingdom for its decision to restrict the number of pilgrims. As tensions eased between the rivals amid regional negotiations and a ceasefire in Yemen, Hajj officials from the countries met last month to discuss security for the first time in years.

Although the pandemic is far from over, with hundreds of new infections a day in the kingdom, the government is glad of the influx. The event is a critical source of prestige and tourism for Saudi Arabia.

Govt Transfers

interest of administration, it is hereby ordered that Shoaib Noor, JKAS, Assistant

Commissioner-Revenue, Anantnag shall also hold charge of Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Anantnag, in addition to his own duties till further orders," reads the order.

After 2019 A

of the statue of peace in Srinagar is a good sign for the people of India, especially the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Shah said.

"I believe that the Statue of Peace will bring the blessings and teachings of Ramanujacharya to the people of all religions in Kashmir and take them on the path of peace and development," he added.

Throwing light on the life and teachings of the philosopher, Shah said he had worked mostly in South India but had visited Kashmir to procure an important manuscript called 'Bodhayana Vritti', a treatise on the Brahma Sutras, as the only copy of this manuscript was in the royal library of the Valley.

"The King in Kashmir not only opened the doors of his library but also welcomed Swamy Ramanujacharya," he added.

The four-foot-tall statue shows Ramanujacharya sitting with his hands folded. The 600-kg statue carved from white granite has been placed three feet above the ground.

Post 2019 Reforms

and followers of Swami Ramanujacharya from across the country attended the unveiling ceremony here.

According to the spokesperson, the LG said that Swami Ramanujacharya Ji is the inspiration for eternal peace, unity and integrity of the country, social reform and upliftment of the downtrodden.

"With the installation of Statue of Peace, J&K is sending a message of peace, unity, harmony and brotherhood to the world," Sinha said.

"I am confident, Jagadguru Ramanujacharya's life and message, emphasizing peace, love, truth and equality of all human beings will continue to inspire and guide people of J&K," he added.

Expressing gratitude to the Home Minister for unveiling the Statue of Peace, the LG, according to the spokesperson said that under the guidance of Prime Minister, the UT government will continue to make efforts to establish a prosperous, progressive and egalitarian society in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Statue of Peace also commemorates the special connection of Ramajunacharya with Kashmir," Sinha said.

The LG, as per the spokesperson also stated that the Statue of Peace symbolizes the values on which the Vishishtadvaita philosophy was founded by Jagadguru Ramajunacharya to show humanity the right path of peace and love.

"Jagadguru gave birth to idea of social equality and contributed immensely for developing the spiritual consciousness in the society," the LG said.

"I believe that the efforts for establishment of peace, progress of the society are not limited to any one area, but it is a movement of the entire humanity. Jagadguru also traveled to Kashmir to fulfill this purpose," he added.

Speaking about the reforms brought in J&K after August 2019, the LG, according to the spokesperson said the new reforms have transformed the lives of people of J&K and built a better future for them.

Sinha, he said, maintained that tribals and

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

KO PODCAST

‘Child Killer’ Leopard Shot Dead In Uri

Hunt Underway For Another Beast In Handwara

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A man-eater leopard which killed three minor children was killed by two hunters deployed by the forest department in Uri area of Baramulla while the searches for another man-eater leopard in Handwara area are underway.

An official said that hunters who were searching for the animal from last month were finally able to shoot down the leopard at Bernate village of Uri.

The leopard, as per official, which had attacked and killed three minor children in Uri area last month was gunned down late last night.

At least 50 teams of forest officials including police were

pressed into service to track the leopard, the official said.

Late last evening, a 4-year-old boy was mauled to death by a man-eater leopard in Rajpora village of Rajwar. The victim, identified as Rutba Manzoor daughter of Manzoor Ahmad Bhat was playing outside her home when

Amid rising demands of killing such beasts who were attacking people in residential areas, the forest department and police have made multiple teams for the operation to nab the beast—(KNO)



Div Com To Probe Demolition Of Shopping Complex In Anantnag

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has appointed Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, as the enquiry officer to enquire the issue of demolition of shopping complex, housing the office of the IndusInd bank in Anantnag district.

According to an order, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has been asked to submit the report within a period of 15 days.

"Pandurang Kondbarao Pole, IAS, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir is hereby appointed as Inquiry Officer to enquire into the issue of demolition of shop-

ping complex housing office of the IndusInd Bank at Ganjiwara, Anantnag," read the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary to the Government.

It reads that the Inquiry Officer shall ascertain whether the said demolition was carried out in accordance with procedure prescribed under rules and whether any damage was deliberately inflicted on the moveable assets of the Bank.

"The Inquiry Officer may co-opt any officer for conduct of the enquiry and shall submit his report within a period of fifteen days to the Government," it reads further.

74% Work On Jammu Ring Road Project Completed

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar on Thursday conducted an extensive tour of the 58 km long Jammu Ring Road Project and inspected the progress of work on various work sites.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa; Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta; Project Director NHAI, Yashpal Singh besides concerned Sub Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars, Engineering Wing of National Highway Authority of India and other officers.

During the tour, the Div Com visited spots like Raya Morh, Sarore, Bishnah, Kotli Miran Sahib, Lalayal, Tawi River Bridge site and a few others and inquired about the progress of work. The NHAI officials briefed him about the present status as well as informed about upcoming phase-wise works over the project.

It is pertinent to mention here that the 58 KM, 4-lane Ring Road starts from Raya Morh of Jammu-Pathankot National Highway in Samba district and connects with Jagti on the Jammu Udhampur National Highway. The Phase 1 of the project, from Akhnoor Road to Kot Bhatwal, has already been opened for traffic.

During the tour, the Div Com in-

teracted with locals at Kotli Bishnah areas and listened to their issues related to pending land compensation. He was informed that the land acquisition and disbursement of compensation amount has been almost completed. The Div Com instructed the concerned SDM, Tehsildar to resolve the bottlenecks if any and expedite the pending disbursement.

It was informed that work on the stretch of 0 to 10 km has been completed which connects Ray-amorh to Bishnah, Kunjwani Road via Sarore and local traffic movement is allowed on the road while work on various other stretches are also nearing completion.

While inspecting the progress it was informed that the work on 19 km long Phase 3 is in progress and the road from Sardare Chak to Akhnoor Road via Sohan-jana, Brahmi, Waddi Tawi, Ghomanashah, Marh would be ready by October 2022.

The NHAI officers apprised the Div Com about the progress of work on 12 KM long Phase 4; Chak Abtara to Nikki Tawi via Muralia, Miran Sahib would be substantially completed with 2 lane bridge over Nikki Tawi to be completed by September 2022 while the 4 lane road would be ready by December 2022.

5,700 Pilgrims Leave For Amarnath Shrine From Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Amid tight security, the eighth batch of over 5,700 pilgrims left from here on Thursday for the twin base camps of 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

A total of 5,726 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here in a convoy of 242 vehicles amid heavy security of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), they said.

Of these, 4,384 are males, 1,117 females, 57 children, 143 sadhus, 24 sadhvis and one transgender, they said.

They said 2,109 pilgrims heading for Baltal were the first to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp in 91 vehicles around 3.40 am followed by the second con-

voy of 151 vehicles carrying 3,617 pilgrims for Pahalgam.

The 43-day long yatra commenced on June 30 from the twin tracks — traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

So far, over 89,000 pilgrims have offered prayers at the cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-shivlingam, officials said.

With this, a total of 57,328 pilgrims have left from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Valley since June 29, the day the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

The yatra is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

Sacrificial Animals Being Sold At ‘Higher Rates’ As Eid Nears



Abid Bhat/KNO

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Despite the claims of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) department in keeping prices of sacrificial animals under check, many people in this capital city on Thursday alleged overpricing and higher rates of the livestock at different makeshift markets.

With just two days ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, hundreds of people turned up at different designated places in this capital city since Thursday morning to buy the sacrificial animals. However, many of the buyers alleged overpricing by the dealers.

Hilal Ahmad, a resident of Karan Nagar, told Kashmir Observer that he went to Eidgah, Srinagar to purchase the ram for Qurbani but was surprised to see the rates.

Ahmad said that even as the government re-fixed the sale rate of sacrificial (Qurbani) animals, the people selling the livestock on the ground are not adhering to the rate list.

The authorities have designated various places in Kashmir, including Srinagar's Eidgah as animal mandis which is abuzz with sale and purchase of sacrificial goats, sheep.

The government on Monday

fixed the rates of sacrificial animals in Kashmir ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

As per an order issued by Director Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Kashmir Dr Abdul Salam Mir, the rates for Delhi Walla and Merino Cross varieties of Sheep have been fixed at Rs 310 per kg, up by Rs 25 than last year, while as those of Bakerwal and Kashmiri varieties as Rs 295 a kg, also increased by Rs 25 per kg.

The rate for goat has been increased by Rs 25 than last year and fixed at Rs 285 per kg, reads the order.

The Monday's notification comes consequent upon the decision taken in a meeting of officials regarding the fixing/ review of rates of the sacrificial (Qurbani) livestock.

The rates have been fixed under the J&K Mutton Licensing and Control Order 1973 and SRO 31 of 1974, the notification adds.

However, the sellers argue that they can't do business at the government's rate which puts them in deep economic loss.

"I have been taking care of my sheep for two years and have spent over lakhs of rupees on them, I expect better rates," said Dilawar Khan, who had come from South Kashmir's Anantnag to sell his livestock at Eidgah here.

However, the consumers allege that even if the rates were fixed, the authorities have failed to implement it in letter and spirit.

"It seems the administration is only making statements. On the ground, the situation is totally opposite," Mohammad Nazir from Batamaloo told Kashmir Observer.

Pertinently, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a surprise visit to Eidgah on Thursday to inspect the process of sale of sacrificial animals.

The DC directed the Tehsildar Eidgah who was present on the occasion to ensure Government approved rates for sacrificial animals is implemented in letter and spirit without any deviations so that people do not get fleeced.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Director Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Kashmir Dr Abdul Salam Mir said they have dispatched teams to all the areas where sale and purchase of sacrificial goats, sheep are going on.

"People should inform them (the team) immediately if anyone is selling the animals at high rates," he added.

When asked a video of a man selling the sheep at Rs one lakh is going viral on social media, he said "we will trace him and won't let it happen"

2 Killed, Over 50 Injured In Udhampur Accident

LG Announces Rs 5L Ex-Gratia Each For Deceased Families

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two people were killed and over fifty injured on Thursday when a bus carrying guests to a marriage party skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to reports, the bus was on its way from Ramnagar to Chhitredri village when it skidded off the road and rolled down into a 130 feet gorge at

Majodi in Ramnagar.

According to reports, two people died in the accident and over fifty injured. The condition of several injured persons is said to be critical.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each for the Next of Kin of those who lost their lives in the tragic bus accident.

The injured will be given Rs. 50,000 each and the UT Government will bear the cost

of their treatment, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said, expressed grief over the unfortunate incident and directed the district administration to ensure the best possible treatment to the injured.

"Extremely pained by the loss of lives due to a tragic road accident in Ramnagar, Udhampur. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for speedy recovery of injured", the LG said.

Govt Sets Up Panel For Reviewing, Monitoring DBT Implementation

Separate UT Level Committee Constituted To Monitor Various Projects Under NPDD

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government on Thursday constituted two committees including a high level committee to review and monitor implementation of Direct Bank Transfer (DBT) while another committee has been constituted for UT level monitoring of various projects under National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD).

As per two separate orders issued by Principal Secretary to Government, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Chief Secretary will be chairman of the committee constituted for reviewing and monitoring implementation of DBT and Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, J&K will be chairman NPDD.

According to reports, the other members of the advisory committee constituted for implementation of DBT as per order include Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Agriculture Production Department, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Finance Department (Member Secretary), Principal Secretary to the Government, Higher Education Department, Principal Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Depart-

ment, Principal Secretary to the Government, School Education Department, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Rural Development Department, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department, Secretary to the Government, Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Representative from Jammu & Kashmir Bank and Representative from NPCI.

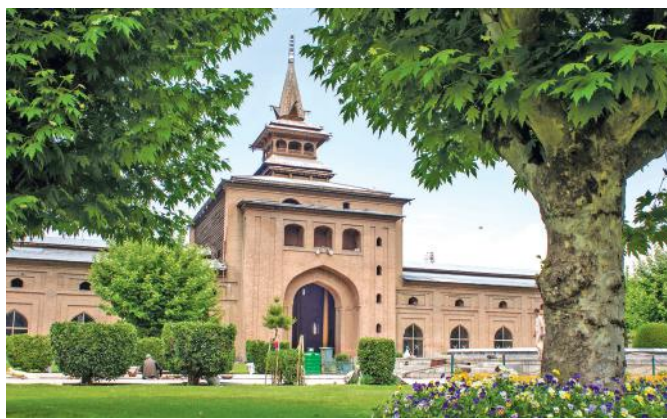
"The Committee shall periodically review the progress of the DBT implementation in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir," it said.

As per separate order, the ULTM constituted to oversee the UT level monitoring of various projects under NPDD and for synergizing similar dairy development programs implementation in the UT of J&K include Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, J&K as Chairman, Deputy Commissioner (s) of the concerned Districts covered under the scheme as member secretary, Mission Director, Rural Livelihood Mission, J&K, Representative of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India, Director, Animal Husbandry Jammu/ Kashmir, Representative of the Finance Department (not below the rank of Additional

Secretary), Representative of the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department (not below the rank of Additional Secretary), Chief Executive Officer, Livestock Development Board Jammu/Kashmir, Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Kashmir Milk Producers Cooperative Ltd. (Member Convenor for projects under component A) and Representative of National Dairy Development Board (Member Convenor for projects under component B) as the members of the committee.

The terms of reference of the committee as per order are to monitor UT-Level projects under CSS-National Program for Dairy Development, to ensure land availability for village level institutions like, primary dairy societies, bulk milk cooling centres and cattle feed plants and its statutory requirements, to recommend all proposals of SHG-run private dairies/producer companies to the Government of India, to ensure that there is no duplication of activities and projects, to coordinate with PI's (Participating Institutions) and National Dairy Development Board for policy support and the Committee shall meet regularly to review the progress of various schemes and apprise the Government of India—(KNO)

Clerics Urge Govt To Allow Friday Prayers At Jamia



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), the apex body of Islamic scholars and preachers in Kashmir, on Thursday urged the Jammu and Kashmir administration to allow Friday prayers at the Jamia Masjid in Srinagar's old city.

In a resolution passed unanimously during a meeting, the MMU also expressed anguish over the "illegal detention" of its patron and Kashmir's top religious leader Mirwaiz Muhammad Umar Farooq for the last three years and urged the government to release him.

"Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema, in this resolution, again urges the rulers and administration not to cause obstruction regarding the Friday prayers at the historical Jama Masjid, Srinagar, the largest place of worship in Kashmir, so that Muslims can seek the pleasure of Allah at this great spiritual centre without any hindrance," the resolution released here read.

The historic Jamia Masjid has largely remained closed for con-

gregational Friday prayers since August 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic also forced its closure for a long time.

On Farooq's detention, the MMU said due to his "arbitrary and illegal detention" detention, all his responsibilities and work have remained suspended, which is "highly regrettable and reprehensible".

It urged the government to release him in view of Eid-ul-Azha so that he can carry out his centuries-old religious obligations and responsibilities.

Expressing concern over the current social situation in Kashmir, the MMU said it feels there is a dire need for all-round reform of society.

"The excesses at weddings and other celebrations are glaring and need to be curtailed. We should follow the tradition of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) in all matters and affairs of life," it said.

The resolution also called on people to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with simplicity and in line with the Islamic tradition. The resolution will be read out in all mosques of Kashmir on Friday.

SKUAST-K Scholar Bags Young Scientist Award In National Seminar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Shiba Zahoor, a doctoral student at SKUAST-K's Faculty of Forestry, has bagged Young Scientist Award in the National Seminar on "Recent Advances in Science and Technology for Agriculture Sustainability" held at the Central University of Kashmir in association with Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), DST, Government of India.

Shiba was awarded for her doctoral work on "Soil Loss and Vulnerability Assessment in district Ganderbal using GIS modelling approach". She was selected for the award in the young scientist category by the technical committee after screening her research achievements.

The awardee has carried out her work at the Faculty of Forestry, SKUAST-K under the su-

pervision of the Head Division of Natural Resource Management, Prof Akhlaq Amin Wani.

Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai congratulated the scholar and her principal advisor Prof Akhlaq Amin Wani for competing and achieving the distinction for the Institute through their meticulous work. The scholar has also received a SERB DST doctoral fellowship for carrying out her PhD programme.

Scientists, Faculty members from J&K and across the country participated in the two days event. Aligarh Muslim University, HNB Garhwal University (Uttarakhand), Himachal Pradesh University, North-Eastern Hill University, JNKVV Jabalpur, Jiwaji University MP, Central University of Kashmir, SKUAST-K, University of Kashmir, BGSBU Rajouri, SKIMS and others were among participating institutes.

AB-PMJAY SEHAT To Cover 5L Women, Families Associated With JKRLM

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme would cover five lakh women and their families who are associated with self help groups of Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) to pace up 100% saturation in J&K.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT Scheme is emerging as a ray of hope for poor families who couldn't afford health treatment at prestigious and well known medical institutes of the country.

Chief Executive Officer Ayushman Bharat, Ayushi Sudan emphasised the need for IEC activities, and directed the concerned to create mass awareness among the people so that more and more people get registered for SEHAT scheme.

She urged the officers to ensure that no one is left without golden card during the Special drives so that they are entitled to the benefits of

Golden Card.

Ayushi Sudan also said that the department will continue to organise special drives in till every citizen is covered under this scheme.

Speaking about the roping in of JKRLM, she said that these workers have set out for entrepreneurship journey and the health of their families needs to be taken care of under the scheme.

To provide much needed relief to the people of J&K, the SEHAT Scheme was launched in convergence with AB-PMJAY by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir provides health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year to all the residents at empanelled hospitals. The scheme covers up to three days of pre-hospitalization and fifteen days of post-hospitalization expenses including diagnostics and medicines.

NOTICE

My parentage has been mentioned as Peer Mohammad Yasin instead of Peer Mohammad Yaseen in my driving license bearing DL No. JK-0120010002742. Now I have applied for correction of the same. Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact RTO Office Srinagar within a period of 07 days. No objection will be entertained after expiry of the stipulated period.

Peer Bilal Ahmad

S.o Peer Mohammad Yaseen

R/o Dargah Harwan Brien Nishat Srinagar

INFO

Football Activities To Start From July 18: JKFA



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) announced on Thursday that its footballing activities will start from July 18 at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

"A meeting of the members of JKFA was held on 6/7/2022 at 4 pm in the office of the Association. It was decided that the activities of the Association will start from 18th of July 2022 at Synthetic Turf TRC Srinagar followed by the matches to be played in Polo Ground Srinagar and Gindun Play field," the FA said in a press release.

"The modalities regarding the conduct of the Professional League Football Tournament was also discussed in detail keeping in view the guidelines and criteria of All India Football

Federation (AIFF). It was also decided the association will seek nominations for the professional league for the clubs who intend to participate in forthcoming AIFF 2nd Division I-League," the statement added.

"The Technical Committee of the Association will come-up with the detailed programme to this effect shortly.

"The members present with one voice stressed for the promotion of the game in the nook and corner of the UT, and took a pledge that they will work for the smooth functioning of the association thus encouraging the budding youth of the UT. For this all the DFA's /Zones of J&K have started conducting their league activities for the players to give them best possible competition without wasting any time," the statement concluded.

District Srinagar Hogam Sports Tournament Held



Adil Khan

SRINAGAR: The first District Srinagar Hogam Sports Competition was held on Thursday under the patronage of Jammu Kashmir Hogam Association at Harwan here.

The competition started with a run. Basic race formats included a 1-kilometre run with 10 or more obstacles, a water crossing, and rope-assisted terrain ascents.

Youngsters from various clubs and schools in the Srinagar district took part in this tournament. "Everyone has dreams. But it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort to make aspirations come true," Adil Teli, noted cyclist of the Valley stated while interacting with students.

We really enjoyed the hurdles, ascents, descents, and sprinting, said Zainab Aljaz.

"I am pleasantly glad and I wish other students to come out to participate in this event," she added.

There are three sports branches: Tisapa (Crossing Sports Barriers), Lightning (Individual Arts-Deformation), and The Drama (Dramatic Fighting), according to Mr. Najeeb, who organised the District Srinagar Hogam Sports Tournament.

At the end of this month, the Hogam State Tournament will be held, he added.

Adil Teli, who recently broke the world record for the quickest bicycle trip from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, was the chief guest at the event and gave out awards to the students.

India Names 215-Member Contingent For 2022 CWG



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India announced a 215-member athlete contingent across 16 disciplines for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, to be held in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8.

On the sidelines of the send-off ceremony for the CWG bound athletes, Indian Olympic Association's acting president Anil Khanna called it a 'gender-neutral contingent' with 108 men and 107 women being part of the touring party.

The overall contingent count stands at 322 including 72 team officials, 26 extra officials, nine contingent staff, including three general managers.

Discipline-wise, the biggest contingent is of athletics and hockey (36 entries each).

India will also take part in

women's cricket, which is making its CWG debut along with aquatics, badminton, table tennis, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, triathlon, wrestling, weightlifting, lawn bowls, squash, judo and para sports.

India has only won 28 medals in athletics in CWG history but World championship medal winning long jumper Anju Bobby George is expecting a rich haul of at least seven medals this time with Neeraj Chopra expected to win gold in javelin.

Chopra is also likely to be India's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony.

"We have about 13 athletes who could be in the medals bracket for second and third position but we are expecting seven medals at least across javelin, long jump, triple jump and discus," she said.

IND vs ENG T20

Undercover 'Spotters' At Edgbaston In Bid To Combat Racism



INDIA WON THE TOSS ON THURSDAY and decided to bat first in the first T20I against England at Edgbaston.

(Photo via BCCI)

Agencies

LONDON: Cricket officials are to deploy undercover spotters into the crowd at Edgbaston during Saturday's Twenty20 international between England and India in a bid to combat racist abuse.

Warwickshire, the English county whose headquarters are at the Birmingham ground, have announced several measures in a bid to stamp out racism after several fans reported incidents of abuse during England's recent Test match against India at Edgbaston.

Police have already launched inquiries into allegations of racist remarks made on Monday, the fourth day of five, which ended

with England winning a dramatic match by seven wickets.

"Undercover football crowd-style spotters will be placed throughout the stadium to listen out for abusive behaviour and report it for immediate action," said a Warwickshire statement.

Stuart Cain, Warwickshire's chief executive, said the club had to do more to combat the kind of incidents that marred the Test match.

"Nearly 100,000 people watched one of the most exciting Test matches in recent history earlier this week," he said.

"But we cannot hide from the mindless racist abuse experienced by some fans following India in the Eric Hollies Stand.

"These unacceptable actions by a small number of people have overshadowed a superb sporting contest, and those responsible do not deserve to be part of the cricket family.

"We need to work harder as people, as well as a venue, to take responsibility for ensuring that everyone feels safe and welcome when watching the game."

The Bharat Army, the official India supporters' club, said "many" of its members at the Edgbaston ground had been targeted by "a very small minority".

The three-match T20 series between England and India gets underway at Hampshire's Ageas Bowl ground near Southampton later Thursday. (AFP)

Virat Kohli Asks To Be Rested For West Indies T20Is

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former captain Virat Kohli has asked to be rested from the entire limited overs series against the West Indies next month, including the five T20Is, BCCI sources said.

It is also understood that India's T20 squad for the tour of West Indies will be announced on July 11, one day after the T20I series against England concludes.

"It was team management's decision to rest Kohli, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah for the (West Indies) ODI series along with skipper (Rohit Sharma) himself," a senior BCCI source said.

The five-match T20I series starts on July 29 in Trinidad followed by couple of matches in St Kitts (Aug 1 and 2) and it concludes in Florida on August 6 and 7 respectively.

"However for the T20I series, all others are playing but Kohli has himself asked for a break. He has informed that he will be available for all series after the West Indies tour," the source informed.



It is understood that senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin will be recalled for the T20 series to be played in the Caribbean and the United States.

While Kohli will get his break as he has sought but his place in the Indian team for the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka will depend on how he performs in the last two T20I against England.

In between, India are expected to play a short T20 series in Zimbabwe and just like in Ireland, a second string team is supposed to travel to the African nation.

K L Rahul is expected to be fit before the Asia Cup but if he recovers in time for the Zimbabwe tour, he will be part of that short series.

Barcelona Makes Offer To Bayern For Robert Lewandowski

Agencies

BARCELONA: Barcelona has made an offer to Bayern Munich for star striker Robert Lewandowski, the Spanish club's president said Thursday.

"We have made an offer for the player and we are waiting for a response," said Barcelona president Joan Laporta. "We thank the player for showing an interest in our club."

Lewandowski said in late May that "my story with Bayern Munich is over" and that a transfer to a new club would be the best solution. The 33-year-old Poland striker has one more season on his contract with the Bundesliga giant.

Contract extension talks between Bayern and Lewandowski broke down this season with both sides providing different reasons. While the club said that the player had rejected its offer, his agent said an offer was never made by Bayern.

Barcelona is seeking to rebuild



its attack a year after Lionel Messi left. It finished last season without a title, coming in a distant second to champion Real Madrid in the Spanish league and failing to make it out of the Champions League group phase.

The Catalan club is mired in debt. It recently sold 10% of its Spanish league television rights for the next 25 years in exchange for just over 200 million euros (\$203 million). Some of that it will use to sign new players.

This week it incorporated

new signings Franck Kessie and Andreas Christensen to strengthen its midfield and defense, respectively.

Lewandowski would be a huge boost to its attack.

He has scored 312 goals in 384 Bundesliga games for Bayern and former club Borussia Dortmund. He hit 35 goals in 34 appearances last season to become the Bundesliga's leading scorer for the fifth season in a row, and the seventh time overall.

Tunisia's Jabeur Becomes First Arab In Major Final



Agencies

WIMBLEDON: When Ons Jabeur sealed the match point that made her the first Arab to reach a Grand Slam final at Wimbledon on Thursday all she could think of was rushing over to her vanquished barbecue buddy at the net to give Tatjana Maria the tightest of hugs.

While Jabeur's coach Issam Jellali jumped to his feet with raised arms to join 15,000 cheering fans in hailing the first African woman to reach the title match, Jabeur simply smiled as she ended Maria's remarkable run with a 6-2 3-6 6-1 victory.

On the eve of the contest, Jabeur had vowed that the "hug at the end will be amazing" and she was not wrong.

The two players held each other across the net for what seemed an eternity, with both whispering into each other's ears.

With the cheers still ringing around Centre Court, Jabeur pulled Maria to her side of the court and joined in the applause to salute a 34-year-old who had become the first mother of two in a Wimbledon semi-final since Margaret Court in 1975.

"I don't know what to say. It's a dream come true from years of work and sacrifice. I'm happy that's paid off and I'll continue for one more match," Jabeur told the crowd after setting up a final showdown with either Romania's 2019 champion Simona Halep or Russian-born Kazakh 17th seed Elena Rybakina. (Reuters)

Sania Mirza Bids Adieu To Wimbledon With Semifinal Loss In Mixed Doubles



Press Trust of India

WIMBLEDON: Trailblazing Indian tennis star Sania Mirza's swansong appearance at Wimbledon ended in a semi-final defeat to defending champions Neal Skupski and Desirae Krawczyk in the mixed doubles event here.

Mirza and her Croatian partner Mate Pavic, seeded sixth, went down 6-4 5-7 4-6 to Skupski of Great Britain and American Krawczyk in two hours 16 minutes on Wednesday night.

The 35-year-old Mirza is India's most accomplished woman tennis player, having won six Grand Slam titles, including three mixed doubles trophies.

She was aiming to complete a Career Slam in mixed doubles.

She had won the mixed doubles titles at the 2009 Australian Open and the 2012 French Open with Mahesh Bhupathi and the 2014 US Open with Brazilian

Bruno Soares.

Mirza and Pavic, both multiple-time Grand Slam winners, dominated the first set on the back of a strong serve.

Mirza, who is in her last year on tour, and Pavic looked on course to seal the match as they led 4-2 in the second set but the duo lost five of the next six games as Skupski and Krawczyk, seeded second, forced the decider.

In the decider, Mirza and Pavic drew first blood as they broke their opponent's serve but were immediately broken back.

Mirza, a six-time Grand Slam winner, had earlier announced that she would hang up her racquet at the conclusion of the 2022 season.

The 35-year-old Indian star has now bid farewell to Wimbledon having won a women's doubles title in 2015, pairing Martina Hingis.

Nadal Suffers '7 Millimetre' Tear To Abdomen: Report



Agencies

MADRID: Rafael Nadal has suffered a "seven millimetre" tear to his abdomen but still intends to play his Wimbledon semi-final against Nick Kyrgios on Friday, sports daily Marca reported.

Nadal, the 2008 and 2010 champion, underwent scans on the injury on Thursday following his gruelling 3-6, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (10/4) victory over Taylor Fritz in Wednesday's quarter-finals.

The 36-year-old said he was

unsure over his ongoing participation in the tournament as he targets the third leg of a rare calendar Grand Slam.

"I can't give you a clear answer because if I gave you a clear answer and tomorrow another thing happens, I will be a liar," he said after beating Fritz.

Nadal played under similar circumstances at the 2009 US Open when he had a two-centimetre tear.

He went on to make the semi-finals, losing to eventual champion Juan Martin del Potro.