

25th year OF PUBLICATION

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Kashmiri Youth Languishing In Saudi Jail For 2 Yrs Over Facebook Message

Augib Javed

Srinagar: A resident of a village in central Kashmir, who went to Saudi Arabia to earn livelihood, is languishing in a jail in Saudi Arabia for the last two years without trial. His only crime- sharing his mobile number with a Kashmiri facebook friend based in Iran.

37-year-old Javid Ahmad Mir of Chattergam was picked up by Saudi police from his workplace on March 18, 2020 after he exchanged messages with his Facebook friend based in Mashhad city in Iran, his family told Kashmir Observer on Wednesday

A father of a two-year-old daughter, Javid since then is in judicial custody in Dammam Intelligence Jail, without any trial.

"My brother's only crime is that he had shared his WhatsApp number with a Facebook friend who was studying in Iran" Javid's brother Sajjad Hussain told Kashmir Observer.

On April 16, Sajjad said, he received an email from D.B Bhatia, an Indian embassy official stating that his brother has been arrested for sharing WhatsApp number with one Imtiaz over Facebook Messenger.

"When I spoke to my brother after he was detained, he said he thought that Imtiaz is



apparently looking for some job in Saudi and is seeking his help in this regard. That is why he shared his WhatsApp details with him," he added.

However, within 34 hours

6 WHEN I SPOKE TO MY BROTHER after he was detained, he said he thought that Imtiaz is apparently looking for some job in Saudi and is seeking his help in this regard. That is why he shared his WhatsApp details with him."

after providing his details to the Iran based friend, Sajjad said, his brother was picked up by the Saudi police.

"He didn't know that Imtiaz is based in Iran, he would have never entertained his texts," Sajjad said.

Javid, he said, has completed his graduation in 2009 and thereafter took up the job of a teacher at a private school

'Tawheed Education Institute. He resigned from his job after receiving an offer letter from Noodle International Trading Services at Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

Javid shifted to Saudi and started working in the Chinese origin company as supervisor.

According to Sajjad, the family came to know about Javid's detention through one of his colleagues.

"Without wasting time, we approached the Ministry of External Affairs and the Embassy of India in Riyadh," he said.

Javid, he said, left to Saudi to support his family since the teaching job was not meeting the demands of his family.

"He is educated and knew where he was working. How could he be a threat to the Saudi government neither did he commit any offence in the past," Sajjad said, adding that his brother is the victim of "Saudi-Iran bitterness."

Sajjad says that his brother was active on Social Media and had various friends belonging to different **More on P6**

Infiltration Bid Foiled In Poonch: Army



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Army foiled an infiltration bid by suspected militants along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Wednesday.

Suspected militants on Tuesday night tried to infiltrate this side of the border, the Army officials said, adding the alert troops thwarted their attempt.

NIA Conducts Raids In South Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Investigation Agency (NIA) Wednesday carried out raids at multiple places in South Kashmir in connection with the Sunjwan Jammu encounter in which two Jaish-e-Mohammad militants and a CISF trooper were killed in April this year.

NIA sleuths with the assistance of police and paramilitary CRPF personnel carried out raids in Anantnag district and Awantipora area of Pulwama district, a local news agency GNS quoted official sources as saying.

However, the sources, the report said, did not share further details as regards arrests or seizures during the raids.

Security Alert In Srinagar After Lalbazar Killing

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: A day after militants shot dead a police officer and injured two others, the government forces on Wednesday heightened security measures in Srinagar city and elsewhere to keep a check on the movement of militants and to foil any further attacks in this capital city.

Notably, most of the heat of Tuesday's attack was felt by pillion riders whose vehicles were being thoroughly checked by the city police and in some cases, vehicles were also seized.

According to officials, the police and paramilitary forces heightened security measures in Srinagar and other parts of the Valley, especially on the Amarnath Yatra route to keep a check on the militant activities in view of Tuesday's attack.

A police officer, wishing anonymity, told Kashmir Observer that security has been enhanced and searches have been intensified across Kashmir, especially the Srinagar city.

"A security review was also held and soon there will be an increase in the number of security forces and surprise nakas deployed around key installations, in the wake of the Lal Bazar attack," the official said.

At several places, the official



A SECURITY REVIEW WAS ALSO HELD and soon there will be an increase in the number of security forces and surprise nakas deployed around key installations, in the wake of the Lal Bazar attack."

noted, night-checking points and nakas have been set up. Since Wednesday morning, dozens of nakas were set up across the city where vehicles, especially two wheelers, were checked and people travelling without proper vehicle documents and identity cards were thoroughly questioned.

The vehicles entering into Srinagar through different entry points were also being thoroughly checked.

Sources said that the intelligence agencies in J&K have asked security **More on P6**



Nomads, popularly known as Bakerwals, leading their flock of sheep and goats, towards the greener pastures of Sonmarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

No Function Held To Mark Martyrs' Day In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: For the third consecutive year, no function was held to commemorate the Martyrs' Day in Kashmir to pay homage to 22 Kashmiri people who were killed by the troops of autocratic Dogra ruler on this day in 1931, officials said on Wednesday.

July 13 was a public holiday in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and a grand official function was held every year on this day where the chief minister or the governor would be the chief guest.

However, the administration dropped the day from the list of gazetted holidays in 2020, after the abrogation of Article 370 and splitting of the erstwhile state into two union



6 THIS YEAR NO MAINSTREAM POLITICAL leader visited the (martyrs) graveyard despite the fact that there were no restrictions on the movement of people."

territories by the Centre on August 5, 2019. No function was held at

the Martyrs' graveyard in the city while no holiday was observed for the **More on P6**

RUBAIYA SAYEED CASE

Yasin Malik Seeks Physical Appearance In Court

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Chief of banned JKLF Yasin Malik on Wednesday requested a special court here for physical appearance in a case related to the kidnapping of former chief minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed's daughter Rubaiya, failing which he would sit on an indefinite hunger strike, officials said.

They said that Malik, who is undergoing a life sentence in a terror-funding case, appeared before the court through video conference.

Malik said he has written to the government for a physical appearance before the court.

He also informed the court that he has requested for cross examination of witnesses himself and said he would

sit on hunger strike if his request was not accepted by the government.

The case pertains to the kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed on December 8, 1989. She was freed from captivity five days later on December 13 after the then V P Singh government, supported by the BJP at the Centre, released five terrorists from the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) in exchange.

The case had gone into virtual cold storage and was revived after Malik was picked up by the National Investigation Agency in 2019 on charges of terror funding.

In January last year, the CBI, with help from special public prosecutors Monika Kohli and S K Bhat, framed charges against 10 people, **More on P6**

Gol To Invest In Sawalkot Hydro Project

Press Trust Of India

State-run NHPC on Wednesday said the power ministry has approved an investment of Rs 973 crore for the proposed 1,856 MW Sawalkot hydro electric project in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Ministry of Power has accorded investment approval for pre-investment activities for Sawalkot HE Project in UT of Jammu & Kashmir for an amount of Rs 973 crore at November, 2021 price level, a BSE filing stated. **More on P6**

J&K Clocks 140 Corona Cases

Observer News Service

Jammu and Kashmir's daily COVID-19 cases nearly doubled on Wednesday from the previous day to 140, taking its tally to 4,56,291, officials said. The union territory had recorded 71 COVID-19 cases on Tuesday. Of the fresh cases recorded on Wednesday, 96 were reported from the Jammu division and 44 from the Kashmir valley, the officials said. The death toll remained unchanged at 4,758, they said. **More on P6**

3 Gamblers Held In Pampore: Police

Observer News Service

Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested three alleged gamblers in Pampore area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Mehraj Ahmad Wani, Mohd Altaf Buroo and Mohd Ashraf were arrested by the cops of police station Pampore during a raid at a gambling site in Dooninar area of the saffron town, a police spokesperson said. He said that the raid was carried out on specific information during which an amount of Rs 8,500 **More on P6**

Teen's Body Retrieved From Stream

Observer News Service

The rescue teams of police and SDRF on Wednesday retrieved the body of a teenager, who had drowned in Nallah Madumati in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Tuesday. An official said that a 15-year-old boy had drowned in the Nallah last evening, while the matter was reported to the police today morning. He said that rescue teams including SDRF, police and army were pressed into service to trace the body of the missing **More on P6**

Recruitment Rules In H&ME Dept Revised

Observer News Service

The Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department on Wednesday revised and notified the non-gazetted recruitment rules of the Subordinate services. The J&K Health and Medical Education (Subordinate) Services Recruitment Rules, 1992 were last notified vide SRO 20 of 1992 dated: 24.02.1992 and have now been revised after 30 years, an official spokesperson said. **More on P6**

2 Non-Locals Killed In Mughal Road Accident

Observer News Service

Two non-local residents were killed while another sustained critical injuries in a road accident at Panar area on Mughal Road on late Tuesday evening. Officials said that a mini-truck loaded with chicken was moving from Kashmir to Jammu side via Mughal Road when it plunged into a deep gorge near Panar Bridge. They added that a rescue operation was launched and one of the injured was rescued from the **More on P6**



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Srinagar Thursday| 14-07-2022

Iisc Scientists Develop New Tech For Making 'Green' Hydrogen From Biomass

Press Trust Of India

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed an environment-friendly way of producing hydrogen from biomass, an abundant renewable energy source. The researchers noted that India uses nearly 50 lakh tonnes of hydrogen for various processes in different sectors, and the hydrogen market is expected to grow substantially in the

coming years.

"But most of the hydrogen we currently use comes from fossil fuels through a process called steam methane reforming route," said S Dasappa, a professor at IISc's Centre for Sustainable Technologies. Now, his team has found a way to extract green hydrogen from biomass in a two step process. In the first step, biomass is converted into syngas -- a hydrogen-rich fuel gas mixture --

in a novel reactor using oxygen and steam.

In the second step, pure hydrogen is generated from syngas using an indigenously developed low-pressure gas separation unit. Both these technologies ensure that this process is a highly efficient method of generating green hydrogen, the researchers said.

The technology produces 100 grammes of hydrogen from 1 kilogramme (kg) of biomass

even though only 60 grammes of hydrogen are present in 1kg of biomass.

This is because in this process, steam, which also contains hydrogen, participates in both homogeneous and heterogeneous reactions.

In homogeneous reactions, reactants are in a single phase whereas in heterogeneous reactions, the reactants are in two or more phases.

NASA's James Webb Telescope Detects Water On Distant Planet

Press Trust Of India

NASA's James Webb Space Telescope has detected signs of water, along with evidence for clouds and haze, in the atmosphere of a hot, puffy gas giant planet orbiting a Sun-like star over a thousand light years away, the US space agency said on Wednesday.

The observation is the most detailed of its kind to date, demonstrating Webb's unprecedented ability to analyse distant atmospheres, according to NASA. WASP-96 b is one of more than 5,000 confirmed exoplanets in the Milky Way. Located roughly 1,150 light-years away in the southern-sky constellation Phoenix, it represents a type of gas giant that has no direct analogue in our solar system, it said in a statement. With a mass less than half that of Jupiter and a diameter 1.2 times greater, WASP-96 b is much puffier than any planet orbiting our Sun. With a temperature greater than 538 degrees Celsius, it is significantly hotter.

WASP-96 b orbits extremely close to its Sun-like star, just one-ninth of the distance between Mercury and the Sun, completing one circuit every three-and-a-half Earth-days, according to NASA.

The combination of large size, short orbital period, puffy atmosphere, and lack of contaminating light from objects nearby in the sky makes WASP-96 b an ideal target for atmospheric observations.

While the Hubble Space Telescope has analysed numerous exoplanet atmospheres over the past two decades, capturing the first clear detection of water in 2013, Webb's immediate and more detailed observation marks a giant leap forward in the quest to characterise potentially habitable planets beyond Earth.

On June 21, Webb's Near-Infrared Imager and Slitless Spectrograph (NIRISS) measured light from the WASP-96 system for 6.4 hours as the planet moved across the star. This resulted in a light curve showing the overall dimming of starlight during the transit, and a transmission spectrum revealing the brightness change of individual wavelengths of infrared light between 0.6 and 2.8 microns. The light curve confirmed properties of the planet that had already been determined from other observations - the existence, size, and orbit of the planet.

The transmission spectrum revealed the previously hidden details of the atmosphere: the unambiguous signature of water, indications of haze, and evidence of clouds that were thought not to exist based on prior observations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My mother's name in my passport bearing No; U9539797 has been wrongly written as Meh Jabeena while her correct name is Jabeena which her correct name is Jabeena which needs to be corrected. If any body having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Aakash Shafi
S/o Mohd Shafi Gogri
R/o Harduaboora
Tehsil: Kirhama

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Kupwara

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT 18 OF 07/2022 DATED: 07-07-2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item wise rate basis from the registered PWD Contractors for the work mentioned below.

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T.O.C. (Rs. In Rupees)	Earned Money	Time of Completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Chief of Contract	Major Head of Account	Position of A/c
1.	Stabilization of pipe network at Mundian . Naga Brandaji	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs. 200.00	Rs. 6000.00					
2.	Laying and fitting of 25mm dia GI pipes for WSS Kanipora Kalarosee	Rs. 4.00 Lacs	Rs. 200.00	Rs. 8000.00					
3.	Laying and fitting of 50/40/25mm dia pipe line at Regipora Ward No. 06.	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs. 200.00	Rs. 6000.00					
4.	Laying and fitting of 25/20mm dia pipeline at Tapli Kalarosee	Rs. 2.50 Lacs	Rs. 200.00	Rs. 5000.00					
5.	Laying and fitting of 40/25/20mm dia GI pipes for WSS Dard Hira	Rs. 2.10 Lacs	Rs. 200.00	Rs. 4200.00					
6.	Providing fitting of 50mm GI pipes from F.P at Meyyal upto SR Lone Haral WSS Haral (under Dist Capex)	Rs. 4.00 Lacs	Rs. 200.00	Rs. 8000.00					
7.	Providing various extension lines and stabilization of existing pipe network at Awoora and Mugdam WSS Awoora	Rs. 4.00 Lacs	Rs. 200.00	Rs. 8000.00					
8.	Laying and fitting of 100mm dia GI pipes at Surkul , intake main including Bela Mohalla.	Rs. 2.50 Lacs	Rs. 200.00	Rs. 5000.00					
9.	Flanges of 65/50mm dia and laying and fitting of 50/40/25mm at Narkote Kalarosee	Rs. 4.00 Lacs	Rs. 200.00	Rs. 8000.00					
10.	Providing water supply facility to Mathipora Drugmulla by way of direct boosting from newly constructed dug well at Mathipora and Bed treatment jacking of SR & stabilization of existing structures at Reshwari WSS Awoora (District Sector)	Rs. 3.52 Lacs	Rs. 200.00	Rs. 7040.00					
11.	Stabilization of existing structures at Reshwari WSS Awoora (District Sector)	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs. 200.00	Rs. 6000.00					

Position of funds: Available

The M.U.T. of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

Bids must be uploaded on Jktenders.gov.in with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Kupwara (tender inviting authority)

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Date of Issue/Uploading of Tender Notice .	08-07-2022
02	Start of Downloading	08-07-2022
03	Bid Submission Start Date	08-07-2022
04	Bid submission end date	18-07-2022 (04:00) pm
05	Date & Time of opening Bids (on line)	19-07-2022 (11:00) am

General Terms and Conditions

- The Tenders shall be uploaded containing documents as per Executive Engineer PHE Division, Kupwara
- Scanned copy of Registration Certificate duly renewed for the current financial year
- Goods and Service Tax Department Registration (GST) with previous month nil.
- Price Bid/BOQ duly filled by the prospective Tenderer.
- The treasury receipt on this account shall be nominated for the NIT with S No. & Date, otherwise it shall be worth rejection.
- The contractors who have been issued final notices for non execution of already allotted works to them will not be entitled to participate in bidding tenders

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Kupwara. (Tender receiving authority) The opening authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids**

Pipe and pipe Specials shall be arranged by the contractor himself , which should confirm to the BIS/ISO Standards and should fulfill the following conditions as well:-

- The delivery of materials should be at dumping Site of work and no extra cost on account of carriage etc. shall be paid.
 - The Contractor shall made his own arrangement for storage of all pipe materials i.e. Pipe Construction Materials etc. at dumping site or near the site of work and no extra charges for rent of storage at site shall be paid, no extra charges shall be paid on account of warfare and /or demurrages.
 - rates shall be inclusive of GST (as applicable) and also inclusive of toll taxes etc.
- The materials on order shall be inspected by third party and inspection charges shall be borne by the contractor/bidder. All testing /inspection charges will be included in the quoted rates & nothing extra shall be paid. The Supplier /bidder/contractor will have to inform the third inspection agency i.e. M/S Certification Engineer international Ltd(CEIL) & M/S RITES Ltd., who are empanelled/authorized by the Chief Engineer ,PHE, J&K department Kashmir to conduct third party inspection & testing , which shall confirm to the following. The third party inspection & testing shall confirm to the following Quality control & testing parameters broadly set for such purpose as under :-

- The Third-party inspection / testing at the manufactures works is mandatory to ensure that standard of quality of the material is being maintained by the Department. The third-party inspection agencies whose services are being utilized by the PHE Kashmir Department till date are:-
- M/S CEIL, 4th floor 1 - Bhikaji Cama place R.K. Puram New Delhi 110066.
- M/S RITES (Rites Bhawan No.01 Sector 19 Gurgaon 122001 India)
- The inspection agencies shall be intimated well in advance besides the Executive Engineer , QC & MP Division Srinagar after the placement of the allotment order with any firm/ agency so that they remain aware about the inspection they have to carry on behalf of the Department. It is recommended that the department name "Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE" be got engraved / painted on the barrel of the pipes, it shall be engraved in case of GI pipe and painted in case of DI pipe. The supplier /bidder shall be bound to supply the material by weight. The quality of the Pipe incl. third party certificates shall be examined and approved finally by the Executive Engineer, QC & MP Division Srinagar. The Pipe materials cannot be utilized unless it is approved by the QC&MP division Srinagar.
- Similarly Quality control test certificates as prescribed for the electrical & Mechanical equipment's if involved from the manufacturer(s) will have to be produced/presented by the agency before installation of the equipment's at his own cost to Engineer-in- Charge (Mechanical), who shall after examining same decide future course of action on its merits.
- The pipe material ISI marked Galvanized Mild Steel tubes should confirm to IS :1239 (pt.1)/2004 6th revision read with up to date amendments in random length of 4 to 7 mtrs, screwed on both ends as per IS: 554/1990, socketed at one end & other end protected with plastic protector in various sizes OF nominal bore & classes (light). The socket conforming to IS: 1239 (pt.II/1992 - 4th revision) with amendment No. 1 to 3 & latest as on date & ISI marked Centrally cast (Spun) D.I Pipes with socket & spigot ends as per IS : 8329/2000 read with latest amendments in standard lengths of 4.5,5.5 & 6 mtrs for classification K7 & K9 ranging nominal diameters as indicated here under suitable for push on joint (Rubber Gasket-D joining) with cement mortar lining inside the pipes Without side Zinc coating with Bituminous Finish coat as per IS 8329/2000 read with amendment NO. 1, hydrostatic tests as per clause -11 of IS :8329 with latest amendments each pipe to be supplied with EPDM Rubber Gasket conforming to IS: 5382 of 1985. The class of pipe is specified as light 'A'. All GI/DI pipes should be entrenched especially in hilly areas with a trench depth of 0.60 m to 1.00 m and were same is not technically possible the Pipes so kept naked will have to be insulated with PU/F using Chicken mesh & tin of of approved thickness & specifications against the proposed earthwork and nothing extra shall be paid to the contractor on this account.
- The quality of the pipe material shall be supported by manufacturers quality and test certificates. Third-Party inspection certificate shall also be provided by the contractor at his own cost in respect of material provided and used by him. The same shall be approved by the departmental quality control committee. The pipe will be laid only after the certificate will be issued by the said committee. Moreover the agency shall himself be responsible for safety of the material at site.
- The pipe material shall be supplied from reputed manufacturers. The agency shall initially establish a store at the project site for storing before the same is issued to sites after getting approved. The approval process shall be documented on material approval sheets duly signed by in charge engineer's quality control committee and contractor.
- The department name "Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE" must be engraved/ painted on the barrel of the pipes, it shall be engraved in case of GI pipes and painted in case of DI pipes.
- Any kind of damage which may occur to any work during the course of execution due to torrential rains/heavy snow falls etc. shall be the responsibility of the concerned agency till the work is finally handed-over to the Department.
- All safety arrangements as per relevant IS, IRC and IRS Codes of practice and as specified in the tender documents
- Construction of all access roads as required to different construction spots and construction of all temporary diversions of roads, laying of temporary Pipe crossings, maintenance of all roads and dismantling same after completion & making same good has to be ensured by the agencies
- Constructions of all temporary cross drains as required and construction of all temporary diversions of streams/Nallahs/Canals, maintenance of all diversions etc. as per site conditions and as directed by the Engineer-in-charge
- The rate for providing laying and fitting of pipe shall include cost of pipe specials whatsoever is involved as per requirement at site.
- The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfil the requirements as laid down in NIT.
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.
- All other terms & conditions as per the PWD form 25 (Double agreement form)

DIPK-5924/22

Executive Engineer
JS (PHE) Division Kupwara



Inviting applications for the National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2021 and 2022 through 'online'

Applications/nominations are invited for National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2021, as also for the year 2022 separately **through online mode** only on the centralized portal of Ministry of Home Affairs (www.awards.gov.in) which is open w.e.f. 15th July, 2022 to 28th August, 2022. Applications in physical form will not be accepted for these National Awards.

The nomination should contain all relevant details specified in the format available on the above portal including in narrative form clearly bringing out the notable and inspiring achievements.

Eligibility criteria and other details are available in the simplified and rationalized Guidelines for National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities available on the website of the Department (www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in) **as also on the Award Portal (www.awards.gov.in)**

The National Awards and eligibility for each category of award is as under:

I. National Awards for Individual Excellence (व्यक्तिगत उत्कृष्टता के लिए राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार) :-

S.No.	Category of Award and eligibility	No. of Awards
1.	Sarvshresth Divyangjan (सर्वश्रेष्ठ दिव्यांगजन) (Belonging to any field or activity i.e. Education/ Health/Employment/Art & Culture/Sports/Creative work/ Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities / Social service / etc. - a Role Model) – Open to all persons with disabilities having any of the 21 specified disabilities under the RPwD Act.	06 (03 for Male and 03 for Female) Cash component of Award: Rs. 2.00 lakh each
2.	i) Shresth Divyangjan (श्रेष्ठ दिव्यांगजन) a. Locomotor Disability - (Locomotor, Muscular Disability, Dwarfism, Acid Attack Victims, Leprosy Cured, Cerebral Palsy) b. Visual Impairment -(Blindness, Low Vision) c. Hearing Impairment - (Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Speech & Language disability) d. Intellectual Disability – (Mental Retardation, Mental Autism, Specific Learning Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder.) e. Any specified disability except the disabilities mentioned from Sr. (a) to (d) above. (Developmental Disorder, Disability caused due to Blood Disorder, Hemophilia, Thalassemia, Sickle Cell Diseases, Chronic Neurological Conditions, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Disability) However, if suitable person(s) in any one or more of these sub-categories are not found, the awards may be given to additional person(s) in other sub-categories. (In the fields of employment / self-employment, health/sports, art, culture drawing, painting, music, or any other type of creative work, empowerment of persons with disabilities,) ii) Shresth Divyang Bal/Balika (श्रेष्ठ दिव्यांग बाल / बालिका) (In any of category of specified disabilities under the RPwD Act) - (In the field of art & culture drawing, painting, music, or any other type of creative work etc.) Children with disabilities up to the age of 18 years.	10 (1 for male and 1 for Female in each of the five categories (a) to (e)). Cash component of Award: Rs. 1.00 lakh
3.	Divyangjano Ke Liye Karyarat Sarvshrestha Vyakti (दिव्यांगजनों के लिए कार्यरत सर्वश्रेष्ठ व्यक्ति)	1 Award Rs. 1.00 lakh
4.	Divyangata Ke Kshetra Mein Sarvshrestha Punarvas Peshevar (दिव्यांगता के क्षेत्र में सर्वश्रेष्ठ पुनर्वास पेशेवर)	1 Award Rs. 1.00 lakh
5.	Divyangata Ke Keshtra Mein Sarvshrestha Anusandhan / Navpravartan / Utpad Vikas (दिव्यांगता के क्षेत्र में सर्वश्रेष्ठ अनुसन्धान / नवप्रवर्तन / उत्पाद विकास)	1 Award Rs. 1.00 lakh

II) National Awards for Institutions engaged in empowering persons with disabilities (दिव्यांगजनों के सशक्तिकरण के लिए कार्यरत संस्थानों हेतु राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार)

Sr N.	Category of Award	No. of Awards
1.	Divyangjan Sashaktikaran Hetu Sarvshrestha Sansthan (दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण हेतु सर्वश्रेष्ठ संस्थान) (Private organization, NGO)	1 Award for providing comprehensive Rehabilitation services 1 Award for Inclusive Education (institutions providing or promoting inclusive education)
2.	Divyangjano Ke Liye Sarvshrestha Niyokta (दिव्यांगजनों के लिए सर्वश्रेष्ठ नियोक्ता) (Govt. organisation/ PSEs/ Autonomous bodies/ Pvt. Sector)	1 Award
3.	Divyangjano Ke Liye Sarvshresth Placement Agency (दिव्यांगजनों के लिए सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्लेसमेंट एजेंसी) – excluding Govt./State Govt./Local Bodies	1 Award
4.	Sugama Bharat Abhiyan Kay Karyanvayan / Badhamukta Vatavaran Kay Srijan Mein Sarvshrestha Rajya / UT / Zila (सुगम्य भारत अभियान के कार्यान्वयन / बाधमुक्त वातावरण के सृजन में सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य / संघ राज्य क्षेत्र / जिला)	1 Award
5.	Sarvshrestha Sugama Yatayat kay Sadahan / Soochana Avem Sanchar Prodyogiki (सर्वश्रेष्ठ सुगम्य यातायात के साधन / सूचना एवं संचार प्रौद्योगिकी) Govt./Private organisation	1 Award
6.	Divyangjano Kay Adhikar Adhiniyam/UDID Avem Divyang Sashaktikaran ki Anay Yojanaon Kay Karyanvayan Mein Sarvshrestha Rajya/UT/Zila (दिव्यांगजनों के अधिकार अधिनियम / विशिष्ट दिव्यानाता पहचान पत्र एवं दिव्यांग सशक्तिकरण की अन्य योजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन में सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य / संघ राज्य क्षेत्र / जिला	1 Award for State/UT and 1 award for District
7.	Divyangjano Kay Adhikar Adhiniyam Kay Apne Rajya/UT Mein Karyanvayan Mein Sarvshrestha Pradarshan Rajya Divayngjan Aayukta (दिव्यांगजनों के अधिकार अधिनियम के अपने राज्य / संघ राज्य क्षेत्र में कार्यान्वयन में सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन करने वाले राज्य दिव्यान्जन आयुक्त)	1 Award
8.	Punarvas Sevawon ke liye Pesheyvar Taiyar Karnewali Sarvshresth Sansthan (पुनर्वास सेवाओं हेतु पेशेवर तैयार करनेवाली सर्वश्रेष्ठ संस्थान)	1 Award

CBC 38117/11/0022/2223

Burglars On A Looting Spree At Budshah Nagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Resident of Budshah Nagar say on the eve of Eid Ul Azha, a gang Burglars broke into the various houses in Sector J, Iram Lane, Budshah Nagar. Residents say during the intervening night of the 10th and 11th of July 2022, thieves looted cash, jewelry items and other valuables worth Lakhs of rupees.

This incident has spread fear and distress among the local residents who have expressed concern over the crime in the area.

"The burglars broke into our house when we were not at home and stole valuable items worth lakhs of rupees. My family members as well as neighbors are in shock and in a constant state of worry" a Budshah Nagar resident said.

The residents say they have informed the police about the incident. Locals have expressed hope the Police will initiate action against the thieves.

CCIK Seeks Extension Of Summer Vacation For Schools

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir CCIK Wednesday urged LG Administration to impress upon the authorities to extend the summer vacation for the schools.

In a statement, CCIK President Tariq Rashid Ghani said heat wave in the Kashmir Valley has persisted and the summer vacation for the schools should be extended to 21 July 2022.

Ghani said there has been no respite in the heat waves which is intolerable for the children and the extension of summer vacation should be considered.

Chairman JKPSC, Members Condole Demise Of Shamas-ud-din Ganie

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir, Public Service Commission (JKPSC), Satish Chandra on Wednesday condoled the sad demise of Ex. Chairman JKPSC Shamas-ud-din Ganie who passed away recently.

In this regard a condolence meeting was held at the office complex of JKPSC Solina here in which members of JKPSC, Secretary JKPSC and officers of the Commission, besides staff participated.

During the condolence meeting, The Chairman highlighted the contribution of late Ganie and said that he was an able administrator, a visionary and source of inspiration for a vast number of people.

The Chairman further said that his contribution to society is widely remembered. He asked the officers and staff of the Commission to carry forward the mission which has been nurtured by legendary civil servants like him.

EID UL AZHA 2022

SMC Collects 112 Metric Tonnes Of Animal Waste

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In a first, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) collected 112 metric tonnes of animal waste on the eve of Eid Ul Azha.

According to official data, the total animal waste collected from 10th July, 2022 to 13th July, 2022 is 112 metric tonnes. The waste collected includes animal hides and other animal waste.

According to Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) 500 metric tonnes of waste is collected from the city every day which includes 6 tonnes of poultry waste.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Chief Sanitation Officer SMC Nazir Ahmad Baba said the Municipality has collected sacrificial waste



more than ever before.

"On 10th July, we col-

lected 35 metric tonnes of

sacrificial waste, 47 metric

tonnes on 11th July, 10 metric tonnes on 12th July and 20 metric tonnes on 13th July, 2022".

He said to collect the waste 70 Hopper vehicles were pressed into service.

"On Eid Ul Azha last year we collected 25 metric tonnes of sacrificial waste, this time around we have collected far more waste", Nazir said.

Replying to a question about how the City Municipality disposes the sacrificial waste he said, "We resort to conventional methods of deep burying".

"We dispose the sacrificial waste in a traditional way of deep burial, in future we intend to use more scientific methods" he said.

Nazir said people have cooperated to a greater extent this year and he thanked people for their co-operation.

JKSSB Recruitment

Qualified FAA Candidates Await Selection List

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The candidates who qualified the exam for the post of Finance Account Assistant (FAA), Junior Assistant and other posts are awaiting the final selection list by the Jammu & Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB).

Candidates say the JKSSB is taking too long to declare results and they alleged the inordinate delay is taking a heavy toll on their mental health.

"After qualifying the exam we thought our unemployment woes would end but the delay in the declaration of results by the JKSSB has kept us in the middle of nowhere" said a candidate speaking on anonymity.



"If it was a fast track recruitment then why is taking too long for authorities to declare the results" he

questioned.

Another candidate also voiced his disappointment alleging the delay is causing mental harm to the candidates.

"I know some candidates who are on the verge of developing mental health issues, we have already lost a lot of time due to the Covid 19 pandemic".

The candidates urged the LG administration to impress upon the JKSSB to release the final selection list.

It is pertinent to mention, the JKSSB had advertised posts for the Finance Account Assistant (FAA), Junior Assistant, Sub Auditor and other positions in December 2020.

Mehta Leads First Ever Interactive Conference With Teachers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday interacted with thousands of teachers all across the UT in the Auditorium of SKICC.

The event was organized by the School Education Department J&K. Besides, Principal

a 360-degree approach for the overall upliftment of the educational sector.

Dr Mehta emphasized on putting in best efforts for eradication of the 'Educationally Backward' concept and overcoming the barriers associated with it.

He also advised stakeholders to strengthen Complex



Secretary SED, B.K.Singh; DSEK, Dr. Tassaduq Hussain and DSEJ, Dr. Ravi Shanker Sharma, senior officers of the department participated in the event.

The teachers from every district of the UT interacted with the Chief Secretary on different issues like NEP 2020 and its implementation, Quality Education, Deliverables for the department and other issues. The Chief Secretary responded to the queries of teachers and listened to their suggestions patiently.

He laid particular emphasis on School ratings, parent teacher meetings, feedback from students which is real time assessment, self-inspection etc. He asked that NEP 2020 be rolled out with

heads and timetables shall be framed at complex head level for exchange of human and other resources for better results. He also stressed the need for encouraging the teachers with outstanding performance and prioritization of digital learning. Capacity building programmes in virtual mode and other e-initiatives is the need of the hour, he observed.

Principal Secretary SED, B.K.Singh gave a detailed presentation on the achievements of the School Education Department in JK and in his address encouraged and appreciated the role of school teachers in raising the standards of Education in UT which has led to UT to become one among the top rankers in National Achievement Survey 2021.



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- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
14- Zil- Hajj
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 48
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:47
ISHA	9: 25

This Day In History

- 982- King Otto II and his Frankish army defeated in pitched battle with Muslim army of al-Qasim at Cape Colonna, Southern Italy
- 1223- Louis VIII becomes King of France upon the death of his father, Philip II
- 1420- Battle at Vitkov Zizka's hill (Prague): Taboriets beat Bohemia
- 1714- Battle of Aland, Russian fleet overpowers larger Swedish naval force
- 1789- Bastille Day - the French Revolution begins with the storming of the Bastille Prison in Paris (now celebrated as France's national day)
- 1853- New Zealand holds its first general election
- 1863- Battle of Falling Waters, Maryland (Beaver Creek)
- 1864 - Gold is discovered in Helena, Montana
- 1865 - English mountaineer Edward Whymper leads first expedition to climb the Matterhorn (four die on the descent)
- 1891 - John T Smith patents corkboard
- 1914 - Robert Goddard is granted the first patent for liquid-fueled rocket design
- 1933 - All non-Nazi parties are banned in Germany
- 1938 - Benito Mussolini publishes anti-Jewish/African manifesto
- 1945 - Battleship USS South Dakota is 1st US ship to bombard Japan
- 1957 - Soviet steamer "Eshghbad" sinks in Caspian Sea, drowning 270
- 1958 - General Abdul K Kassem forms a military government in Iraq overthrowing the monarchy.
- 1959 - USS Long Beach, first nuclear powered cruiser launched at Quincy, Mass
- 1965 - Israeli/Jordanian border fights
- 1965 - US Mariner IV, 1st Mars probe, passes at 6,100 miles (9,800 km)
- 1967 - Surveyor 4 launched to Moon; explodes just before landing
- 1969 - The United States \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000 bills are officially withdrawn from circulation.

From KO Archives

Throws Down The Gauntlet To Azad

'Prosecute 10 Ministers And I Will Quit Politics'

Observer News Service

Srinagar Omar - The president of the National Conference, Omar Abdullah, today challenged chief minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, to take action against 10 corrupt ministers in his cabinet, saying that he (Omar) would quit politics in response. The NC chief offered to furnish Azad a list of ministers who, according to him, qualified to be axed.

"The coalition government has failed on all fronts. If I want, I can spend the entire day cataloging the failures and the weaknesses of this government," Omar said addressing a public meeting in the Naghama area of Handwara.

In a blistering attack, Omar said that the coalition government had deceived the public at every turn and every one of its slogans had proved to be hollow.

"The government's slogans of healing touch, providing jobs, accountability, progress, prosperity, peace and action against the corrupt were nothing but a means to fool people," he said.

Admitting that his party had committed mistakes, Omar however said that NC had not deceived the public. "The supposed drive against corruption, too, has proved illusory, as corruption is rampant, and no work is being accomplished without bribes," he said.

"If Azad sahib has the guts, let him take action against 10 cabinet ministers whose list I am prepared to provide," Omar said.

"If he takes action against these ministers, I will quit politics," he said.

"But the chief minister will not take any action, because the ministers of this government are handpicked by Delhi and they function according to New Delhi's bidding," he said.

(Kashmir Observer, 14 July, 2007)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

What Eid missed

As has generally been the case over the last three years, Eid-ul-Azha was celebrated peacefully with traditional fervor, a term we have grown fond of using on these occasions. Thousands of animals were slaughtered to seek God's pleasure and reward. The sacrifice was offered to honour the sacrifice that Ibrahim (AS) was prepared to make as he demonstrated the level of devotion and submission God expects. Incidentally, a few camels costing over a lakh rupees each were also slaughtered. This is despite the fact that this year Eid shopping was somewhat subdued.

Thousands of devotees offered Eid prayers at Dar-gah Hazratbal on the banks of Dal Lake as a slight drizzle dampened the temperature. The prayers were attended by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah, both former J&K Chief Ministers. However, authorities did not allow Eid prayers to be held at the city's Grand Mosque due to law-and-order concerns. The authorities asked the Jamia Auqaf officials to hold Eid prayers at 6.30 am which they refused. Security agencies were chary of the prayers leading to protests.

Jammu and Kashmir lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha also extended Eid greetings, and hoped that the festival strengthens the bonds of peace and brotherhood and brought peace, happiness and joy to everybody. And the security agencies did everything to ensure that there was no untoward incident during the festival.

That said, while we celebrate Eid, a festivity which is incumbent on all Muslims, and sacrificed animals, we weren't sufficiently mindful of a section of our population that struggles to meet even basic needs. Their plight calls for us to be more austere in our celebration. Those of us who can afford to spend should donate the amount they would otherwise spend on consumables for their brethren in distress. Same goes for the people offering animal sacrifices. They would earn more Sawab and God's goodwill should they also contribute towards the welfare of the thousands of widows and orphans in our community. While Eid is about celebration and festivity, it should also strengthen and sustain the spirit of community effort. But we have hardly made any consequential contribution here.

There is thus an urgent need to reflect about our failures as a community. It is incumbent on us that while we go about celebrating Eid or any other festival, we also remember the thousands of victims of ongoing turmoil and contribute in a material way to lessen their misery. There is no better and more sacred an occasion to do this than Eid. This alone will make the celebration of Eid-ul-Azha meaningful and aligned with its true spirit – the spirit of giving and sacrifice.

OTHER OPINION

Big Tech vs State

There is a growing push and pull between Big Tech and the state over the governance of global public platforms. A few days ago, social media platform, Twitter, moved the Karnataka High Court over the government's orders to block certain tweets and handles under Section 69 of the Information Technology Act 2000. Twitter's move came after the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had asked it to comply with its orders or risk losing the safe harbour protection afforded to such platforms. This clash between big tech and the state is, however, not unique to India. Across the world, governments are grappling with this issue, struggling to arrive at a new equilibrium. Regulation of social media platforms — public forums but owned by corporations — is a contentious issue.

Twitter has alleged that the blocking orders are "procedurally and substantially non-compliant with Section 69A, are manifestly arbitrary, fail to provide the originators prior notice and are disproportionate in several cases". In its petition, the social media giant has also argued that some of the URLs contain "political and journalistic content", blocking which would be a violation of the right to free speech. However, Twitter's past actions — the manner, for instance, in which it "suddenly cut the mic" of Donald Trump — lend credence to the charge that it is unaccountable. Its content moderation decisions can be accused of being shrouded in opacity, and/or taken by executives in Silicon Valley whose incentives are not aligned with what may be deemed as public interest. Considering the power of such platforms in shaping public opinion, these are matters of concern. Elon Musk's takeover attempt — he has now pulled out of buying Twitter — would have compounded the problem. A privately owned company is under lesser public scrutiny as compared to a publicly listed one.

Indian Express

Drug Addiction's
Threat to Society

Check the Menace Before it Hollows Society from Within



Wajahat Qazi

In the context of Kashmir, parental-children communication is fundamentally flawed: it veers between extreme strictness and extreme love. In the interstices of these extremes, there then, oftentimes, occurs a breakdown of communication and parental authority thereof. Other pressures-societal, expectational,cultural, economic and peer group pressures -pile up , leading to a fracturing of the individual self and estrangement of the young individual from both society and family

Alarming statistics about drug addiction in Kashmir emerge by the day. According to a survey, about 600000 people-males and females-have become addicted to drugs in the valley. This number against the backdrop of the total population of Kashmir should set the proverbial alarm bells ringing. But it appears society is complacent about this menace. While a number of theories and remedial practices are being floated to curb drug addiction in Kashmir- police action, checking or curbing the supply of drugs, and so on – but on their own, these are inadequate. For example, from a larger and broader global perspective, opioid and other drug addiction is rather endemic in the United States. The source of most drugs in the US historically have been some South American countries among others. Diplomatic and coercive interstate action failed to check the supply of drugs into the country. If this is the case with a country like the United States that has the resources and wherewithal to only impose its will on the rest of the world, where would Kashmir fit in the schema? This is a real and not a rhetorical question.

Where then does the antidote to the drug menace in Kashmir lie?

The answer lies in the family itself. While I am not a psychoanalyst or a social psychologist, I would posit that the problem begins in the family and the starting point for curing society of this menace also lies in the family of an individual. It stands to reason that the family is the incubus of an individual- men or women. All or most families are loving and caring ones. But the problem begins when parents of children, one, in excessive love for them fail to realise that they are growing up. Teenage and adolescence are age domains that are not easy: hormonal changes, the awkwardness of transitioning from childhood to teenage and then adolescence, peer influence and peer

pressure, navigating the world during this transition can be daunting. But parents usually see their children as little children who 'are their babies' that can do no wrong. This erroneous assumption falls flat in the face of reality. The real issue is how, during this transition, parents communicate with their children. In the context of Kashmir, parental-children communication is fundamentally flawed: it veers between extreme strictness and extreme love. In the interstices of these extremes, there then, oftentimes, occurs a breakdown of communication and parental authority thereof. Other pressures- societal, expectational (getting 'seats' in professional colleges, careers etc), cultural, economic and peer group pressures -pile up , leading to a fracturing of the individual self and estrangement of the young individual from both society and family. This is a sure shot recipe for a young person falling into the lap of insidious drug addiction where he or she finds a reprieve and relief, however illusory and fleeting from the various pulls and pressures. Other allied issues are undiagnosed and thus untreated depression that can later snowball and cascade into incurable neuroses and psychoses , altering the life, for bad , of an individual forever. These mental health issues can also be predicated for drug addiction making the initial problems even worse. Societal and cultural responses to these problems aggravate them.

So, what and where is the solution?

To repeat, given that the problem lies within the family, it is here that the solution lies. Good parenting is not only about the provision of comforts and needs of life but also about effective, prudent communication and empathy and vigilance. Parents must be alert to any changes in the behaviour and compoment of their children, openly and clearly communicate with them and show empathy toward their children. They

must be both parents and friends to their children and the first choice of children confiding in them. If a problem and issue arise, parents must discuss with their children with care and empathy but not mere authority or harshness which can alienate children and lead them to wrong hands. If, for example, a child has tried drugs, confides this to his parents or parents come to know of their child's addiction from others or serendipitously, they must reassure their children that they will not penalise them harshly but counsel them (themselves or by professional counsellors). If the problem is deeper, then immediate professional counselling and help would be needed. Any harsh attitude – verbal, physical etc- would constitute violence that can scar young people for their entire lives. This then is a stage that is very delicate so much so that how it is dealt with will determine how young people will live for the rest of their lives. In the entire schemata, our society's religious and social leaders must also rise to the occasion lending their moral and social authority to deal with this menace- but in a very empathetic and delicate manner.

The problem of drug addiCtion even though in its nascent stage is very serious. If unchecked, it can destroy the vitals of our society – hollowing it out from within. The old but poignant aphorism, 'a stitch in time saves nine' is very relevant here. Before the problem assumes larger and graver proportions, society must rise to the challenge and help our younger folk to live fuller, healthier and productive lives. The alternatives are too bleak to countenance.

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

The author is a columnist and writer based in Srinagar



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I Am a Finance Accounts Assistant Selectee in Endless Waiting

At a time when we talk of empowering youth in India across sectors, J&K seems to have its gears in reverse with an already abysmal unemployment score. Ironically, JKSSB, the government organisation which should have aided the troubled youth, is instead pushing them to new depths of despair. Since 2020, no recruitment at major posts have been made. Exams are held but final results never see the light of the day.

Add to this long list of unrecruited posts, the Assistants in Account and Treasuries Department who ap-

peared in the exams in March 2022. Though their merit list and document verification was done in May 2022, they still are awaiting their final selection list. The selected candidates for other posts like Bee Keeper, JE Civil, Junior assistant ,Sub Auditor too have the same story to tell.

Many of these selected candidates become so apprehensive of their final selection that instead of waiting in vain they appear in several other exams and when some of them manage to qualify multiple exams it automatically leads to the posts remaining vacant. Thus, the sluggish system is

rotten to its core.

This sorry state of affairs has adverse effects on the mental health of youth who burn the midnight oil to secure their employment but the snail-paced organization fails their hard work, their dreams, their intellect and them in general. What the youth wonder about is the reason for the delay.

Many have linked the delay to the recent controversy surrounding JKSSB over the alleged scam in recruitment of the posts of Sub Inspector. However, this does not seem possible, as LG Manoj Sinha has himself

given a clean chit to the merit list issued for other posts. The LG went on to constitute a three members independent enquiry committee for investigation in the SI scam which has been hailed by many people as a move which lies in the interest of youth.

This leaves us with the larger question: if the highest authority in the UT declared the merit list of these examinations fair, what is stopping JKSSB from coming up with the final selection result?

Aaqib Ashraf Nengroo
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COVID 19

STRONGER DEMOCRACIES, LESSER DEATHS

Jo Adetunji

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become clear that an effective response to an emergency of this nature goes beyond the health system. While strengthening health infrastructure such as surveillance, testing and hospitals is key, we've also seen the use of non-pharmaceutical interventions like face masks, school closures and lockdowns. Some of the most important public health interventions, such as income protection schemes, have not come from the health sector at all.

So to prepare for and respond to pandemics, countries must be able to strengthen collaboration and investment across the whole of government, and engage all sections of society.

To better understand the role of governance in pandemic response, we designed a study to investigate the link between the strength of democratic governance and excess death rates across countries. We found that, generally, countries with stronger democratic governance have seen fewer excess deaths during the pandemic.

More than 6 million COVID deaths have been recorded globally since the pandemic began. But this figure underestimates the full impact of the pandemic.

One metric that can help us assess the true impact of COVID is excess mortality. This takes the total number of deaths since the pandemic began and compares it against pre-pandemic levels, capturing the wider effects of the pandemic and government responses.

For example, in some countries, deaths due to road traffic accidents fell as a result of restrictions on mobility. In other countries, disruption to healthcare services coupled with people's reluctance to attend hospitals led to an increase in deaths from heart attacks.

Measuring excess deaths is also useful because a significant number of COVID deaths go unrecorded in some countries due to a lack of access to healthcare and testing. Further, determining a cause of death is not always clear-cut, so what might be considered a COVID death in one country might not in another.

What we did

We used open-access sources to gather



country-level data on excess deaths from January 2020 to September 2021, alongside national democratic governance scores from just before the pandemic. For the latter we used the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) index, which looks at how well-embedded democratic principles are within countries, based on assessments from experts on the ground.

We also collected data on several factors that could explain differences in excess death rates across countries. These included socioeconomic factors (like inequality and wealth), vaccination rates, the occurrence of other diseases, and health system performance. We then built regression models, which use data to look at how one variable affects another, to understand whether democratic governance was associated with excess deaths.

Excess deaths and democracy scores around the world

We found that Norway, for example, had both a high democratic governance score and a low excess mortality rate.

Conversely, Belarus had a low democratic governance score and a high excess mortality rate. Although not every country fit this trend, on average across the 78 countries we included, a one-point increase in the V-Dem score was associated with 2.18 fewer excess deaths per 100,000 people.

This was after we accounted for age, gender, national wealth and access to healthcare. And the association was only partially accounted for by vaccination rates.

What's more, the relationship remained strong even after we added other variables and looked at slightly different data. For example, when we used a different index to measure democratic governance.

Deliberative governance, where inclusive decisions are made for the common good, was a specific feature of democracy significantly associated with fewer excess deaths. A political system in which decisions are reached through community engagement, stakeholder consultation, reasoned justification and respect for counterarguments would score highly on this scale.

Limitations

There were some limitations in our analysis. First, we weren't able to include all countries due to a lack of available data. Second, we didn't follow countries over time, so it's not possible to confirm a causal relationship between strength of governance and excess deaths.

Third, we measured democratic governance before COVID. Although this likely reflects governance during the pandemic, there may have been some differences that we weren't able to capture.

Researchers have previously observed that as countries become more democratic, they see reductions in deaths. One study found that a one-point increase in democratic scores reduced deaths by roughly 2% from tuberculosis, transport injuries and non-communicable diseases combined.

There could be various reasons for this, including government accountability, the dispersion of power, community participation, media freedoms, and the use of evidence in public policy. Democracy, through public participation, should also

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DELIBERATIVE GOVERNANCE, WHERE INCLUSIVE DECISIONS ARE MADE FOR THE COMMON GOOD, was

a specific feature of democracy significantly associated with fewer excess deaths. A political system in which decisions are reached through community engagement, stakeholder consultation, reasoned justification and respect for counterarguments would score highly on this scale.

focus attention on social, economic and health inequalities. Many of these factors, although not unique to democracies, are features of democratic governance that have been important during COVID.

At the global level, recommendations on pandemic response have centred on compliance with the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations. This legally binding instrument focuses on strengthening public health systems in a narrow sense.

Our findings show that the way societies are governed is important for public health. For pandemic preparedness, the public must be able to trust authorities and institutions. The machinery of the state must coalesce around communities to consider trade-offs and make evidence-based decisions.

It has taken a pandemic to reveal the many social and political vulnerabilities facing countries. Much work remains to better understand and address these.

By arrangements with The Conversation

The Energy Crisis Will Deepen

DANIEL YERGIN

WASHINGTON, DC – Is today's energy crisis as serious as similar previous ones – particularly the 1970s oil shocks? That question is being asked around the world, with consumers hit by high prices, businesses worried about energy supplies, political leaders and central bankers struggling with inflation, and countries confronting balance-of-payments pressures.

So, yes, this energy crisis is as serious. In fact, today's crisis is potentially worse. In the 1970s, only oil was involved, whereas this crisis encompasses natural gas, coal, and even the nuclear-fuel cycle. In addition to stoking inflation, today's crisis is transforming a previously global market into one that is fragmented and more vulnerable to disruption, crimping economic growth. And, together with the geopolitical crisis arising from the war in Ukraine, it is further deepening the world's great-power rivalries.

Today's energy crisis did not begin with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but rather last year when energy demand surged as the world emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic. That is when China ran short of coal and prices shot up. The global market for liquefied natural gas (LNG) then tightened, with prices skyrocketing, and oil prices rose as well.

Normally, with rising energy prices, a country like Russia would have increased its natural-gas sales to its main customer, Europe, above the minimum contracted volumes. Instead, it stuck to its contracts, even though it could have produced considerably more. At the time, it appeared that Russia was trying to force prices up. But, instead, the Kremlin may well have been preparing for war.

Because Europe depended on Russia for 35-40% of its oil and natural gas, Putin assumed that the Europeans would protest the invasion but ultimately stand aside. Fixated on his self-appointed mission of restoring what he views as Russia's historic empire, he did not anticipate how they would respond to an unprovoked war next door.

Looking ahead, five factors could make today's energy crisis even worse. First, Putin has opened a second front in the conflict by cutting back on the contracted



volumes of natural gas that Russia supplies to Europe. The goal is to prevent Europeans from storing enough supplies for next winter, and to drive prices higher, creating economic hardship and political discord. In his speech in June at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Putin made his reasoning clear: "Social and economic problems worsening in Europe" will "split their societies" and "inevitably lead to populism ... and a change of the elites in the short term."

As it is, Germany is now anticipating the need for gas rationing, and its minister for economic affairs, Robert Habeck, warns of a "Lehman-style contagion" (referring to the 2008 financial crisis) if Europe cannot manage today's energy-induced economic disruptions.

Second, a new or revived nuclear deal with Iran is unlikely. Thus, sanctions on the country will not be lifted – and that means Iranian oil will not be flowing into world markets anytime soon.

Third, although Saudi Arabia may step up its oil production to help "stabilize" oil markets in connection with US President Joe Biden's upcoming visit, no gusher is likely to follow, because there does not appear to be a large amount

of extra oil in Saudi Arabia (or in the United Arab Emirates) that can be produced on short notice. Meanwhile, many other oil-exporting countries cannot even return to their previous levels of production, owing to a lack of investment and maintenance since the pandemic.

Fourth, China's demand for oil has been significantly reduced by its "zero-COVID" lockdowns, which have sharply curtailed economic activity. But if it lifts many restrictions, a big increase in oil consumption and demand will follow.

Lastly, however tight the market for crude oil, there is even more tightness in the refining sector that produces the gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel that people actually use. This sector has developed into a complex, highly interconnected worldwide system. Russia was refining products that it was shipping to Europe, while Europe was sending gasoline that it did not need to the US East Coast, and so forth.

In some places, the system is going all out, with US refineries already operating at about 95% capacity. But the system overall still cannot keep up with demand. Russian refineries are functioning only partly, depriving

Europe of oil products; and not enough European gasoline is reaching North America. Chinese refineries are operating at less than 70% capacity. Some four million barrels per day of refining capacity have been shut down worldwide, owing to the pandemic, new regulations, and challenging economics. Add in the risk of accidents, poor policy decisions, and a hurricane knocking out refineries on the US Gulf Coast, and the situation could get even worse.

That said, a few countries could still boost production. Canada – the world's fourth-largest oil producer, after the US, Saudi Arabia, and Russia – could provide extra barrels in collaboration with its major market, the US. And US shale oil production is back in gear and could add 800,000 to one million barrels per day of new production this year – far more additional production than the rest of the world combined.

Other factors that could mitigate the crisis include price changes and how consumers respond. In May, US gasoline demand was 7% less than in May 2019, before the pandemic. Some of that, however, may be the result of more people working from home.

An economic slowdown could also dampen prices. S&P's latest global purchasing managers' index points to a weakening of economic growth, with US manufacturing activity "slipping into a decline ... to a degree only exceeded twice" – at the height of the pandemic lockdown and during the 2008 financial crisis. Likewise, European growth has slowed sharply to a 16-month low. Such slowdowns could reduce demand and lower energy prices. But, of course, they also will strain the Western alliance and popular unity.

The next six months will be critical, testing whether Europe can maneuver its way through the coming winter. In what Habeck called a "bitter" but "necessary" decision, Europe will need to burn more coal. In the difficult months ahead, there will need to be more informed collaboration between government and the industry that manages the energy flows on which modern economies depend.

The article was originally published by Project Syndicate

Fresh Batch Of 6,400 Pilgrims Leaves Jammu Camp For Amarnath Yatra

Press Trust of India

Jammu: Amid tight security, the 14th batch of 6,400 Amarnath Yatra pilgrims on Wednesday here left for twin base camps of the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

The yatra, which was suspended from Jammu due to bad weather on Sunday, resumed on Monday. A flash flood triggered by a cloudburst near the cave shrine on Friday afternoon has led to the death of at least 16 people. Around 40 are still missing.

A total of 6,415 pilgrims left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here in a convoy of 258 vehicles amid heavy security of CRPF, the officials said.

India Witnessing Transitional Phase Towards Self-Reliance In Defence Sector: Rajnath

Agenceis

New Delhi: India is witnessing a transitional phase towards self-reliance in defence sector and senior officials of defence PSUs should work together to ensure that their companies are among world's best, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday.

According to a defence ministry's statement, Singh said in his speech at an event here that the defence ministry has set a target of Rs 1.75 lakh crore of defence production by 2025, which includes export of Rs 35,000 crore.

He exuded confidence that the defence public sector undertakings (PSUs) will play a

Of these, 4,545 were men, 1,744 women, 43 children, 79 sadhus and four sadhvis, they said.

The officials said 2,428 pilgrims heading for Baltal were the first to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp in 88 vehicles around 3.30 am, followed by the second convoy of 170 vehicles carrying 3,987 pilgrims for Pahalgam at 4.30 am.

So far, over 1.30 lakh pilgrims have offered their prayers at the cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-shivlingam, the officials said.

A total of 83,073 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.

major role in achieving this goal with a contribution of 70-80 per cent, urging CMDs (chairman and managing directors) and NODs (non-official directors) to work hand in hand to ensure that their companies find place among world's best in different fields, the statement said.

Singh listed out various initiatives taken by the defence ministry to achieve self-reliance, including simplification of acquisition process of defence equipment and platforms under Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 and increase in FDI limit to 74 per cent under automatic route and up to 100 per cent under government route.

India Ranks Low At 135th Globally For Gender Parity; Worst For Health & Survival: WEF

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: India was on Wednesday ranked low at 135th place in terms of gender parity, despite an improvement of five places since last year on better performance in areas of economic participation and opportunity. Iceland retained its place as the world's most gender-equal country, followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden, as per the annual Gender Gap Report 2022 of the World Economic Forum (WEF) released in Geneva.

Only 11 countries are ranked below India on the index of 146 nations, with Afghanistan, Pakistan, Congo, Iran and Chad being the worst-five.

The WEF warned that the cost of living crisis is expected to hit women hardest globally with a widening gender gap in the labour force and it will take another 132 years (compared to 136 in 2021) to close the gender gap.

The report further said that Covid-19 has set gender parity back by a generation and a weak recovery was making it worse globally.

On India, the WEF said its gender gap score recorded its seventh-highest level in the last 16 years, but it continues to rank among the worst performers on various parameters.

"With a female population of approximately 662 million, India's level of attainment weighs heavily on regional rankings," it said.

Recovering ground since 2021, India registered the most significant and positive change to its performance on Economic Participation and Opportunity.

But, labour-force participation shrunk for both men and women since 2021.

The share of women legislators, senior officials and managers increased from 14.6 per cent to 17.6 per cent, and the share of women as professional and technical workers grew from 29.2 per cent to 32.9 per cent.

The gender parity score for estimated earned income improved; while values for both men and women diminished, they declined more for men.

However, in the area of political empowerment, the subindex where India ranks relatively higher at 48th place, showed a declining score due to the diminishing share of years women have served as head of state for the past 50 years.

On the health and survival sub-index, India ranked the lowest at 146th place and figured among the five countries with gender gaps larger than 5 per cent -- the other four being Qatar, Pakistan, Azerbaijan and China.

However, India was ranked the top globally in terms of gender parity for primary education enrolment and tertiary education enrolment and at the eighth place for the position of head of state.

Within South Asia, India was ranked the sixth best on overall score after Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bhutan. Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan scored worse than India.

South Asia (62.3 per cent) has the largest gender gap of all regions, with low scores across all measured gender gaps and little progress made in most countries since 2021.

At its current pace, it will take

197 years to close the gender gap in the region. The economic gender gap has closed by 1.8 per cent with increases in the share of women in professional and technical roles in countries including Bangladesh and India as well as Nepal.

The WEF said that of the 146 economies surveyed, just one in five has managed to close the gender gap by at least 1 per cent in the past year.

"The cost of living crisis is impacting women disproportionately after the shock of labour market losses during the pandemic and the continued inadequacy of care infrastructure," WEF Managing Director Saadia Zahidi said.

"In face of a weak recovery, government and business must make two sets of efforts: targeted policies to support women's return to the workforce and women's talent development in the industries of the future. Otherwise, we risk eroding the gains of the last decades permanently and losing out on the future economic returns of diversity," she added.

At the current rates of progress, it will take 155 years to close the political empowerment gender gap -- 11 more than predicted in 2021 -- and 151 years for the economic participation and opportunity gender gap.

Although 29 countries have reached full parity, it will still take 22 years to close the educational attainment gender gap.

And while more than 140 countries have closed at least 95 per cent of their health gaps, overall backsliding in health and survival means there may be a reversal.

EASTERN LADAKH ROW

India, China Likely To Hold 16th Round Of Military Talks On July 17

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: India and China are likely to hold the 16th round of high-level military talks on July 17 to resolve the issues in remaining friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, people familiar with the development said on Wednesday.

The last round of talks between the Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) took place on March 11.

In the fresh round of talks, the Indian side is expected to press for disengagement of troops as soon as possible in all the remaining friction points besides seeking resolution of issues in Depsang Bulge and Demchok.

"The 16th round of Corps Commander-level talks are likely to take place on July 17," said a source.

The situation in eastern Ladakh figured prominently in last week's talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Bali.

At the one-hour meeting in Bali on the sidelines of a conclave of foreign ministers of the G20 nations, Jaishankar conveyed to Wang the need for early resolution of all the outstanding issues in eastern Ladakh.

He also said that the relationship between the two countries should be based on "three mutuals" -- mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests.

"Recalling the disengagement achieved in some friction

areas, the external affairs minister reiterated the need to sustain the momentum to complete disengagement from all the remaining areas to restore peace and tranquillity in the border areas," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

The MEA further said that Jaishankar "reaffirmed the importance of fully abiding by bilateral agreements and protocols, and the understandings reached between the two ministers during their previous conversations".

In May, India and China held diplomatic talks on the border row and agreed to hold the next round of the Senior Commanders' meeting at an early date to achieve complete disengagement from all friction points in eastern Ladakh.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the sensitive sector.

HDFC Bank Signs Multi-Year Software Development Contract With FYNDNA Techcorp Private Limited

Agenceis

Mumbai: As part of HDFC Bank Limited's efforts to progressively transform itself into a completely digitalized ecosystem, the Bank has partnered with FYNDNA TechCorp Pvt Ltd ("FYNDNA").

It has signed a multi-year contract with FYNDNA for the development and deployment of several Enterprise-class systems. The intent is to unify customer information, consolidate systems, build resilience in its payment infrastructure, provide cloud-ready, scalable

product ledgers and, integrate all of them and enable them to operate with existing solutions and platforms.

This is a part of the Bank's objective of forging alliances with Fintech players to offer a new age, digital experience to its customers. This partnership will enable HDFC Bank to respond to changing customer requirements with speed and agility in real time. The Bank will use FYNDNA's expertise to aim for higher availability and consistency in its operations in keeping with the 24 X 7 needs of its customers.

Litany Of Falsehood Unleashed On Me: Ansari On Charge Of Inviting Pak Journalist

Agenceis

New Delhi: Former Vice President Hamid Ansari on Wednesday refuted the allegation that he had invited to India a Pakistani journalist who has claimed to have spied for ISI, and said a "litany of falsehood" has been unleashed against him in sections of media and by a BJP spokesperson.

In a statement, he also rejected the allegation, made by the BJP citing comments of a former RAW functionary, that he had compromised national interest as India's ambassador to Iran.

BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia had at a press conference earlier in the day asked



Ansari and the Congress to come clean on the claims of Pakistani journalist Nusrat Mirza that he had visited India five times during the UPA rule and passed on

sensitive information collected here to his Pakistan's spy agency ISI.

Bhatia cited Mirza's purported comments that he had

visited India on Ansari's invitations and also met him, but the former vice president rejected the claims.

In his rebuttal, Ansari said, "It is a known fact that invitations to foreign dignitaries by the Vice-President of India are on the advice of the government generally through the Ministry of External Affairs.

"I had inaugurated the Conference on Terrorism, on December 11, 2010, the 'International Conference of Jurists on International Terrorism and Human Rights'. As is the normal practice, the list of invitees would have been drawn by the organisers. I never invited him or met him," added

Ansari, who was India's vice president between 2007-17.

The former vice president said his work as ambassador to Iran was at all times within the knowledge of the government of the day.

He said he is bound by the commitment to national security in such matters and will refrain from commenting on them.

"The Government of India has all the information and is the only authority to tell the truth. It is a matter of record that after my stint in Tehran, I was appointed India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. My work there has been acknowledged at home and abroad," Ansari said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmiri Youth Languishing

states of the country and abroad. "If you go through his Facebook profile, you won't find a single offensive post against Saudi Kingdom because he knows he belongs to the Shia community and what it means to post against Saudis in the Saudi land," Sajjad said.

Sajjad said even if the Saudis didn't ban Shia Islamic practices or closed down the Mosques, nor did they categorize Shia and Sunnis for employment avenues in its territory while issuing visas, his brother was aware of the sensitivity involved due to Saudi-Iran conflict.

"My brother used to post some contents and photographs belonging Shia ideology but it would not mean that it is illegal and shouldn't be considered as crime or anti-Saudi," Sajjad wrote to S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, in a letter, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

Sajjad said his mother—Sara Begum -- is suffering from cardiac problems and used to get regular medical treatment and financial support from her son. His father is a farmer, while Sajjad is handling a family business -which is not fetching them "too much"

He said that Javid's wife and daughter are helpless and want him back home as soon as possible.

Javid's family had no contact with him for over one month of his arrest until he was allowed to call in April 2020, neither did the Saudi police allow his colleagues to meet him in the jail citing Covid-19 protocols.

"Now we want the Indian Government to help us to get our kin back from Saudi Arabia," Sajjad said, adding that they also request the Ministry of External affairs that India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia should personally interview in this matter.

Security Alert

forces to deploy additional forces in key areas and remain extra-vigilant in the Union Territory especially in Jammu and Srinagar cities "as there were inputs of more such attacks".

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, militants released a 39-second edited video that had filmed Lal Bazar shooting very closely. The first-person footage carries graphic visuals of a militant going on shooting spree.

The video was released purportedly by the militants behind the attack via a propaganda

outlet purportedly linked to ISIS.

The militants who carried out the attack shot at a policeman standing outside a police van. Later, the militant in the video shot another policeman sitting in the rear of the parked police vehicle. After injuring the duo, the militant reloads the pistol and again starts firing at the injured policemen.

As per the official, the militants had used professional body cameras to film the attack. The attack has also raised serious alarm bells within the security establishment.

No Function Held

third time on Wednesday, the officials said. Apart from the official function at the Martyrs' graveyard, mainstream political leaders also used to visit it to pay homage to the 22 Kashmiris who fell to the bullets of the Dogra army while protesting the autocratic rule of Maharaja Hari Singh.

However, the officials said, this year no mainstream political leader visited the graveyard. They added that there were no restrictions on the movement of people.

However, the National Conference said it had applied to the Srinagar district magistrate for permission to visit the graveyard for paying tributes to the martyrs of 1931 but it was not allowed.

The party decried the dilly-dallying tactics of the administration on not allowing its leaders to offer prayers and floral tributes at Mazar-e-Shuhada' on Martyrs' Day, NC spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said.

He said the office of the party's general secretary had sought permission from the administration for visiting the graveyard at Khawaja Bazar here for offering prayers and floral tributes but no communication from the side of the administration was received.

"Like previous year, this year the administration is again willfully closing the gates of Mazar-e-Shuhada for us to offer our floral tributes and fatiha. Our repeated requests have got the cold shoulders from administration, Dar said.

He said locking up the gates leading to the graveyard cannot embed the contribution of the July 13 martyrs into obscurity.

Such attempts are carried out with a sole objective to distort and rewrite Kashmir's political history and pale our heroes into insignificance. Contrarily, these curbs and gags resuscitate

people's veneration for them. Such measures cannot be condoned in a democratic society.

13th July is a significant chapter in the annals of J-K's history which cannot be undermined. I on behalf of my party and myself condemn these measures," he said.

In a statement issued here, NC president and Member of Parliament Farooq Abdullah and party vice president Omar Abdullah paid glowing tributes to the martyrs of 1931, calling the day a landmark in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

Recalling the sacrifice of the martyrs, Farooq Abdullah said the implications of the day thickened over time and resulted in the transformation of the state from a feudalistic to a democratic one.

The brave men who laid their lives on 13th of July, 1931 belonged to a generation of wisdom and vision. They saw in darkness and despair, a vision for the forthcoming generations; they envisioned a society free from bondage, discrimination and oppression, he said.

Omar Abdullah said July 13 marks the collective defiance of the oppressed.

The day is the watershed moment in the people's struggle for restoration of their universal human rights. It was their valour that inspired millions of others to rise against the then despotic and autocratic regime. We observe the day to reiterate our commitment to fight evil with kindness, violence with non-violence and peaceful struggle, he said.

Taking to Twitter, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) headed by Mehbooba Mufti also paid glowing tributes to the heroes of 13th July, 1931.

Those martyrs with their blood wrote a new chapter in the history of J&K which created an urge among the people for freedom & dignity. As we pay homage we also reiterate our resolve to strive for restoration of J&K's dignity, the party tweeted.

Srinagar Mayor and Apni Party leader Junaid Azim Mattu also paid tributes to the martyrs.

"I pay my humble tributes to those who laid down their lives on 13th July, 1931 in their quest for dignity, equality and our human rights. May their souls Rest In Peace and may we find inspiration in their sacrifices to empower the disempowered and give voice to the voiceless, Mattu wrote on Twitter.

Yasin Malik Seeks

including Malik, in the Rubaiya kidnapping

case that turned out to be a turning point in the Valley's volatile history.

Following the release of the five JKLF members, terror groups had started raising their heads.

Gol To Invest

Sawalkot project is a run-of-the-river project proposed on the river Chenab in district Ramban & Udhampur of Jammu & Kashmir. NHPC in January 2021 signed an MoU with the J&K administration for developing the much-delayed Sawalkot hydro-electric project which has been postponed since its conception in 1984.

J&K Clocks 140

There are 769 active COVID-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir. So far, 4,50,764 people have recovered from the disease, the officials said.

3 Gamblers Held

besides playing cards were seized from the spot.

"Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 86/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Pampore and investigation has been set into motion," the spokesperson added.

Teen's Body

boy and after strenuous efforts body was retrieved from the Nallah

He said that they had also requested KGHEP authorities to cut the flow of water that goes downstream in Nallah Madumati, so that rescue operations would be carried out smoothly.

The official identified the deceased as Zahid Magray son of Masood Ahmad Magray of Ajar locality of Bandipora—(KNO)

Recruitment Rules

Under the able guidance of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, he said, the H&ME Department has notified the rules which are progressive and removed long pending stagnation issues in the department.

According to the spokesperson, the Principal Secretary, H&ME Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, while deliberating on the issue said that the decision of revisiting the earlier rules by the Government shall pave a way for speedy recruitment, progression and promotion to the

employees of the Department.

He added that this step shall also act as morale booster to the employees and help infuse new lease of life to the Para-Medical Services wherein fresh modern day qualified Human Resource shall be made available to run the Health Care System in J&K.

"The rules have been revised in view of the fact that over the period of time, several fresh categories of non-gazetted cadre positions have been created/ re-designated/ upgraded/ re-organized under different Government Orders and the method of recruitment of such categories of posts was notified by way of different executive orders," the spokesperson said.

Moreover, he said, that the delay in revisiting the earlier rules had resulted in stagnation of promotion avenues to various categories of Para-Medical positions

The spokesperson further said that the revised rules have also created promotion avenues for those categories of posts that had no promotion avenues or defined career progression.

"The introduction of new courses in different fields of the Health Care across the country and availability of manpower with improved qualification and technical expertise also necessitated the updation of the existing recruitment rules," he said.

"This step of the Government has been largely appreciated by the employees of the Health and Medical Education Department," he added.

2 Non-Locals Killed

gorge and shifted to sub district hospital Surankote from where he has been referred to GMC Associated Hospital Rajouri where he is undergoing treatment.

The injured has been identified as Jaskaran Singh son of Chanchal Singh resident of Sarwa colony, Yamuna Nagar in Haryana.

Officials further stated that two other men travelling in the ill fated vehicle have died whose bodies have been retrieved on Wednesday evening.

The deceased have been identified as Vivek Sharma and Narinder Bakshi—both residents of Haryana.

Meanwhile, police said to have taken up cognizance of the matter after registration of a case in police station Surankote—(KNO)

Militancy Won't End Till Govt Wins Hearts Of Kashmiris: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- Militancy in Kashmir will not end until the government wins the hearts of the people in the Valley and seeks a solution by talking to Pakistan, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said on Wednesday.

Condemning the killing of a police officer by militants in the city on Tuesday, he said people will keep on dying till a solution to the Kashmir issue is found.

The caravan of militancy will not end. Their (BJP) ministers and other leaders issue statements that it has ended, but I want to tell them that this will not end till you do not try to win the hearts of the people of Kashmir and seek its solution after talking to our neighbouring country, Abdullah told reporters at party headquarters Nawa-i-Subah' here.

Abdullah, who is the Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, condemned the killing of assistant sub-inspector of police Mushtaq Ahmad in the Lal Bazar area of the city.

His son was killed in 2020 by military (in an encounter). It is unfortunate that he (Ahmad) was killed by militants. We do not know who the killer is and who the saviour of the people here is. This is strange. We all condemn it and pray for him. We also pray for the family to bear this loss, he said.

The NC president sought a handsome compensation from the administration for the slain policeman's family so that they live with dignity.

Asked about the situation in Sri Lanka and whether something like that can happen in India, Abdullah said anything can happen .

God save us. We pray that we do not have to face such a situation. We also pray for the people of Sri Lanka that God take them out of these difficult times they are in. Also, may God let this government understand the sit-



uation so that they take steps to avoid it here, he said.

In response to a question on family planning, Abdullah said whether the government targets a particular community or anyone else, it should understand that India is a country with diversity.

This is a diverse country. Nothing is similar between Tamil Nadu and Kashmir — not food, not culture, not language, not even weather — but what keeps us together is that we have to progress together, and remove poverty, diseases and adversity.

The biggest aim was unity of India. We have to make diversity stronger, then only will there be unity. If we try to break this diversity, then this country will fall into misery and it will be very difficult to take it out from there, he added.

Abdullah took a dig at the administration for not allowing political parties to pay homage to July 13, 1931 martyrs.

It is unfortunate that they not only cancelled its holiday but also stopped people from paying their tributes. This is a huge mistake, he said.

Asked about the controversy over the national emblem, the NC president said all this will happen in slavery .

They can even run a road roller tomorrow. Pharaoh (an ancient ruler of Egypt) also did this. What had Pharaoh done? He persecuted people. But what happened then? So, let them do it, how much they want to. God is there and He will remain. He belongs to everyone and He is watching all this. A time will come and He will act, Abdullah said.

Transgenders In Kashmir See Ray Of Hope In Welfare Board

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Transgenders who have been facing multiple problems have pinned hopes on newly constituted transgender welfare board to protect their rights and interests.

Transgenders from different areas of Kashmir said that setting up a welfare committee is a welcome step and they are hopeful that the committee will work for their welfare.

Khushi Mir a transgender from Srinagar told a local news agency KNO that like a men and women have rights, transgenders must get their rights as well and there must a strict law against the persons who have been harassing transgenders.

"We are a marginalized community and have very limited opportunities to earn anything but whenever and wherever we go for any work, we are being treated differently and society and even sometimes our families

aren't accepting us," Mir said.

"If nobody gives us any opportunity to work then how can we manage our life as most of us don't have any shelter and are living in rented rooms," she added.

Bablu told KNO that 70 per cent transgenders are living in rented accommodations and have to pay room rent followed by electricity fee, water fee etc.

"The Government is providing us mere Rs 1000 per month but it is not possible for us to manage life on such a meagre amount," he added.

Similarly many others like them said that they are disowned by their families and need financial help, accommodation and psychological support.

"We are unable to earn anything, how will we pay rent and run ourselves and the government must look into it at an earliest," they said.

"There must be separate centres like health centers, ration depots," they demanded.

MeT Predicts More Downpour In J&K For Two Days

Abid Bhat/KO



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Weatherman on Wednesday forecast light to moderate rain and thunderstorm in Jammu and Kashmir for two days.

"Light to moderate rain/thunderstorm at many places of Jammu & Kashmir," a meteorological department official said about the forecast, adding, "Same weather is likely to continue for next 1-2 days."

He said that during last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, 3.6 mm of rainfall was recorded in Kupwara, 0.5mm in Gulmarg and 2.1 mm in Baderwah

while Jammu had traces.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a low of 18.8°C against 18.7°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.7°C above normal during this time of the year for the summer capital, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 17.2°C against 16.0°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 12.8°C same as on the previous night and it was 0.8°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort. Koker-nag recorded a low of 16.6°C against 15.5°C last night and it

was 0.7°C above normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 11.5°C against 10.5°C and it was 0.3°C below normal for the place. Kupwara town saw a low of 16.1°C against 17.1°C on previous night and it was 0.3°C 'below' usual for this time of the season, the official said.

Jammu recorded a low of 27.2°C, 2.4°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 18.4°C, Batote 19.7°C, Katra 23.8°C while Baderwah had a minimum of 20.1°C, the official added.(GNS)

Historic Event Of July 13 Can Never Be Erased: PAGD

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The historic event of martyrdom of July 13, 1931 when 22 Kashmiris were killed by the army of a Dogra ruler can never be erased from history, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) said on Wednesday.

The PAGD also appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to unitedly raise their voice for a better future and dignified life.

For the third consecutive year, no function was held to commemorate the Martyrs' Day on July 13 in Kashmir to pay homage to 22 Kashmiri people.

The alliance of six mainstream political parties, including the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), said on this day, 91 years ago, 22 brave souls protesting against the tyranny of the autocracy were martyred.

This historic event had shaken the foundations of the then op-

pressive power structure. This unprecedented incident proved to be a milestone in the long road of the people's struggle for justice. Thus it marked the beginning of the mass awakening in Kashmir. The barbaric killings of protesters shocked and infuriated the people who challenged the autocratic rule, PAGD spokesman M Y Tarigami said in a statement.

He said the uprising against the tyranny and autocratic ruler laid a strong edifice for unifying the people, rising above narrow considerations that finally culminated in initiating a process of their empowerment.

The supreme sacrifices by the martyrs led to the dawning of a new era in the region, he said, adding, the historic event can never be erased.

Despite brazen assault on legitimate constitutional rights and suppression of civil liberties, democratic rights, curbing the

media, indiscriminate arrests of political activists and youth under draconian laws like UAPA, PSA, people cannot be silenced for long, Tarigami said.

The alliance spokesperson said the economy of the region is worsening , despite tall promises of development, investment and job creation.

The fact remains, the erstwhile state of J&K lags far behind. Instead of creating new job opportunities, daily wagers, contractual employees, casual labourers, scheme workers and others are either not getting their wages regularly or are being altogether denied their dues, he said.

Tarigami said the PAGD appeals to all the sections of communities and regions to close their ranks and unitedly raise their voice for a better future and dignified life.

United voice remains the only option i.e. the real tribute to these great martyrs, he added.

Mehta Reviews Stock Position Of Petroleum Products In Valley

Asks For Strengthening Of ATF Stocks To Meet The Rising Demand

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, reviewed stock position of Petroleum Products including ATF in the valley, here on Wednesday.

Financial Commissioner (ACS), Home, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and

IGP, Traffic, J&K, among others participated in the meeting.

Considering increase in the air traffic at the Srinagar International Airport as a sequel to busier tourist season this year, including the Hajj flights, the Chief Secretary observed that there is need to strengthen the stock position of the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to meet the rising demand. While reviewing the status, the

Chief Secretary asked IGP Traffic to facilitate the exit of empty ATF trucks by 2PM from Qazi Gund so that fresh ATF stocks could be brought back in the valley.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary was also apprised about the stock position of other petroleum products including LPG, etc. It was informed that the stocks of all items are being maintained at desirable level and are adequate.

BJP Made Amarnath Yatra A Political Issue: Mehbooba



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti Wednesday accused the Union government of turning Amarnath Yatra a "political issue" by allowing people to go on the pilgrimage in numbers far more in excess of what was recommended by a committee.

The Peoples Democratic Party leader hit out at the Centre over the Amarnath flash flood which left 16 people dead and over 30 missing, saying the environmental conditions do not permit more than 5,000 pilgrims a day to visit the cave shrine.

Mehbooba, a former Jammu & Kashmir chief minister, said the BJP made the yatra a political issue, instead of letting it stay a religious one.

The environment does not permit more than 5,000 pilgrims every day, but they sent thousands of people there. The result was that the cloudburst took place, she said addressing a party function here.

The PDP president alleged that the administration was hiding the actual number of deaths

in the incident that took place on Friday.

We still do not know, because they are not telling the truth. They are saying 15-16 were killed, but several people are missing. The way motorcycles, dead horses are coming out of the debris, and many people are still missing, it seems there is a huge loss, more than what they are saying, she said.

Mehbooba said the government allowed way more people than were recommended by a committee, only out of stubbornness.

They kept on saying seven lakh people will come and that it will go on for two months, even as there is a committee report which said not more than 5,000 people should go up in a day, not more than 1 lakh in total, and the yatra should go on for just a month, she said.

It seems that they feel J-K does not belong to them, but to someone in the neighbourhood. They do not accept our accession, which was done on an equal level, they think we are someone else's territory, which they have now taken over, Mehbooba said.

DC Kulgam Reviews Arrangements For Aharbal Festival

Observer News Service

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Wednesday convened a meeting of Officers at mini-secretariat here to review arrangements for mega tourism festival scheduled to be held at Aharbal tourist destination.

During the meeting, arrangements for different activities including cultural programmes, transportation, trekking, sports events, installation of stalls and other activities were reviewed.

The DC directed all the concerned officers to make fool proof arrangements to make the said event attractive and successful.

It is worth mentioning here that the District Administration is focused to promote the unexplored tourist destination in the district and is organising a series of tourism activities and festivals in the district to boost the tourism sector.

The meeting was attended by JD-Planning, SDM-Noorabad, ACR, Ex. Engineer ADA, DFO, Tehsildar, TO and other officers.

ASI Mushtaq Ahmed 11th Cop To Die Since January

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: They can be easily spotted in a bustling marketplace buying vegetables or dropping their children to school. The everyday ordinariness of their lives has rendered the Jammu and Kashmir police personnel "soft targets", as they fight a seemingly endless battle against militancy in the valley.

Assistant Sub-Inspector Mushtaq Ahmad Tuesday became the 49th victim of militant violence in the past over six months in Jammu and Kashmir, where militant attacks on soft targets have shown an upward trend despite successful counter-insurgency operations by the security forces.

Ahmad (56) was killed and his two subordinates – constables Fayaz Ahmad and Abu Bakar – were injured when militants opened fire on their patrol at Lal Bazar on the outskirts of Srinagar.

He is the 11th state policeman to have been shot dead by militants in Kashmir since January, officials said on Wednesday. Six army personnel and five paramilitary jawans have also laid down their lives this year taking the total number of fallen security personnel to 22.

Last year, a total of 42 security force personnel were killed in the valley. Of them, 21 were from the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Ironically, Ahmad's son Aaqib Mushtaq, an alleged "terrorist associate" was killed in an encounter in Kulgam in April 2020.

Among the 49 victims of militant violence, 27 are civilians who fell to targeted attacks in different parts of the valley, setting off panic among Kashmiri migrant pandit employees engaged under Prime Minister's employment package and Dogra staffers who are on strike since May demanding relo-

cation from Kashmir to Jammu.

According to a police official, militants are looking for soft targets to make their presence felt without encountering much trouble.

The officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said since the state police constituted the first line of defence, they were in the line of militant fire.

"Police is spread thin. It is the first line of defence. The Army is deeply entrenched in camps and rightly so as Army is the last resort," he said.

"We are everywhere, we are easy targets. We have to go to our homes, get vegetables from market, drops kids at schools. We are soft targets," he added. Quite a few of the felled police personnel like constable Ghulam Hassan, who was shot dead on May 7, were unarmed. Others like constable Saifullah Qadri were enjoying familial bliss when their lives were cut short by militants' bullets.

Qadri was shot dead outside his home, while his seven-year-old daughter was injured in the attack. The 27 civilians killed by militants included government employees belonging to minority communities like Rahul Bhat and Rajni Bala who were shot dead in their respective places of posting in Budgam and Kulgam districts on May 12 and May 31, respectively.

Officials said stepped up counter-insurgency operations neutralised 133 militants across Jammu and Kashmir since January this year with June accounting for the highest 35 militant fatalities.

While 66 militants were eliminated between March and May, 22 were killed in January and seven others in February, they said, adding three militants were shot dead in the first two weeks of the current month.

Education Sector In J&K Achieves Landmark Strides By Effective Implementation Of Schemes & Projects: Govt

25000 Seats Added With Establishment Of 50 New Colleges In One Year, Making It Largest Seat Addition In Last 70 Years

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The education sector of J&K has achieved landmark strides in last few years by effectively implementing all schemes and projects envisaging a notable improvement in the existing curriculum besides embarking upon various innovative new projects and works.

With an aim to reform the educational ecosystem and infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, the largest single addition of education capacity in 70 years was done with the addition of new 25000 seats in 50 new colleges in one year only.

The focus of the Government has been value-based education; creating an environment for individual growth apart from scientific and technological knowledge. The education sector in UT is being reformed to meet the requirements of the rapidly transforming education system and the changing market dynamics.

The shift in the curriculum at University and Colleges can have a decisive impact on the socio-economic environment of J&K. The department is working to create a perfect

balance between students and teachers for shaping the young minds through a value-based knowledge system.

Speaking at a book launch function organised by NAAC in collaboration with the Central University of Kashmir (CUK), Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said that the Universities and Colleges have immense power and a small shift in curriculum can have a decisive impact on the socio-economic environment.

Highlighting the need to introduce new reforms to meet the requirements of the rapidly transforming education system and the changing market dynamics, the Lieutenant Governor said, "The University and Colleges have immense power and a small shift in the curriculum can have a decisive impact on the socio-economic environment".

Manoj Sinha has said that the administration is paying 'sustained attention' to bring quality education to the underprivileged section of the society who were long deprived of their rights. "With implementation of NEP, national pattern of syllabus followed by other states and Union Territories will be introduced in Jammu and Kashmir. Syllabus and format approved by the University Grants Commission (UGC) will be applicable in the UT," he said.

"Be it in terms of syllabus, study formats, educational courses, exam pattern etc, Jammu and Kashmir will not only implement the National Education Policy but will become at par with national standards", he added.

With the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, more than 2500

kindergartens were established and another 2000 are being established under Capex Budget. 80,000 students are already enrolled in pre-primary classes in 9000 Government primary schools.

In Jammu and Kashmir, 16 colleges have been finalized for option of Skill Development Programme along with Under Graduation courses.

The New Education Policy contains features of equity, quality, affordability, accountability and promotes individual development through experience based education and logical thinking. The policy aims to recognize, identify and foster the unique capabilities of each student by sensitizing teachers as well as parents to promote each student's holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres.



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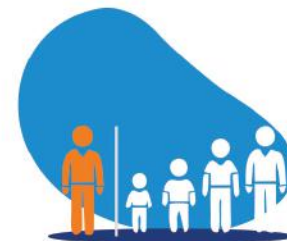
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