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Hook Me Not!

J&K Has Highest Number Of Unmarried Youth In India: Report

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: A latest report from the Ministry of Statistics and programme implementation has observed that in 2019, J&K had the highest percentage share of youth who never married. According to the report titled "Youth in India, 2022", in 2019, 29.1 percent of youth in J&K were those who never married with the highest number recorded among males. For male gender, the percentage stood at 30.1 percent in 2019 while for

females, it stood at 28.1 percent. As per the report, J&K is followed by Uttar Pradesh (26.7 percent), Delhi (26.5 percent) and Punjab (25 percent). The report further said that the lowest was observed in Kerala (18.3 percent), Tamil Nadu (20.2 percent), Andhra Pradesh (20.7 percent) and Himachal Pradesh (20.8 percent). The national record, the report noted, stood at 23 percent with 26.1 percent men and 19.9 percent women falling under the "who never married" category.

NOT KEEN ON HOOKING UP (Age Group: 15-29 years)									
India	Total			Male			Female		
	2011	2015	2019	2011	2015	2019	2011	2015	2019
India	17.2	20	23	20.8	23.4	26.1	13.5	16.4	19.9
Highest percentage share of youth population who are never married									
J&K	25.3	25.9	29.1	27.1	28.1	30.1	23.5	23.3	28.1
UP	19.7	23.1	26.7	22.8	25.9	29.2	16.2	20	24.2
Delhi	20.3	22.1	26.5	22.7	24.7	28.5	17.3	12.1	24.2
Punjab	19.7	21.4	25	22.8	24.4	27.8	16.3	17.8	21.7
Lowest percentage share of youth population who are never married									
Kerala	15.8	17	18.3	20.5	21.4	22.8	11.6	12.8	14.2
Tamil Nadu	16.9	18.8	20.2	20.8	22.5	23.6	13	15.1	16.8
Andhra Pradesh	14.9	18.4	20.7	19.1	21.9	24.5	10.7	14.5	16.8
Himachal Pradesh	18.7	18.6	20.8	22.2	21.7	23.9	15.4	15.5	17.8

Interestingly, the figures have come at a time when J&K's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has hit a

grueling demographic milestone as the erstwhile state has fifth lowest Total Fertility rate (TFR) in

the country besides the women's TFR slipping below the replacement-level by 0.6 percent. A superficial look at the figures clearly indicates that the percentage share of young people who are not married is on the rise in J&K with the trend being common among both men and women. The percentage of youth who are never married has shown an increasing trend in J&K from 25.3 percent in 2011 to 29.1 percent in 2019. The ministry of statistics and programme implementation

classifies persons between the age group of 15 and 29 years as 'youth'. According to the report, in J&K, for the age group (including both males and females) of 15-19, 9.5 percent are "who never married", for the 20-24 age group, the number was recorded at 10.7 percent and for 25-29, the percentage stood at 8.9 percent. The report has also said that India's population, which reached 1211 million in 2011 and projected to reach 1363 million in 2021, was one of the youngest in the **More on P6**

Covid Spikes In J&K, 165 Test Positive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The daily Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir continue to show a spike as 165 more people tested positive for virus on Thursday, even as no fresh fatality was reported in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, Jammu division registered 112 fresh cases of Covid-19 while 53 others were detected from parts of the Kashmir Valley, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K 456456.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar detected 43 new cases of virus, Ganderbal five, Anantnag two and Pulwama, Baramulla and Kupwara reported one case each. No cases of infection were **More on P6**

1.10 Lakh Trees Axed For Srinagar Ring Road: NHAI

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: More than 1.10 lakh private trees of Apple, Chinar, Walnut, Mulberry among other species valued at Rs 13.76 crore have been chopped down by the NHAI to lay down the Srinagar Ring Road, an RTI reply has revealed. The response received by RTI activist Raman Sharma from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on his queries said over 1,200 more private trees which form the lush green cover of the Valley will be chopped down in the coming days to build the new tarmac around Srinagar. The NHAI did not give any estimate of the cost that will be incurred on planting trees along the ring road and said the project is under construction. It further said no plantation has been done till date and that it shall be carried out at later stage. According to the NHAI, 50,616 trees along avenue and 25,308 trees along median are to be planted as a contract agreement with the EPC contractor for the Srinagar Ring Road project. The 42.10 km project with a cost of Rs 939.41 crore was awarded by the NHAI to a private company on engineering, procurement and construction

(EPC) mode in 2018.

The ring road and bypass project traversing through 52 villages and five districts, including Pulwama, Budgam, Baramulla, Srinagar and Bandipora, was to be built in 36 months.

The entire greenfield alignment has been proposed on the western side of Srinagar to provide connectivity to the habitation on that side and provide smooth and easy traffic flow in and around the city.

As part of the similar ring road project in Jammu, 5,707 trees of Chir, Garna, Kamala, Ber, Shisham, Parli, Amla among others will be axed but no "afforestation" will be done by NHAI, the RTI said.

No such compensatory afforestation to be done by NHAI according to the forest clearance obtained under the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Conservation Act, it said.

"However, median and avenue plantation as per IRC SP:21:2009 by the provision plantation shall be done along Jammu Ring Road," it said.

The Indian Road Congress (IRC), an apex body of highway engineers in the country, came out with the standard code procedure related to all aspects of design, **More on P6**



HOWEVER, MEDIAN AND AVENUE plantation as per IRC SP:21:2009 by the provision plantation shall be done along Jammu Ring Road."



A group of tourists walking through fairy meadow of Sonmarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on a rainy day Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

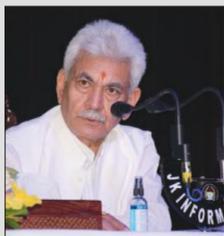
AMARNATH FLASH FLOODS

Rescue Ops Called Off, 15 Dead; None Missing: LG

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said the rescue operations launched following a flashflood near the Amarnath cave shrine -- that left 15 people dead -- has been called off and there was no report of any person missing.

Referring to reports about several persons missing in the aftermath of the flashflood on July 8, Sinha said the helpline number of the shrine board had received about 200 calls and it took some time to track the yatris as their mobile phones were switched off.



Fifteen pilgrims have lost their lives and all have been identified. Fifty-five persons were injured and all, except two, have been discharged and have gone home, Sinha told reporters **More on P6**

Yatra Suspended Due To Bad Weather

A marnath Yatra was suspended on both routes on Thursday due to bad weather as rains lashed the Kashmir Valley, officials said. The yatra was temporarily suspended from Pahalgam as well as Baltal routes in the morning and no pilgrim was allowed to move towards the holy cave shrine, they said. The officials **More on P6**

NATIPORA YOUTH'S 'CUSTODIAL KILLING'

Family Moves Court, Seeks Probe

Auqib Javed

SRINAGAR: Six days after a youth died under mysterious circumstances in Natipora area of the city, the mother of the deceased on Thursday filed a petition before a local court here seeking a probe into the alleged custodial killing of her son.

The petition filed by Advocate Tasaduq Hussain Reshi on Shafiq's behalf sought directions to the Station House Officer (SHO) Crime Branch, Srinagar to lodge an FIR under relevant Provisions of law against "accused persons" and all other unidentified police officials who allegedly tortured Muslim.

The petition also sought direction to the SSP Crime Branch, Srinagar to constitute SIT and conduct in depth investigation into **More on P6**

official and initiated an inquiry into the death of the youth.

Meanwhile, Muslim's mother Shafiq has moved a petition before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) seeking a probe into the alleged custodial killing of her son.

The petition filed by Advocate Tasaduq Hussain Reshi on Shafiq's behalf sought directions to the Station House Officer (SHO) Crime Branch, Srinagar to lodge an FIR under relevant Provisions of law against "accused persons" and all other unidentified police officials who allegedly tortured Muslim.

The petition also sought direction to the SSP Crime Branch, Srinagar to constitute SIT and conduct in depth investigation into **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S

Govt Transfers 5 JKAS Officers

Observer News Service

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday transferred five JKAS officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect. According to an order issued by the government, Umar Shafi Pandit, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Noorabad, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Noorabad, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director, J&K Institute of Management, **More on P6**

Landslide Kills Father, Son In Reasi

Press Trust Of India

A man and his son were killed in a landslide in a remote village in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Thursday. Mohammad Shafi (65) and his son Abdul Rashid (30) were on the way home when they came under a landslide, triggered by rains, at Thillu-Kalad village in Arnas area Wednesday evening, they said. Villagers retrieved the bodies of both the deceased from under the debris, **More on P6**

Falling Tree Kills Youth In Kulgam

Observer News Service

A youth died on Thursday after coming under a falling tree in Damhal Hanjipora village of South Kashmir's Kulgam district. 21-year-old Ubair Ahmad Kumar of Pranhall died after he **More on P6**

Man Injured In Bear Attack

Observer News Service

A man was attacked and injured by a black bear on Thursday in South Kashmir's Shopian district. Nazir Ahmed Chohan of Chek Ramnagri was passing through an orchard in his native village when a black bear attacked him, reports said. The man, reports said, sustained critical injuries and was shifted to District Hospital Shopian where doctors referred him to SMHS Hospital Srinagar.

Mehta Launches e-UNNAT Portal In J&K

Observer News Service

The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday launched the Unified, Integrated, Accessible and Transparent (e-UNNAT) services portal for Jammu and Kashmir. The portal provides a single sign-on to allow access to all government services on a single platform and does away with the need of visiting numerous portals having repetitive registrations, an official spokesperson said. **More on P6**

10 Gamblers Held In Twin Raids: Police

Observer News Service

Ten gamblers were arrested during input driven raids in the twin districts of Budgam and Baramulla in the Valley, police said Thursday. Bashir Ahmed Shah, Ab Rashid Hajam, Mohammad Younis Dar, Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh and Bashir Ahmed Teli were arrested by police during a raid near a graveyard in Ompora area of Budgam district, a police spokesperson said Thursday. Besides playing cards, he said, an amount of Rs 8,467 **More on P6**

AstraZeneca, Pfizer Vaccines Saved Over 1.2 Crore Lives In First Year: Study

Press Trust Of India

The AstraZeneca and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines saved over 1.2 crore lives, while India's indigenous Covaxin averted over 3.7 lakh deaths in the first year of the global immunisation campaign, according to a modelling study. Researchers at UK-based life-sciences data firm, Airfinity, found that the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines saved the most lives among all approved preventives. Last month, a study on excess deaths from 185 countries and territories by the Imperial College London, UK, calculated that COVID-19 vaccines saved around 2 crore lives between December 2020 and December 2021. Airfinity has added further analysis to this work using its unique time series data set on vaccine distribution. Taking Imperial College London's research on deaths averted per country, the



analysts examined which vaccines were administered in each country to determine the breakdown of lives saved per vaccine. Using this methodology, the analysis found that AstraZeneca, known as Covishield in India, saved 6,341,861 (over 63 lakh) lives and Pfizer/BioNTech around 5,979,743 (over 59 lakhs) lives. Sinovac followed with 20 lakh lives saved while Mod-

erna saved 17 lakh lives, the researchers said. Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech's Covaxin was at number 8 in the order of the lives saved, averting 371,591 (over 3.7 lakh) deaths. There was no separate data available for the number of lives saved by Covishield, one of the two main vaccines used in India alongside Covaxin. "AstraZeneca and Pfizer/BioNTech both succeeded in scaling

up production quickly and delivering doses before other manufacturers, Airfinity's Analytics Director Matt Linley said in a statement. "AstraZeneca may have saved the most lives due to where its primary series was distributed and who received it. Its vaccines first went to older age groups in high income countries and nations with less robust health care systems. "Both factors would have resulted in averting more deaths in the first year of vaccinations," Linley said. The imperial college London's study, published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal, had found that COVID-19 vaccines prevented over 42 lakh potential deaths in India in 2021. Globally, the study, based on excess deaths from 185 countries and territories, found that in the first year of the vaccination programme, 1.98 crore out of a potential 3.14 crore COVID-19 deaths were prevented worldwide.

OBITUARY

We miss you dadu

The warmth and care that has been missing
 For the person we have been reminiscing
 A look into the past



The memories are vast
 Talking lovingly and telling stories
 Part of our life were the queries
 The place of yours is irreplaceable

Your memories are inerasable
 Our love will never decrease
 May Allah help you to rest in peace

FROM : WAFAA AND MAREEHAH



COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR)
 Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001

Advt. No. 04/2022

CSIR invites applications/nominations for the position of DIRECTOR, CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow; CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu; CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP), Dehradun; CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory (CSIR-NML), Jamshedpur; and CSIR-Institute of Mineral and Material Technology (CSIR-IMMT), Bhubaneswar, in Level 15 of pay-matrix (Rs.1,82,200-2,24,100) plus allowances as applicable in CSIR.

For eligibility criteria and other conditions, please see the detailed/complete advertisement No. 04/2022 on CSIR website www.csir.res.in. Applications/nominations may be sent along with complete bio-data and list of publications/patents etc. through email on email ID drc@csir.res.in or by post to Director Recruitment Cell, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001. The last date of the receipt of applications is **16.08.2022**.

CBC-36202/12/0003/2223

Notice For General Public

It is information for the general public that in my passport bearing No K5571071 issued on 27-04-2012, the Fathers name was wrongly entered as Ghulam Hussain Bhat while in other document my parentage entered as GH HUSSAIN, now I want its correction, in this regard if any body having any objection may contact Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of 7 days, no objection shall be entertained after that.
SHUJA HUSSAIN
S/O GH HUSSAIN
R/O WAHADATPORA BUDGAM
CELL. 9906774954 **mcb**

Maharishi Markandeshwar University Haryana

Established under Haryana Govt act No 29 of 2010 and approved by the UGC Under Section 22 of the UGC act and accordingly (NAAC)

Result Notification DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

This is to certify that Mr. Zahoor Abbas, Registration No 17-MMGS-9264 has been declared eligible for the award of Ph.D Degree in chemistry on the basis of the evaluation report of the external examinees supervisor and his performance at the viva Voice held on 18th June 2022. The title of his Ph.D thesis is "Synthesis, Characterization and Biological Activities of Organotin Complexes". The degree will be conferred upon him at the forth coming convocation of the university



Shri S.P. Baghsu
 Controller Of Examination

FKO

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (I&FC) Division Sopore

Tele-fax 01954222282 email: irrigationspri@gmail.com

Short Term e-NIT No: 08 of 2022-23 Dated: - 13-07-2022

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-Tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Jammu and Kashmir UT Government, for the works listed in Annexure "A" to this NIT. The NIT consisting of Qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, 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

1	Publishing Date	13/07/2022
2	Download Date Start	13/07/2022
3	Tender Submission date Start	14/07/2022 (from 10:00 A.M)
4	Tender Submission date Ends	20/07/2022 (Upto 06:00 P.M)
5	Date of Opening	21/07/2022 (at 10:00 A.M)

Position of funds: Assured
 Position of A.A.A.: Accorded
 Position of T. S.: Assured
 NO: I&FC/ Sopore / NIT/2538-2564
 DATED: 13-07-2022

DIPK-5977/22

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (I&FC) Division Sopore

S. No.	Name of work	Estd. Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Head of Account	Cost of Tender document (In Rs.)
1	Flood protection work by way of providing R.R Masonry Retaining wall on Botingoo Nallah at village Botingoo near the house of Ab Majeed Bhat and others	5.01	10020	40 Days	CEE/ DEE	2711 M&R	600
2	Flood protection work by way of providing RR Masonry wall on Thannar Nallah at village Zaloor near the house of Ab Rashid Ganie and others.	4.47	8940	35 Days	DEE	2711 M&R	500
3	Repair and Maintenance of Chowkidar Hut at Head works Sonarwani of Zaingeer Canal.	4.00	8000	45 Days	DEE	2701 M&R	400
4	Construction of protection wall on Right side of Zaingeer canal at RD 3950 meters village Onagam.	3.59	7180	30 Days	DEE	2701 M&R	400
5	Construction of fall on MuqamPutkhakhul branch of DelinaWagorakhal at Village Muqam	2.54	5080	20 Days	DEE	2702 M&R	300
6	Construction of Delivery tank for LIS Kandimarg (ISD Pattan).	2.50	5000	20 Days	DEE	2702 M&R	300
7	Construction of Retaining wall at RD 2000 meters near steel flume on Bomai minor	1.46	2920	20Days	DEE	2702 M&R	200
8	Repair of Flume Dath at RD 550 meters on Bomai minor.	1.00	2000	10 Days	DEE	2702 M&R	200
9	Repair Renovation of Delivery tank at LIS K P Bala (ISD Pattan)	0.70	1400	10 Days	DEE	2702 M&R	200
10	Repairs of Neejkhai gate including Supporting walls	0.63	1260	08 Days	DEE	2702 M&R	200
11	Construction of Ghat, Yarbhal on Zaingeer Canal near the house of Showkat Hussain Peer Son of Gh Hasan Peer Mohalla ReshiporaBomaiaat RD 2500 Mtrs	0.50	1000	10 Days	DEE	2701 M&R	200
12	Restoration of leakages in Sultanpora Check I Harwan and KP Bala by way of laying of Polythene.	0.40	800	08 Days	DEE	2702 M&R	200
13	Providing of Wooden needles at various spots (ISD Pattan).	0.10	200	05 Days	DEE	2702 M&R	200

Sd/- Executive Engineer Jal-Shakti (I&FC) Division Sopore

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD SPILL CHANNEL DIVISION NARBAL

PIN No.193401

Email: floodspillchannelnarbal@gmail.com

Fax/Phone: 01951-260223

Notice inviting e-Tender

e- NIT No. 09 of 2022-23 Dated: 13/07/2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) on percentile basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors for the following works to be received by the Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal.

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	M.H
1	Construction of Bypass / Detour Regulator Gate at Mirgund (Balance Portion) including Re-sectioning of Sukhnag Nallah D/S Mirgund Gate	23.20 lacs	46400/-	1000/-	20days	CEE & BEE	Capex
2	Construction of Guide walls at Spots on Anum Khul	19.98 lacs	39960/-	900/-	15days	BEE	Capex

Position of AAA = Accorded, Position of TS = Sanctioned, Position of funds: Available
 The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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 date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13-07-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	13-07-2022 from 1800 Hrs
3.	Bid submission Start Date	13-07-2022 from 1800 Hrs
4.	Bid Submission End Date	20-07-2022 upto 1800 Hrs
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	21-07-2022 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal.
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	The bidder has to provide 3% of Adv. Cost as Performance Security within 7 days after opening of Financial Bid.

Note:-

- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall if any found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected
- As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectt. Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd. 07-06-2018 which reads as under:-
 a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of E-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
 b) The Cost of tenders should be collected by uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt.
 1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0701-Rev. Misc) and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal failing which the tender will be rejected outrightly. The issuing date of CDR/FDR uploaded must be between issuing date to Bid Submission end date of NIT. CDR/FDR (Earnest money/Bid security) and relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
 2. 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 Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal.
 3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
 4. The normal deposits to be deducted as per GFR 2017 rules from running bills to be released after total completion of the work.
 5. The tender opening authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or any part of any tender without assigning reason thereof.
 6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
 7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
 No. FSCDN/CS/2898-2921
 Dated: 13/07/2022.

DIPK-5965/22

Er. Zaffar Mustafa Khan
 Executive Engineer
 Flood Spill Channel Division Narba

Kashmir University Announces Summer Vacation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir has announced summer vacation of the main and satellite campuses for 9 days from July 23.

An official said that vacation will begin from July 23 and will be for 9 days.

He also said that the examinations slated during the vacation period will be held as per schedule

DC Reviews Land Allotment For IIM Off-Campus

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to expedite the process of allotment of land for Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Srinagar Off-campus, a meeting of concerned Officers was held under the Chairmanship of DC Srinagar, Mohammad Ajaz Asad.

The meeting held threadbare deliberations with regard to allotment of land for construction of IIM Srinagar.

Director Tourism Dr Ito gave his opinion about the intersection of a particular patch of land already designated for IIM with the Land under possession of the Tourism Department.

On the occasion, the DC asked the concerned Team of IIM and Revenue Department to conduct immediate joint field visits to the proposed

locations at Soiteng and Shalteng for on spot assessment for technical



feasibility to finalise the land for construction of IIM off Campus at Srinagar.

Chairman IIM Jammu's Srinagar Off-Campus Dr Muqbil Burhan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Srinagar, Raes Bhat, Deputy Director Higher Education Department, Tehsildar, Pantha Chowk and other concerned attended the meeting.



FAA Candidates Protest Alleged Scrapping Of Selection List

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Scores of candidates who qualified exam for the post of Finance Account Assistant (FAA) held by the Jammu & Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) held a protest on Press Colony on Thursday.

The protesting candidates alleged that there are rumors that the FAA selection list may be scrapped as it alleged that some candidates may have cheated in the exam.

Braving heavy rains, candidates raised slogans against the JKSSB and urged the LG administration to hold them accountable.

"After qualifying the exam we thought our unemployment woes would end but the rumors that the

entire selected list may be scrapped is giving us sleepless nights" said a protesting candidate.

"If some candidates have cheated in the exam, why should everyone among the selected candidates pay the price for their mistake" he questioned.

Another candidate also voiced his disappointment alleging rumor mongering is causing them mental harm.

"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".

"If the entire list is scrapped, it will leave a thousand youth unemployed, disheartened and disappointed" he said.

The protests which started during morning continued when the report was filed with candidates lighting candles to protest the possible scrapping of the list of the selected candidates.

The candidates urged the LG administration to take note of alleged mismanagement in the JKSSB which, according to them, has put the future of qualified candidates at stake.

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.

The exam for which was held in the month of March, 2022. JKSSB had published the merit list on 22nd April, 2022.

Admin Designates 200 Chemist Shops For Sale Of Anti Tuberculosis Drugs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Administration on Thursday notified about 200 Chemist Shops of Srinagar District for sale of Anti Tuberculosis Drugs in order to provide easy access to TB Patients for Anti Tubercular Treatment (ATT) medicines under National Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination Programme.

According to the Notification issued by Assistant Drug Controller, the Srinagar District has been divided into 6 zones for stocking and sale of Anti Tuberculosis Drugs.

Accordingly, 30 Chemist Shops in Zone-I comprising areas of Nishat, Nehru Park,

Dalgate, Sonwar, Lal Chowk, HSHS, Fateh Kadal, Maisuma, Gow Kadal and Khankahi Mohalla have been notified,

in Zone-II comprises of Khayam, Nowpora, Munawarabad, Khanyar, Nowhata, Rainawari, Saidkadal, Nigeen, Hazratbal, Naseem Bagh, Kanitar, Lal Bazar, Alamgari Bazar, hawal, Gojwara, Rajouri Kadal, NawaKadal, Aali Kadal, Kawdara, Bohri Kadal 36 Chemist shops have been designated for stock and sale of the ATT medicines.

In Zone-III, as many as 30 Chemist Shops in the areas of Batpora, Danihama, Chatterhama, Khimber, Rangpora, New Thead, Burzhama, Gulab Bagh, Zakura and

Zoonimar have been designated for sale of ATT medicines.

Similarly, in Zone-IV, 36 Chemist Shops in the areas of Karan Nagar, Nawab Bazar, Safa Kadal, Qamarwari, Chotta Bazar and Darish Kadal have been designated for the purpose while 30 Medical shops falling in areas of Batmaloo, Bemina, HMT, Shalteng, Maloora, Tengpora and Gangbuh have been kept in Zone-V.

Further, 31 Medical shops areas in Zone-VI including Rajbagh, Pantha Chowk, Sanat nagar, Hyderpora, Rawalpora, Barzulla, LD Hospital, HazariBagh, Magarmal Bagh and Opp Iqbal Park have also been notified for the sale of Anti Tuberculosis Drugs.

Driver Who Made "Heroic U-turn" To Save Woman Identified

Agencies

Srinagar: The driver whose video had gone viral a couple of days ago making almost a Heroic U-turn, while saving the life of a negligent female pedestrian in Srinagar has been finally identified.

The young man is from the Bemina area of Srinagar city and has done B.Tech in Civil Engineering.

Faizan Zeeshan said that it was his sheer luck and kindness from the Almighty that he was able to show his presence of mind.

Pertinently, a video from Srinagar-Baramulla Highway near Lawaypora went viral in which one can see the skillful driver saving the life of a woman who crosses the busy road blindly mak-

ing an 'impossible' U-turn.

The video has been watched by millions of netizens and the presence of mind of the driver has been widely appreciated.

"It was by the grace of God that I managed to save the life of the woman, my friend and myself. It all happened in a fraction of a few seconds but I request all my brothers not to make it a trend and avoid over-speeding," Faizan said.

He said he was driving on a four-lane and had never expected any pedestrian to cross the road so blindly.

Faizan appealed to the government to draw 'Zebra-Crossings' on roads for pedestrians.

He said the execution was perfect and everything went as per the situation.

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Opposite Presentation Convent School, Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008, J&K

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS (E-NIT)

Tender Reference No: 102 of 2022

Dt: 09-07-2022

For and on behalf of Managing Director, JKHPMC Ltd., fresh e-Tenders under "Two Cover System" are invited from Firms/Companies/Proprietary Agencies for the "Request for Proposal for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Equipment Including construction work for Fruit and Vegetable Processing Centre at Dabagh, Baramulla, J&K".

The RFP Document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the JK Govt. website https://jktenders.gov.in/nicgep/app from 09-07-2022 to 06-08-2022. The Critical Details of the e-Tender under reference are as follows:

CRITICAL DETAILS

Project cost	Rs. 4.17 Crore (Rupees Four Crore Seventeen Lakhs only)
Cost of Tender Document Fees	Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) + 18% GST
Bid Security (Earnest Money Deposit)	Rs. 4.17 Lacs (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty Four thousand only) to be submitted along with the RFP.
Date of up-load of e-tender	09-07-2022
Pre-Bid meeting	16-07-2022 (3 PM IST)
Last Date of Online Bid submission	06-08-2022 (6 PM IST)
Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	08-08-2022 (4 PM IST)
Estimated Completion Time of the Project	180 Days
Validity of the Bid	120 days from the date of receipt of the Tender

DIPK-NB-2364/22

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Managing Director JKHPMC

Regd. No. A-2586

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- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
15- Zil- Hajj
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 48
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:47
ISHA	9: 26

This Day In History

- 11099 - City of Jerusalem is captured and plundered by Christian forces during the First Crusade
- 1205 - Pope Innocent III states Jews are doomed to perpetual servitude and subjugation due to crucifixion of Jesus
- 1207 - King John of England expels Canterbury monks for supporting Archbishop of Canterbury Stephen Langton.
- 1240 - A Novgorodian army led by Alexander Nevsky defeats the Swedes in the Battle of the Neva
- 1307 Duke Henrik of Corinthia chosen as King of Bohemia
- 1381 John Ball, a leader in the Peasants' Revolt, is hung, drawn and quartered in the presence of Richard II of England
- Battlefield of Grunwald
- 1410 - Battle of Grunwald (First Battle of Tannenberg, Battle of Zalgiris), one of Medieval Europe's largest battles during Poland-Lithuanian Teutonic War. Polish King Wladystaw Jagiello and Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas defeat Teutonic Ulrich von Jungingen
- 1915 - The Austro-German forces launch an offensive along the Eastern Front
- 1918 - World War I: Second Battle of Marne begins
- 1923 - Italian parliament accepts new constitution
- 1940 - Physicist Donald Kerst becomes the first person to accelerate electrons using electromagnetic induction, reaching energies of 2.3 MeV, when his betatron device (for particle acceleration) becomes operational
- Event of interest/Event of Interest
- 1941 - Howard Florey and Norman Heatley present freeze dried mold cultures (Penicillin)
- 1941 - Britain's MAUDE Report edited by James Chadwick approved, concludes an atomic bomb is feasible
- 1948 - US President Harry Truman nominated for another term (Philadelphia)
- 1955 - 18 Nobel laureates sign the Mainau Declaration against nuclear
- 1959 - The US steel strike of 1959 begins, leading to significant importation of foreign steel for the first time in United States history.

From KO Archives

Azad's Move Against Corruption

Politicians Come Under SVO Scanner

Srinagar: After getting the go ahead from the chief minister, the state vigilance organization (SVO) formally initiated moves to gather details about the assets of Valley politicians. The SVO is planning to put its plan into action very soon.

During a departmental conference of the SVO, the chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad had indicated that the organisation could extend its reach to politicians, and later it got the formal nod.

The SVO is learnt to have begun compiling details of the incomes of the state's politicians, political functionaries and workers with a view to determine their movable and immovable property.

Sources said that the SVO would try to gather information about the property of these politicians before and after they assumed public office.

The SVO has formulated several teams and put them to work under cover. The teams will gather data about the incomes of politicians holding office in government departments and on the basis of this record the SVO will tighten the ring around wrongdoers.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a top officer of the SVO said that though the organization had intended to lay its hands on politicians as well, it was waiting for the green signal from the government.

"And that finally came from the chief minister," he said. According to reports, several politicians are feeling the ground slipping beneath their feet at the chief minister's decision, and have begun to transfer their property to other names. They have begun the process of shifting valuables and luxurious items to the homes of their relatives.

(Kashmir Observer, 15 July, 2007)

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K O V I E W

Lanka Lesson

Sri Lanka's once all-powerful President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has fled the island nation, which is reeling under an unprecedented economic crisis. He boarded a military aircraft and landed in neighbouring Maldives from where he has headed to Singapore in a Saudi plane. His younger brother and former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa, who is a dual citizen with an American passport, is also believed to have fled the country after his initial attempts to leave through Colombo airport were foiled by the immigration authorities. Former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa is believed to be still in the country. The downfall of the Rajapaksa family has been spectacular. Until last year, the Rajapaksa brothers were considered heroes for the success of the government run by them to defeat the Tamil insurgency and recapture the area which for around decades was a de-facto independent Tamil state in the island nation. But the Rajapaksa family's instant fall from grace has been brought about by the prevailing economic crisis in the country.

The last few months have pushed the country to the verge of economic ruin. The country has faced a severe shortage of foreign currency leaving it unable to pay for essential imports, including fuel. This has led to power cuts lasting up to 15 hours. The country is also beset with shortages and soaring inflation. Though country is in talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a loan programme, devaluing its currency in the process, there has been no headway so far.

One of the major aggravating factors has also been the ongoing war in Ukraine, which has triggered worldwide inflation and a shortage of fuel and food supplies. And this is happening at a time when the world economy was gradually recovering from the debilitating fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic. The countries were slowly opening up and letting the economy function normally. International travel was also returning to pre-pandemic levels. Take for instance India which was taking steps toward a self-reliant economy also called Atmanirbharta. But the war has unraveled it all somewhat. It has set off destabilizing factors that are beyond any country's control as long as the war continues. More so, in case of the smaller, fragile states like Sri-Lanka. On the ground, this has translated into loss of lakhs of jobs at a time when the country was already reeling from rampant unemployment. Coupled with inflation, this has made for a combustible situation leading to nationwide protests and occupation of the residences of the president Rajapaksa. The country has plunged into a state of chaos. If anything, the desperate state of affairs in Sri Lanka should be a wake-up call for us in India. The Ukraine war has also affected us badly, triggering steep inflation. The union government needs to get its act right if we are to prevent the situation from getting any worse.

OTHER OPINION

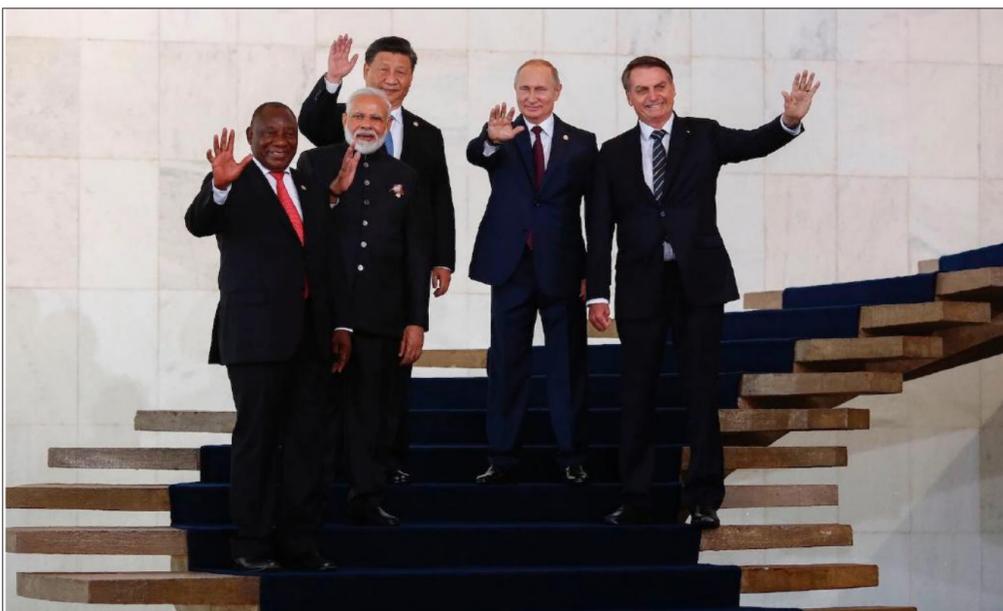
Staying watchful

Year-on-year inflation in oils and fats decelerated last month by a whopping 390 basis points to 9.4%, with the index shrinking 0.7% on a sequential basis. And prices of pulses contracted both from a year earlier and the preceding month. The other major positive sign of a policy measure translating to softer prices was with transportation fuels. The Centre's reduction of excise duty on petrol and diesel in May manifested in a significant easing in inflation in the transport and communication index: year-on-year, the rate slowed by 260 basis points to 6.9%, while sequentially it shrank by 120 basis points.

Still, it would be way too premature for policymakers to drop their guard. With nine of the 12 items in the food and beverages basket, representing almost 80% of the sub index and spanning cereals, milk and meat to vegetables, sugar and spices, experiencing sequential price gains, the Government would need to maintain vigil to ward off any build-up of inflationary pressures in consumers' kitchens. Year-on-year inflation in cereals, meat and milk all accelerated in June from May's pace, and price gains in vegetables still remained in double digits at 17.4%. The progress of monsoon rains give hope that the prices of farm produce may moderate in the coming months, provided the extreme rainfall and flooding seen in some States does not adversely hit crop growing regions. And while an appreciable softening in global crude oil prices in recent sessions offers some respite, the rupee's sharp depreciation against the dollar means India will continue to face the spectre of 'imported inflation' as the bill for imports, including crude, keeps rising. The decision of the GST Council to raise tariffs on a range of goods including some items of mass consumption is also bound to add upward pressure on prices. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's remarks on Tuesday reflect authorities' recognition that any let up in the fight against inflation risks undermining growth and broader macroeconomic stability.

The Hindu

India, BRICS in Cold War Conditions



From left: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro wave to press during the 11th BRICS Summit in Brasilia, Brazil, on Nov. 14, 2019. SERGIO LIMA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

The phone conversation on Friday between Prime Minister Modi and Russian President Putin conveyed a big signal, coming on the morrow of the release of the new Strategic Concept by NATO which called Russia the alliance's "most significant and direct threat." The readouts from Moscow and New Delhi both highlighted the two leaderships' determination to carry forward the momentum of economic cooperation despite the western sanctions against Russia. (here and here)

Ironically, the West's "sanctions from hell" have given a big stimulus to India-Russia bilateral trade, giving it a dynamism that one never suspected would be recaptured in the post-Soviet era.

Friday's call was agreed upon in the sidelines of the BRICS summit (June 23-24). Curiously, it has come at a time when the Western powers have stepped up their efforts to create discord among the BRICS member countries, and brainwash India, in particular, to join their bandwagon in the new Cold War conditions. India is of course cherry-picking, as obstreperous as ever on the multilateral circuit — EU, G7, QUAD.

India's relationship with Russia was the leitmotif of Modi's visit to Japan in April (partly) and three visits to Europe in May as well as his two meetings with US President Biden during this period (mostly.) In the West's calculus, China and India are giving what analysts would call "strategic depth" to Russia, which nullifies its frantic efforts to "erase" Russia. Interestingly, the western attempts to create paranoia in the Indian mind about the close ties between Russia and China are no longer having the desired effect of Delhi becoming wary of Russia's intentions. India sees, on the contrary, great opportunities to tap into Russia's tilt to Asia-Pacific region for economic partnerships.

Without doubt, India is "balancing" between Washington and Moscow and BRICS summit was a great occasion to monitor that trapeze act. An unabashedly pro-western internet paper from Delhi had predicted that Modi would act as a vigilante for US President Biden, blocking any BRICS statement critical of the US. Whether that was true or not, Modi made a rather anodyne speech at the BRICS summit.

On the other hand, Putin had stated in his speech at the summit that "Considering the complexity of the challenges and threats the international community is facing, and the fact that they transcend borders, we need to come up with collective solutions. BRICS can make a meaningful contribution to these efforts."

Putin added, "We are confident that today, as never before, the world needs the BRICS countries' leadership in defining a unifying and positive course for forming a truly multipolar system of interstate relations... we can count on support from many states in Asia, Africa and Latin America, which are seeking to pursue an independent policy."

In his speech, Chinese President Xi Jinping made an even more direct appeal to the BRICS partners: "Our world today is overshadowed by the dark clouds of Cold War mentality and power politics and beset by constantly

Interestingly, the western attempts to create paranoia in the Indian mind about the close ties between Russia and China are no longer having the desired effect of Delhi becoming wary of Russia's intentions. India sees, on the contrary, great opportunities to tap into Russia's tilt to Asia-Pacific region for economic partnerships

emerging traditional and non-traditional security threats. Some countries attempt to expand military alliances to seek absolute security, stoke bloc-based confrontation by coercing other countries into picking sides and pursue unilateral dominance at the expense of others' rights and interests. If such dangerous trends are allowed to continue, the world will witness even more turbulence and insecurity.

"It is important that BRICS countries support each other on issues concerning core interests, practice true multilateralism, safeguard justice, fairness and solidarity and reject hegemony, bullying and division."

Frankly, no matter the impressive-looking XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration, the fact remains that the grouping is performing far below its actual potential and one principal reason for this is India's zero-sum mindset regarding China, which makes it difficult for it to work with China collectively in any regional forum.

However, any apprehension in the Indian mind that China would "dominate" BRICS is unwarranted. Russia undoubtedly occupies a special place in the structure of the BRICS. In fact, BRICS was Moscow's brainwave and Russia was responsible for launching the format. The first ministerial meeting (in the BRIC format) took place at the suggestion of Putin in September 2006, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York. Thus, the idea of creating BRICS matured in Russia.

Second, BRICS is a "de-ideologised" format. It shows no animus against America although it challenges western hegemony of the international political and economic order. The very fact that the Manmohan Singh gov-

ernment welcomed Putin's BRIC initiative at a most sensitive juncture when India's negotiations for a nuclear deal with the US (with eye on Washington's embargo on technology transfer) speaks for itself.

Moscow conceived the BRICS concept for the strengthening of the formation of a multipolar system of international relations and the growth of economic cooperation — and it has indeed contributed to the birth of a new economic system, based on the equal access of countries to financing and sales markets, a combination of state planning and market economy.

India has a problem to appreciate that the BRICS paradigm does not lie in expanding the capabilities or ambitions of the group's member countries, but in fostering a qualitative change in the economic development model of the Global South. India's dog-in-the-manger attitude — sulking and politicising the forum with extraneous issues (primarily to embarrass China) — doesn't make sense.

Unlike India, China takes BRICS seriously. The Chinese initiative to create a BRICS Vaccine Centre has been under development and the implementation of this project amid the current conditions can be a significant achievement that will bolster the entire format of the association. Ideally, India should cooperate with the project instead of teaming up with its QUAD partners which has turned out to be a wild goose chase.

Again, industrial innovation is slated to be a priority for China's BRICS Presidency in 2022. Expectations are high that during its presidency, China will come up with a number of breakthrough initiatives. Clearly, now that the construction of the BRICS' New Development Bank headquarters in Shanghai has finished, new proposals are expected from China on the development of its operations, including possibly an expansion of the number of shareholders of the bank.

Of course, China will promote its own projects, including Belt and Road initiative. But then, China is also putting into the projects the most financial resources. It is high time for India to have a serious reassessment of values within the BRICS framework, and the changing internal balance of power in the grouping in the new Cold War conditions.

BRICS is at the crossroads and this realisation has propelled the concept of a "BRICS+" format to the centerstage of discussions. China's BRICS chairmanship 2022 witnessed the launch of the extended BRICS+ meeting at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. Participants included Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, Argentina, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Thailand.

During the ministerial, China also announced plans to open up the possibility of developing countries joining the core BRICS grouping. Argentina and Iran have been mentioned as candidates for BRICS expansion. Be that as it may, "BRICS+" is certain to be on the agenda of global governance in times to come.

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



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

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Cuffs and Courts

The Karnataka High Court deserves compliments as it recently ruled that no individual, whether he be an accused in a case, an undertrial prisoner or a convict, can be handcuffed unless the reason for doing so is properly recorded in the case diary. The ruling

was made by the court in effect of a cheque bounce case, involving a law student from Chikodi in Belgaum district who was handcuffed by the police. As per the directions of the SC, use of handcuffs by police is strictly prohibited in India, except when authorized by a court.

The indiscriminate resort to handcuffs when accused persons are taken to and from court and the expedient of forcing irons on prison inmates are illegal and should be stopped forthwith, save in a small category of cases. Manacles cause emotional and mental distress on human beings and excori-

ate those who are made to wear them. Reckless handcuffing and chaining in public degrades the accused, puts to shame his finer sensibilities, and it is an obloquy and a slur on our culture.

Ranganathan Sivakumar
siva19kumar@gmail.com

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

Could it be Religious Obsessive Compulsive Disorder?

Wasim Kakroo

Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) is characterized by intrusive, unwanted thoughts and anxiety (obsessions) about certain things, as well as the behavior (compulsions) that those with the disorder engage in to calm their anxiety. This specific anxiety disorder is a really severe condition that frequently fills the victim's mind with fear and, in a very real sense, takes control of their lives.

OCD is a broad mental health condition with many subgroups: in the case of religious OCD (also called scrupulosity), the individual is fixated on obsessions that are founded in religion and/or religious beliefs, or around beliefs about morality. This type of OCD is characterised by obsessive religious doubts and fears unwanted blasphemous thoughts and imagery, as well as compulsive religious rituals, avoidance, and reassurance seeking behaviors. When someone has religious OCD, they consistently have unfavourable or worried thoughts regarding their spiritual life. These obsessions frequently get in the way of daily functioning. People could find it difficult to ignore or conceal these thoughts.

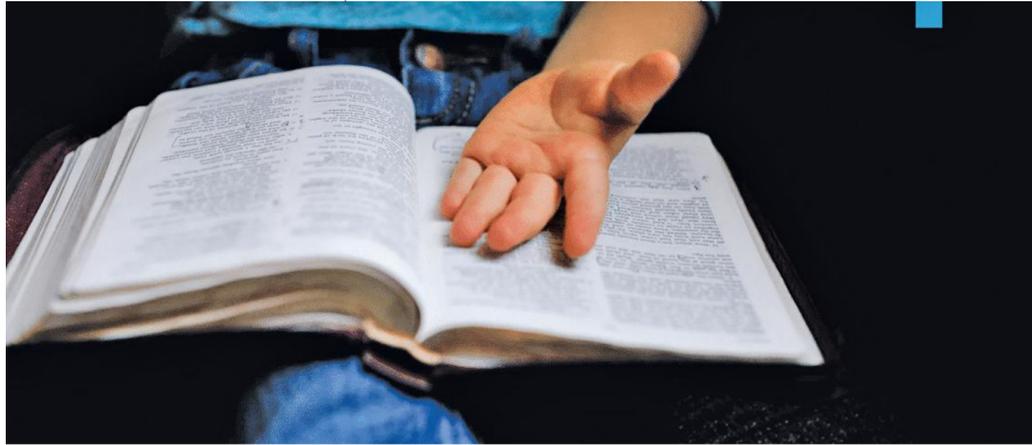
Patients with religious OCD have a strong belief in and fear of divine or deistic punishment. According to experts, between 5% and 33% of OCD sufferers may exhibit scrupulosity and this percentage is likely to increase to between 50% and 60% among those who come from extremely conservative religious environments. Scrupulosity affects even those who are not very religious since they are concerned about compromising their morals or unintentionally offending others. People with scrupulosity believe their thoughts are the same as their acts, therefore they worry not just about what they have thought, but also about what they have done.

Examples of Religious OCD:

Many different types of religious OCD exist. An example would be a man who offers hundreds of prayers every day to be forgiven for his perceived transgressions. Similarly another example will be of a man who keeps on verbalizing abusive remarks against devil (shaitan) as he feels his anti religious thoughts and/or images are put in his mind by devil.

The following are some instances of religious obsessions:

1. Fear of lacking sufficient faith.
2. fear of entering hell.
3. Fear of being unclean or contaminated according to the rules of one's religion.
4. Fear of engaging in unethical/immoral behaviour.



“Spiritual compulsions, in contrast to ordinary religious engagement, are frequently driven more by fear than by faith. Many times, people understand that giving in to a temptation won't stop their concerns from coming true. However, individuals think that these compulsions are the only way to make their fear go away

Religious compulsions include examples such as:

1. attending religious services considerably more frequently than is customary for one's particular religion, praying more than 5 times for a muslim man with religious OCD to deal with guilt related to antireligious thoughts.
2. seeking out constant confirmation from religious leaders.
3. putting great self-denial or self-sacrifice into practise.
4. obsessive prayer, mantra repetition, or purification practises. (For instance, someone might practise saying a prayer until they get it just right.)

Spiritual compulsions, in contrast to ordinary religious engagement, are frequently driven more by fear than by faith. Many times, people understand that giving in to a temptation won't stop their concerns from coming true. However, individuals think that these compulsions are the only way to make their fear go away.

Religious OCD-signs and symptoms Scrupulosity rituals can involve the following behaviors:

1. Compulsive praying: When someone prays compulsively, they may repeat a prayer or restart it if they become

2. Observing your behaviour throughout the day to make sure you are acting "appropriately" or checking with others to see if you are acting appropriately or if you have "done the right thing"
3. excessive reading or study of religious works, books, or texts to find answers to various doubt inducing antireligious/blasphemous thoughts.
4. questioning your motivations in a variety of circumstances to check that your intentions were right.
5. excessively apologizing to God (such as God, Allah, etc.) and pleading for forgiveness for your behavior.

Causes of religious OCD:

There is no specific diagnosis for religious OCD. It is a particular example of OCD. Therefore, those who have OCD that is religious may also have OCD that is not religious. Some individuals with religious OCD discover that their obsessions and compulsions evolve over time.

The causes of religious OCD are not entirely understood, just like those of other types of OCD. According to research, serotonin levels in OCD-affected brains may be unbalanced. This could be caused by

genetic, environmental, or a mix of the two sources. For instance, someone with a family history of OCD may be more susceptible to the diagnosis genetically. OCD may manifest when anything in the surroundings causes the person to get anxious.

A person is more likely to have spiritual themes in their obsessions, if:

1. They reside in a neighbourhood where religion plays a significant role in both social life and one's sense of self.
2. They give transient religious doubts moral weight.
3. They think their moral or religious transgressions will be severely punished by God.

It's vital to remember that OCD cannot be caused by religion on its own. Members of any religion can be impacted by scrupulosity. Not religion, but anxiety, is the issue. OCD will persist even if a person rejects religion or becomes an atheist (The theme of their obsessions and compulsions may change though.).

Treatment of Religious OCD

Treatment for OCD frequently requires therapy. An individual can learn to control their anxiety in therapy in ways that don't undermine their quality of life. A therapist

just addresses a person's fear about their faith; they do not require that they abandon their beliefs.

The following therapies are effective in treating religious OCD:

1. Exposure and response Prevention Therapy (ERP): ERP involves exposing a person to their fear and then preventing them from acting on their compulsion. One can be asked to picture God being upset with them as an example. The therapist will next assist the patient in learning to relax as they face anxiety. ERP can teach people to cope with their religious anxieties. A person might gradually come to terms with uncertainty and experience less pressure to follow their compulsions.
2. Cognitive behavioral Therapy (CBT): Numerous types of anxiety, including OCD-related anxiety, can be treated with this kind of therapy. People who receive cognitive behavioural therapy are better able to recognise, comprehend, and handle automatic negative thoughts.
3. Acceptance and Commitment Therapy: People can develop greater mental flexibility by using acceptance and choosing behaviours based on values to help people become more flexible in their thinking. Clients are taught to stop denying their thoughts and feelings and to make a commitment to altering their behaviour, even if having mixed feelings about it.
4. Family Therapy: Family therapy can be helpful when religious OCD threatens the stability of the family. A therapist might employ age-appropriate strategies if the patient is a small child. Couples counselling might be beneficial when a marriage is threatened by religious OCD. Therapy may result in quick, long-lasting changes.
5. Medications: Specific Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) have been used to treat OCD symptoms. These can take some time to start working and are frequently used in higher doses than for depression. Some persons may benefit from the addition of additional types of drugs, such as certain antipsychotics, if their symptoms are not sufficiently eased by SSRIs.

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

Up Above the World So High

James Webb Telescope's one of a kind pictures: When, How and Whats

Martin Barstow

After decades of development and many trials and frustrations along the way, the James Webb telescope has finally started to deliver what it came for. On July 12, Nasa released the first scientific observations made by the suite of instruments carried on board the mission, marking what we eagerly anticipate will be the beginning of a new era in astronomy.

After the nail-biting launch on Christmas Day, a series of critical deployments followed to open up the telescope and its sun-shade. If any of these operations had failed, James Webb would have been an unusable disaster. But the programme was perfectly executed, a process that ran more smoothly and successfully than any one of us had dared hope, let alone expect.

This is not just a testament to the skill of the engineers, technicians and scientists in the project. It also highlights the tremendous importance of the testing programme carried out on Earth to verify the procedures and which occasionally revealed problems that needed to be fixed before launch. While this sometimes resulted in schedule slippages and cost increases, it has ultimately produced a perfect telescope. During July, the telescope moved from its checkout and testing phase to operation, as the amazing observatory it has long been planned to be. Those of us who have been involved in the journey and will work on the data, can hardly wait.

CRISP IMAGES

The new "early release observations", selected by an international



committee of representatives from Nasa, Esa (European Space Agency), CSA (Canadian Space Agency), and the Space Telescope Science Institute, are part of a programme designed to highlight the wide range of science the telescope will carry out. It is very exciting to see the new images – I was not prepared for the level of crispness and fine detail that can be seen. It's a joy to finally have such high-quality data.

Unveiled by US president Joe Biden, the stunning image of SMACS 0723, a cluster of thousands of galax-

ies, was released on July 11. The massive foreground galaxy groups magnify and distort the light of objects behind them, helping us to peer back in time at very faint objects.

The image shows the galaxy cluster as it appeared 4.6 billion years ago. But more distant galaxies in the image (the ones which appear stretched) are about 13 billion years old – and we already have more data on them than we have on any other ancient galaxy.

Images such as this will help us understand how the first stars and

galaxies formed. Some of these may be among the most distant objects known, from the beginning of the universe. The picture is a composite "colour" image made from observations made at different wavelengths. It was taken by the telescope's Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam).

James Webb has also caught a glimpse of Stephan's Quintet, a group of five galaxies that are merging some 290 million light-years away in the constellation Pegasus. The image also suggests there's a supermassive black hole at the centre, and shows

stars being born. The data will tell us more about how galaxies evolve and the rate at which supermassive black holes grow.

The next picture shows the Carina Nebula, seen in the image below, which is one of the largest and brightest nebulas (clouds of dust and gas in which stars are born). James Webb can probe deep inside dust in the infrared light, to reveal the inside of the stellar nursery – which we've never seen before – to discover more about how stars are born.

The Carina Nebula is located approximately 7,600 light-years away in the southern constellation Carina. The image shows hundreds of completely new stars (every dot of light is a star), and jets and bubbles created by them. We can also see details that we cannot yet explain.

The next, spectacular image is of the Southern Ring or "Eight-Burst" nebula, a planetary nebula, which is an expanding cloud of gas, surrounding a dying star, or in this case two dying stars orbiting each other. It is nearly half a light-year in diameter and is located approximately 2,000 light years away from Earth.

The foamy orange shell in the image is molecular hydrogen (a gas which forms when two hydrogen atoms bond together), whereas the blue centre is an electrically charged gas. In the right-hand image, you can see the two dying stars in the centre, giving us an opportunity to study stellar death in unprecedented detail.

The new data is the result of months of painstaking measurement and testing to make the James Webb ready for use as a scientific tool following deployment. The first steps were to focus and align the images of each of the mirror segments. Each

of the telescope's scientific instruments – NIRCam, The Near InfraRed Spectrograph (NIRSpec) and Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI) – were also switched on and tested.

All these instruments, which look at deep space in different wavelengths, had to be cooled down, along with the telescope, otherwise they would radiate background heat which would interfere with the sensitive observations of astronomical objects. The last to be turned on was MIRI, which operates at the lowest temperature, just seven degrees above absolute zero, which took several months to achieve.

The size of a telescope – its aperture – is the key thing that decides the ultimate quality of the images and the detail that can be observed. Bigger is better. Large telescopes with apertures up to ten metres in diameter have been constructed on the ground.

However, the interfering effects of the atmosphere, which disturb the light reaching the telescope, make it hard to achieve the ultimate resolution. Also, on Earth, background light from the night sky limits the telescope sensitivity, the faintest objects we can see.

With its six-metre aperture, James Webb is the largest telescope ever launched into space and from its vantage point a million miles from Earth, free from the Earth's atmosphere, it is expected to deliver the best, most detailed views of the universe we have ever seen. There is no doubt that it will revolutionise our understanding of the cosmos, just as its predecessor, the Hubble Space Telescope, once did.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Ajmer Dargah Cleric Arrested From Hyderabad Over Hate Speech

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur: The Rajasthan Police on Thursday arrested an Ajmer dargah cleric from Hyderabad for allegedly delivering a provocative speech at the main gate of the shrine last month.

Ajmer Additional Superintendent of Police Vikas Sangwan said an FIR was registered against Gohar Chishty on June 25 over the speech he delivered on June 17.

Chishty left Rajasthan on June 29 and had been on the run since then, he said.

"He will be brought to Ajmer on transit remand on Friday," Sangwan said.

Gohar Chisti, a "khadim" of the dargah, had delivered the hate speech shortly before a rally of the Muslim community against the BJP's now-suspended leader Nupur Sharma over her derogatory remarks on Prophet Mohammed.

After the gruesome murder of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal on June 28, the Ajmer police swung into action and arrested four people who were present with Gohar.

They allegedly raised controversial slogans.

Videos and audios of the hate speech were circulated on social media.

It was mentioned in the FIR registered by a constable of the Dargah police station that Gohar provoked people, calling for beheading of those who insult the Prophet.

The case was registered under IPC Sections 117 (abetting commission of offence by the public or by more than 10 persons), 143 and 149 (unlawful assembly), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 504 (Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

Zubair Moves SC For Quashing Of Six FIRs Against Him In UP

How Many People Offended By His "Objectionable" Tweet? Delhi Court Asks Police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Hathras(UP): Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair on Thursday moved the Supreme Court seeking quashing of the six FIRs lodged against him in several districts of Uttar Pradesh for allegedly hurting religious sentiments, and also sought interim bail in all the cases.

The move by the journalist came even as a court in Hathras in UP remanded Zubair to 14-day judicial custody.

Zubair, who is in judicial custody in Delhi in a case that is related to an alleged objectionable tweet he had posted in 2018 against a Hindu deity, was brought to the Hathras court from Tihar jail with a Delhi Police escort and taken back after the court proceedings. His lawyer Umang Rawat argued that since the matter is four years old the journalist's arrest was "malafide" and made under "political pressure."

In a related development, Additional Sessions Judge Devender Kumar Jangala reserved the order expected to be delivered on Friday on the bail plea filed by Zubair in the 2018 tweet case lodged by the Delhi police. The accused has challenged the magisterial court order denying him bail.

Hearing arguments on the bail plea, the judge asked the prosecution if the Delhi police had collected statements of people who felt offended by the alleged objectionable tweet after Public Prosecutor Atul Srivastava claimed that Zubair wanted to incite people and create ill will among them.

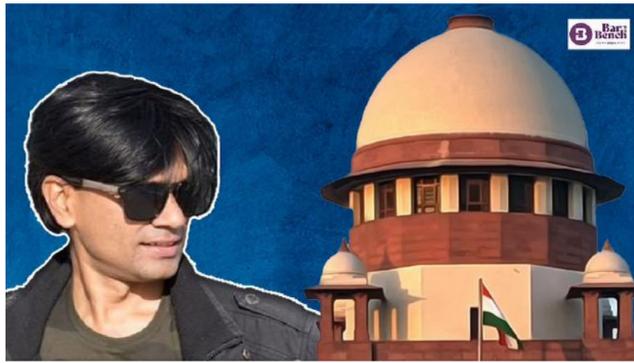
"How many people felt offended? How many statements you've collected?" the judge asked.

The prosecutor responded to say that it would be done in the due course.

Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for the journalist, said Zubair's four-year-old tweet was dug out by one anonymous Twitter user, which was his first tweet since creating his account.

"Someone digs out the four-year-old tweet, and I (Zubair) am being accused of creating unrest in the country," she added.

A magisterial court on July 2 dismissed Zubair's bail plea and sent him to 14-day



judicial custody after the end of his five-day custodial interrogation. The Delhi Police had arrested Zubair on June 27 for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through one of his tweets.

In the Supreme Court, Zubair's petition also challenged the constitution of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) by the UP government to probe the six cases lodged against him in the state.

The petition contended that all the six FIRs filed in UP that have been transferred to the SIT for investigation are the subject matter of the FIR which is being probed by the Delhi police special cell.

In the alternative prayer, the plea drafted by advocate Vrinda Grover, Soutik Banerjee, Devika Tulsiani, and Mannat Tarnis and filed through advocate Aakarsh Kamra, also sought clubbing of the six FIRs with the FIR lodged in Delhi.

On July 12, the UP Police constituted a SIT for a "transparent" and expeditious probe into cases lodged against Zubair in various districts of the state.

Separate FIRs have been lodged against Zubair in Sitapur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Ghaziabad, Muzaffarnagar, and Hathras districts on charges of allegedly hurting religious feelings, making sarcastic remarks on news anchors, disrespecting Hindu gods, and inflammatory posts.

At the Delhi court, the prosecution opposed the bail plea, saying the website of the accused's company says only Indian

citizens "should" pay, but they are also receiving money from others.

"Someone is paying and you're accepting it Rs 56 lakh rupees has been received in violation of FCRA," the prosecution claimed.

The prosecutor further alleged that forgery was also committed in the case which is being probed.

This case needs further probe, and if he comes out he may delete information and influence, other persons, not to help in the probe, he added.

"Gumnaam (nameless) will remain Gumnaam if he comes out We have given notices to banks. There might be chances that his people might have sent money to his account, to evade liability of Income Tax Act," he said.

Advocate Grover told the court that no foreign contribution was received by Zubair personally or his company Pravda media.

"Our website says we do not receive foreign contributions since we are not registered under FCRA provisions. All this is on my website and in the public domain. My website says only Indian citizens with Indian accounts can contribute. We ask for all information of donor, including PAN number, e-mail i.d.," the counsel said.

She further said the CEO of Razor Pay, through which the company received money, put out a statement after his arrest that Alt News was enabled to receive only domestic payment.

Best Interests, Welfare Of Child Of Paramount Importance In Deciding Custody Case: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: A child's best interests and welfare are of paramount importance in a custody battle and courts must choose a course which will provide "healthy growth, development and education" and equip the youngster to face problems of life as a "mature adult", the Supreme Court said on Thursday.

Observing that the "dominant consideration to which all other considerations must remain subordinate must be the welfare of the child", a bench comprising justices A M Khanwilkar and J B Pardiwala granted the custody of two minor children to their US-based mother and asked their father, living in Tamil Nadu, to apply for the US visa in a week and travel there to hand over the kids to his estranged wife in a week thereafter.

The woman, whose husband came back to India with their two children allegedly without her consent, had moved habeas corpus (bring the person) plea in the top court here seeking a direction to authorities to "immediately trace and produce the minor children ... and deliver their custody" to her for their repatriation to the US in compliance with the order passed by a local court there.

Justice Pardiwala, referring to the laws on custody of children and the writ powers of the apex court, said, "There is complete unanimity that the best interests and welfare of the child are of paramount importance."

"We would therefore hold that in the case at bar the dominant consideration to which all other considerations must remain subordinate must be the welfare of the child. This is not to say that the question of custody will be determined by weighing the economic circumstances of the contending parties. The matter will not be

determined solely on the basis of the physical comfort and material advantages that may be available in the home of one contender or the other.

"The welfare of the child must be decided on a consideration of these and all other relevant factors, including the general psychological, spiritual and emotional welfare of the child. It must be the aim of the court, when resolving disputes between the rival claimants for the custody of a child, to choose the course which will best provide for the healthy growth, development and education of the child so that he or she will be equipped to face the problems of life as a mature adult," Justice Pardiwala said.

The bench, in its 77-page judgement, said, "We would like to convey to the parties that their two minor children are watching them very closely. Showing the children that their parents can respect each other and resolve the conflict respectfully will give them a good foundation for the conflicts that may, God forbid, arise in their own lives. The parties should try to do their best to remain relaxed and focused." It is critical to maintain boundaries between the adult problems and children, it said, adding that it is of utmost interest to protect the innocence of children and allow them to remain children.

"They must not be burdened by any adult problem. Minor children do not have the coping skills or the intellectual ability to understand any issues like the financial constraints, adult relationship issues or their parents' unhappiness," it said.

While granting the custody of the children to the mother, the court considered the fact that the minor children are residents of the US and "the son is a natural citizen and the daughter is a permanent resident of the US".

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Has Highest

world, with 27.3 percent of its population aged 15-29 years.

Proportion of youth to the total population of the country had increased from 26.6% in 1991 to 27.9% in 2016 and then declined and would reach 22.7% by 2036, according to the Youth in India 2022 report.

On the contrary, the proportion of the elderly population has increased from 6.8% in 1991 to 9.2% in 2016 and is projected to reach 14.9% in 2036, it said. "Therefore, it can be predicted that a greater proportion of youth at present will result in a greater proportion of elderly in the population in future," the report noted.

Covid Spikes

reported from the remaining four districts of the Valley.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported 92 fresh cases of Covid-19, Udhampur seven, Kathua six, Samba four, while Rajouri, Ramban and Reasi, registered one case each.

"Moreover, 119 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 75 from Jammu division and 44 from Kashmir division," the officials said.

Also, they said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4758 in J&K-2333 in Jammu and 2425 in Kashmir, as no fresh fatality due to virus was reported in the Union Territory in the last 24 hours.

Kerala Reports

monkeypox has been confirmed. We are taking steps to ensure it does not spread to others. But he (patient) has 2-3 close contacts which include his parents.

"There are 11 primary contacts which include his parents, those who sat next to him in the plane, the taxi driver who took him from Thiruvananthapuram to Kollam, the auto driver who took him to the hospital and the cabin crew of the flight. We are informing all of them," the minister told reporters here.

The minister also told media that there was no need for concern.

The Health department had said the same in a release issued by it in the evening before the first case of monkeypox was confirmed.

The department, however, had advised everyone to be cautious and vigilant.

Meanwhile, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is sending a high-level multi-disciplinary team to Kerala to collaborate with the State Health Authorities in instituting public health measures in view of the confirmed case of monkeypox in Kollam district, a Press Information Bureau release said.

The central team to Kerala will comprise experts drawn from the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi and a senior official from the Ministry of Health along with experts from the Regional Office of Health and Family Welfare, Kerala, the release said.

"The team shall work closely with the State Health Department and take stock of on-ground situations and recommend necessary

public health interventions. The Government of India is taking proactive steps by monitoring the situation carefully and coordinating with states in case of any such possibility of outbreak," it said.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals) with symptoms similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients, although it is clinically less severe.

With the eradication of smallpox in 1980 and subsequent cessation of smallpox vaccination, monkeypox has emerged as the most important orthopoxvirus for public health.

1.10 Lakh Trees

construction and maintenance of roads and bridges, road transportation, traffic as well as general aspects of road and bridge engineering.

The foundation stone for the 58.25 km-long Jammu ring road, the estimated cost of which was Rs 1,339 crore, was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 19, 2018.

Rescue Ops Called

at the Raj Bhavan here.

The Lt Governor said the two injured were undergoing treatment at SKIMS Soura here and their condition is stated to be stable.

I hope they will also be discharged in a few days, he said, adding that 14 bodies were sent to their families in different states while the cremation of one was done here by the family.

He said the administration was in touch with all the state governments and as of now no person was missing.

We have been in touch with principal resident commissioners of all the states and when there was a need, we even spoke to concerned deputy commissioners, and I can tell you that largely we do not have any inputs about any person missing, Sinha said.

He said the rescue operation which was on since July 8 has largely been called off.

No new dead body was found and the operation has been called off, he added.

On the allegations that the administration did not take adequate measures in the wake of a flashflood last year, Sinha said the flow pattern of both the flashfloods -- last year as well as the one in 2015 -- was kept in mind and the irrigation and flood control department erected a wall there.

I have spoken to many experts, had that bund not been there, the disaster could have been worse, he added.

Referring to PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's remarks that the government had allowed more yatris than recommended, Sinha said the Supreme Court had formed a committee of experts and on the basis of the discussions by the committee, the decision on the number of pilgrims was taken.

Two years before, 7,500 people were permitted through both sides. Last year, the shrine board improved the facilities and with the result, it was decided to allow 10,000 yatris from both the axis and this decision is being fully implemented.

I can tell you that this year, attempts have been made to improve the infrastructure and

the facilities. We have tried to take feedback from the yatris as well, the Lt Governor said.

Sinha said with the support of the locals, the yatra is going on in a right manner and so far, about 1.5 lakh pilgrims have had darshan' at the cave shrine.

I am thankful of the locals who showed sensitivity and guided the yatris that day. They provided all help to them, he said, adding it remains to be seen as to how many more yatris will come.

The LG said all the yatris have a Rs 5 lakh insurance cover.

Apart from that, the next of kin of those who died will be provided another Rs 5 lakh by the shrine board, he said.

Sinha said the administration has requested the surveyor general of India to work on the digital contour mapping around the cave.

We are in touch with experts on what other steps need to be taken, he added.

Yatra Suspended

said the yatra will resume after the weather improves.

Earlier, the yatra was stopped for three days following a cloudburst on July 8 which left 16 people dead and over 30 missing. It had resumed via the Pahalgam route on Monday and through the Baltal route on Tuesday.

Family Moves

the matter and submit periodical action taken report before the court, who can monitor the whole investigation in attending peculiar facts and circumstances of the case.

The petitioners pleaded before the court to direct the SSP Crime Branch, Srinagar, to produce CCTV footage of Police Station Nowgam of Saturday last before the court with regard to the whole incident so that the same can be preserved for evidence. Besides it, the petitioners submitted to conduct a test identification Parade under the Supervision of Executive Magistrate 1st Class so that accused are identified at an earliest and brought to book.

According to Shafiq, on the morning of July 9, some policemen in civvies came in a private vehicle and entered her house without any notice and whisked away her son.

When countered, the cops told Shafiq that they are taking her son for questioning and will be released immediately.

"The applicant despite in her old age managed to chase the vehicle of the accused persons, and begged for release of her son, however the applicant was asked to return home with an assurance that her son will be released soon after completion of some investigation," reads the petition.

It further adds that the Shafiq was restless all along the time till four plain-cloth policemen brought Muslim home in state of unconsciousness. The petitioner alleges that policemen told her that unconscious son will regain his consciousness soon.

Shafiq, according to the petition also alleged that she was forcibly made to sign a blank paper and given Rs 400 by the cops before fleeing from the scene.

"The applicant thereafter touched the body of her deceased son and found the same in very cold state, however the applicant further tried

to pump the chest of her deceased son, however, he could not regain his consciousness," the petition reads.

According to the petition, Shafiq raised hue and cry due to which neighbours and some of the relatives gathered at the residence of and took the deceased to nearby Florence Hospital at Chanapora Srinagar where the doctors after conducting ECG of the deceased declared him brought dead.

"There were visible marks of violence and torture seen on the body of the said deceased which makes it clear that the deceased son of the applicant was brutally murdered in the police custody, the petition reads.

The petition submitted to the court that despite assurance from the higher authorities of the police, no FIR was lodged in this connection yet.

It is pertinent to mention here that Post mortem of the deceased was conducted by a team of doctors at Govt. Medical College Srinagar on July 10, and the report is still awaited.

"It is further to mention that the MRI was also conducted by the doctors but copy of the report has not been provided to the family yet," reads the petition.

The family alleges that the police officials in order to "cover up" the accused have assassinated the character of the Muslim by dubbing him a drug addict in a presser.

Meanwhile, Advocate Tasduq Hussain Reshi told Kashmir Observer that the court gave a patient hearing to the petition and the order has been reserved for July 15.

Govt Transfers

Public Administration and Rural Development, Kashmir.

Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, JKAS, Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Kupwara, has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Ganderbal.

Ab. Baseer Ahmad, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Ganderbal, has been transferred and posted as Controller of Examinations, J&K Services Selection Board.

Hilal Ahmad Mir, JKAS, Deputy Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board, has been transferred and posted as Project Officer Wage Employment (ACD), Kupwara.

Bashir-ul-Hassan, JKAS, Sub Registrar, Kulgam, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Noorabad. "He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Noorabad and Kulgam, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," the order reads.

Landslide Kills

the officials said, adding they were later buried after the completion of legal formalities.

Falling Tree Kills

came under a falling tree at Gurwattan forest area of Damhal Hanjipora, reports said.

The reports said that the tree got uprooted due to gusty winds coupled with rains hitting the youth.

Mehta Launches

He said that citizens can now access and register on the portal <https://eUnnat.jk.gov>.

in for seeking a plethora of departmental services. Some of the services currently available on the portal are Character Certificate, Dependency Certificate, Marriage Certificate, Income Certificate, Asset Certificate, Legal Heir Certificate, Category Certificates, Property Certificate, Certificate of Unemployment, and Financial Assistance under Ladli Beti and Marriage Assistance Scheme. In the coming weeks, the IT Department will be adding new services to the portal.

He further said that the launch of the portal marks a major milestone in the digital journey of Jammu and Kashmir to make the Union territory completely corruption-free. With this, Jammu and Kashmir becomes the First Union territory in the country to integrate its digital services with the Government of India's "Meri Pehchaan" initiative (national single sign-on).

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary highlighted the firm commitment of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir to promote citizen-centric governance through ease of accessibility to various departmental services.

"The government's resolve is to provide easy access to all government services, decrease human interface and remove the compulsion of physically visiting government offices for service delivery towards realising the vision of "Aap Ka Mobile, Humara Daftar", Dr. Mehta further observed.

Referring to the public feedback as a pillar of support in participatory governance, Dr. Mehta appealed to the public to enthusiastically share their feedback on a wide range of departmental services through the Rapid Assessment System (RAS).

"This will allow the Government to assess public expectations and identify areas requiring improvements," he said.

It was informed that under RAS, the IT Department has so far sent approximately 5 lac communications to citizens for seeking feedback on experience and quality of services availed through different government offices. Most of the responses received indicate a high level of satisfaction among service seekers.

Further, the Chief Secretary directed the Information and IT departments to undertake dedicated IEC campaigns to raise public awareness, besides covering the internet-shadow areas through suitable interventions within one month. The IT Department was also asked to link all online services with respective timelines as prescribed under the Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA).

10 Gamblers Held

was also seized from the spot.

"They have been shifted to the police station where they remain in custody," he said.

In a similar action, the spokesperson said that three gamblers were held in Mirgund area of Baramulla district.

"Officers have seized stake money of 18,300/- and playing cards from the gamblers. They have been shifted to the police station where they remain in custody," he said.

"Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective Police Stations and investigation has been taken up," he added.

"There Pravda I ey from tries is to sensi contend She ac racy,"fa to help decision with lit helping

Girls Outshine Boys In JK Board Class 10 Exams

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Girls outperformed boys in the Class 10 exams conducted by the J&K Board of School Education, the results for which were declared on Thursday.

While the pass percentage for girls was 83.65, that for boys was 78.01, a JKBOSE spokesperson said.

A total of 53,628 students -- 30,011 boys and 23,617 girls -- had appeared for the annual Class 10 examination and 43,123 (80.41 per cent) of them qualified, he said.

The spokesperson said 5,104 students secured A1 grade, 8,727 got A2 grade, 10,067 got

B1 grade, 10,563 got B2 grade, 7,365 got C1 grade, 1,288 got C2 grade and nine secured D grade.

The JKBOSE had reduced the syllabus by 30 per cent for the students in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha congratulated the students who passed their Class 10 exam.

"Heartiest congratulations to all the students, who have passed JKBOSE class 10th Annual Regular examinations-2022, Summer Zone, Jammu Division. My best wishes to all the students for a bright future. Compliments to their parents, teachers and @Office_JKBOSE," he said in a tweet.

Over 5000 Pilgrims Leave Jammu Camp For Amarnath Shrine

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Amid tight security, another batch of over 5,000 pilgrims on Thursday left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here to offer prayers at the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

The 15th batch comprising 5,449 pilgrims left in a convoy of 201 vehicles for the twin base camps of Nunwan-Pahalgam and Baltal in the early hours, they said.

The officials said 1,666 pilgrims including 536 women and 43 children heading for Baltal in 61 vehicles were the first to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp around 3.20 am, followed by the second convoy of 140 vehicles for Pahalgam, carrying 3,783 pilgrims including 702 women, 103 sadhus and 54 children at around 4.20 am.

So far, over 1.45 lakh pilgrims have offered their prayers at the cave shrine, housing the naturally-formed ice-shivlingam, despite a three-day suspension in the wake of flash floods triggered by heavy rains near the cave shrine on July 8 which left 16 people dead.

A total of 88,526 pilgrims have left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Valley since June

Eight Pilgrims Injured In Bus Accident

SRINAGAR: Eight Amarnath yatis were injured on Thursday when a bus they were travelling in met with an accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said here.

They said the bus was enroute to the Baltal base camp with around 40 pilgrims. The driver lost control over the vehicle on the national highway near Nussu Badergund in Qazigund and hit a tipper dumper moving in the same direction, they said.

Eight pilgrims were injured, the officials said, adding that six of them were administered first-aid at a hospital in the area and the other two shifted to the district hospital in Anantnag. Page

29, the day the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The officials said eleven pilgrims have also died mostly due to health conditions during the yatra, which is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of Shraavan Purnima' coinciding with Raksha Bandhan.

Two Doctors Suspended After Patient's Death In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Amid a protest over a woman's death at a sub-district hospital, the administration here suspended two doctors for unauthorised absence during duty hours in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Thursday.

Block Medical Officer Dr Mohamad Anwar and Medical Officer (National Health Mission) Dr Ishfaq Malik of Surankote sub-district hospital were placed under suspension on the recommendations of Poonch Deputy Commissioner

Inderjeet, they said.

Nelofar of Surankote's Pamrote village died at the hospital on July 10, triggering a protest by her relatives who claimed doctors were not available.

The deputy commissioner visited the protesters and assured them of stern action.

"Pending enquiry into the matter, sanction is hereby accorded to the suspension of the BMO and the MO for remaining unauthorisedly absent from duties on July 10, 2022," the officials said, quoting an order issued by the health and medical education department.

Rains Lash Kashmir, Bring Mercury Down



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Rains continued to lash Jammu and Kashmir, bringing mercury down to below normal on Thursday.

The weatherman has forecast more intermittent light to moderate rain and thunderstorm in J&K for next 24 hours.

"Intermittent light to moderate rain at many places of Kashmir and few places of Jammu as the day progresses," said a meteorological department official about the forecast for next 24 hours.

He said that during last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, 9.0mm of rainfall was recorded in Srinagar, 3.6 mm in Qazigund, 1.5 mm in Pahalgam, 7.6 mm in

Kupwara, 1.8mm in Kokernag, 4.6 mm in Gulmarg, 24.8 mm in Jammu, 1.0 mm in Banihal, 1.4mm in Batote, 5.4 mm Katra and 3.4 mm in Bhaderwah.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a low of 17.3°C against 18.8°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.8°C 'below' normal during this time of the year for the summer capital, the MeT official said, as per news agency GNS.

Qazigund recorded a low of 16.5°C against 17.2°C on the previous night. The temperature was normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 11.7°C against 12.8°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C below normal for the south Kashmir resort. Koker-

nag recorded a low of 15.3°C against 16.6°C last night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 10.6°C against 11.5°C and it was 1.2°C below normal for the place. Kupwara town saw a low of 15.1°C against 16.1°C on previous night and it was 1.5°C 'below' normal for the place during this time of the season, the official told Global News Service.

Jammu recorded a low of 23.1°C against 27.2°C on the previous night. It was 1.7°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 17.4°C, Batote 18.0°C, Katra 22.2°C while Bhadarwah had a minimum of 17.8°C, the official added.

Post Summer Vacations

J&K Govt Issues Guidelines for Schools

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Thursday issued guidelines and do's and don'ts to all the government and private educational institutions of Kashmir Division to contest the ill-effects of the heat wave.

The guidelines were issued as a precaution that all government and private schools have to be observed by schools to combat the ill-effects of the heat wave. The guidelines come at a time when schools are re-opening after the 10-day long summer break.

The Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Tassaduq Hussain said that the department while keeping in view the prevailing heat wave in Kashmir division may at times pose risk to the health of the school going children.

The heads of all the educational institutions of Kashmir division have been placed under strict instructions to adhere to instructions and guidelines issued by the department in this regard.

Following are the modifications, Do's and Don'ts issued by the DSEK for students and staff

MODIFICATIONS IN DAILY ROUTINES:

Morning assembly should be brief and conducted in such an area or in classrooms where students are not exposed to direct sunlight.

Sports and other outdoor activities shall be adjusted in early hours. Care shall be taken during assembly and dispersal of students.

TRANSPORTATION: Overcrowding in school buses shall be strictly avoided and students as per seating capacity be carried in school buses.

Drinking water and first aid kits must be available in buses and the school buses or vans shall be parked in shaded areas.

Parents shall be sensitized to pick up the children personally wherever applicable.

HYDRATION:

Sufficient potable water shall be kept available at multiple places preferably in water coolers or

earthen pots.

Students should be sensitized regarding proper hydration and advised to sip water at regular intervals.

Increased hydration naturally results in increased use of washrooms so washrooms need to be kept in clean and hygienic conditions.

FOOD AND MEALS:

Meals served to students under PM POSHAN must be served hot and fresh.

Students carrying food in Tiffin are advised to bring light food for lunch which would not become stale easily.

Lunch of the students should be checked before consumption.

DO'S:

Drink sufficient water even if not thirsty;

Use Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), homemade drinks like Lassi or lemon water etc to keep yourself hydrated. Cover your head with a hat, umbrella or scarf etc. Stay indoors as much as possible. In case of illness or faintness, consult a doctor immediately.

DON'TS:

Don't go outside empty stomach or immediately after consuming food. Avoid direct sun especially in the afternoon. Don't go outside bare-foot. Don't eat junk or spicy or stale food.

Dept of Hospital Admin To Be Created In Srinagar, Jammu GMCs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday accorded sanction to the creation of Department of Hospital Administration in Government Medical Colleges of Srinagar and Jammu.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the creation of the Department of Hospital Administration in Government Medical Col-

leges of Srinagar and Jammu in tune with the National Medical Commission (erstwhile Medical Council of India) and National Board of Examination (NBE) guidelines", reads an order authenticated by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary to Government H&ME Department.

Notably the sanction is in sync with Administrative Council Decision number 97/7/2022 dated July 07, 2022.

Prime Land Retrieved From Encroachers In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Over 18 acres of prime land was retrieved in a major anti-encroachment drive here, an official said on Thursday.

The drive to retrieve the government land at Chowadi on the outskirts of the city was supervised by Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Avny Lavasa, the officials said.

Out of the retrieved 151 kanal

(18.8 acre), 70 kanal (8.75 acre) land was handed over to the Jammu Development Authority, the officials said.

The deputy commissioner asked officials to take strict action against encroachers.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has decided to adopt zero tolerance against the encroachment and has instructed authorities to take stern action against the encroachers, Lavasa said.

Fire Extinguisher Found Lying On Roadside In Jammu; Destroyed By Army

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A fire extinguisher found lying on the roadside here on Thursday was destroyed by the Army experts after suspecting the presence of an improvised explosive device (IED) inside it, officials said.

The suspicious object was noticed by local residents at Malpur in the Akhnoor sector on the

outskirts of the city around 4.30 am and subsequently alerted the nearby army unit and the police, they said.

The officials said both the army and the police rushed to the area and a link road was closed for vehicular traffic. Later, bomb disposal experts of the army destroyed the cylinder containing the suspected IED in a controlled explosion, they said.

DEOs Propose Setting Up Of 5403 Polling Stations In 47 Assembly Segments Of Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The election authorities here proposed to set-up 5,403 polling stations in 47 assembly constituencies of Kashmir Valley.

The draft proposals reveal that 5403 polling stations would be set-up in Kashmir Valley. The district election officers have put the draft proposals in public domain and sought objections/ suggestions over it. The exercise of rationalization of polling stations would be finalized before the beginning of summary revision.

The district election officer

Srinagar has proposed to set-up 913 polling stations in the district spread over eight assembly segments. Of which, 109 would be established in Hazratbal, 129 in Khanyar, 127 in Habba Kadal, 91 in Chanpora, 135 in Lal Chowk, 144 in Zadibal, 69 in Eid-Gah and 109 in Central Shalteng.

As per draft proposal, the adjoining Budgam district will have 602 polling stations with 148 in Budgam assembly segment, 116 in Beerwah, 114 in Khansahib, 123 in Charar -i-Sharif and 101 in Chadoora constituency.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Website: www.iust.ac.in

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION NO. 02 OF 2022

On-line Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to below mentioned programmes for the Academic Session 2022. The candidates are advised to peruse the detailed Admission Notification / Admission Guidelines / Prospectus 2022 available on the University website (www.iust.ac.in) & go through the Admission Procedure to check the eligibility criteria/ other details before filling and submitting their Online Application Forms:

UNDER-GRADUATE PROGRAMMES	ELIGIBILITY
B.Tech. Civil Engineering B.Tech. Computer Science & Engineering B.Tech. Electrical Engineering B.Tech. Electronics & Communication Engineering B.Tech. Mechanical Engineering	Having passed 10+2 from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics as compulsory subjects. AND Having appeared in JEE Main (Paper-I) 2022 and obtained a positive score.
B. Arch.	Having passed 10+2 from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics as compulsory subjects OR Having passed 10+3 Diploma Examination with Mathematics as compulsory subject. AND The candidates need to have qualified National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) 2022 conducted by Council of Architecture.
LATERAL-ENTRY PROGRAMMES	ELIGIBILITY
B. Tech. Civil Engineering B. Tech. Electrical Engineering B. Tech. Electronics & Communication Engineering B. Tech. Computer Science & Engineering B. Tech. Mechanical Engineering B.Tech. Food Technology	Passed Minimum 3 years / 2 years (Lateral Entry) Diploma examination with at least 45% marks (40% marks in case of candidates belonging to reserved category SC/ST) in ANY BRANCH of Engineering and Technology. OR Passed B.Sc. Degree from a recognized University as defined by UGC, with at least 45% marks (40% marks in case of candidates belonging to reserved category SC/ST) and passed 10+2 examination with Mathematics as a subject. OR Passed D. Voc. Stream in the same or allied sector.
Diploma in Civil Engineering Diploma in Electrical Engineering Diploma in Mechanical Engineering	10 th + (2 years ITI) shall be eligible for admission to Second Year Diploma Course(s) in ANY BRANCH of Engineering and Technology OR Passed 10+2 examination with any of the three subjects (Physics/ Mathematics / Chemistry/ Computer Science/ Electronics/ Information Technology/ Biology/ Informatics Practices/ Biotechnology/ Technical Vocational subject/ Agriculture/ Engineering Graphics/ Business Studies/ Entrepreneurship).

Note: The candidates whose result of the qualifying examination is awaited can also apply online provisionally. However, such candidates shall have to upload the declaration with the online application form as per the format available on the University website www.iust.ac.in (under Admission Tab) and accordingly submit the result of the qualifying examination to the Office of Dean Academic Affairs within a period of **07 (seven) days from the date of University Entrance Test (if any) of the said programme or as and when required by IUST.**

The Online Application Forms / Deposition of Application Fee shall be available from **15-07-2022 to 10-08-2022.**

For any further query/information, the candidates may contact the following:
EPABX: 01933-247954/247955 Phone: 9858306455 / 9906400789 Email ID: admissions@iust.ac.in
No: IUST/DAA-Acad/22/1151
Dated: 14-07-2022

Yours Faithfully
Executive Engineer
REW Baramulla.

Sd/-
Deputy Registrar, Academics

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA

FINAL REMINDER

Shri Abdul Ahod Magray
S/o Abdul Aziz Magray
R/o Wahadatpora Block Baramulla (Contractor)
No; xen/Rew/2022/ 5610-17

Dated -13-07-2022

Subject:- Construction of culvert at Nallah Khrushi near retains at Hudipora.
Reference:- Allotment No;- Xen/REW/Bla/7826-33 dated;- 10-09-2021, and AE Baramulla;s Letter No;- 26-27 dated;- 18-05-2022.

Whereas the subject work stands allotted in your favour vide this office allotment Order No; Xen/REW/Bla//7826-33 dated;- 10-09-2021 and the work was started on 28-09-2021 and the underground work was in progress as reported by the Assistant Engineer concerned.

Whereas, as per the allotment order you are supposed to complete the work within the stipulated lime .The first reminder is issued in your favour through this division vide this office communication No;-Xen/REW/Bla/2796-2803 dated;- 25-05-2022 and you are asked to resume the work within weeks time but you completely failed to start the balance work.

Whereas you were time and again asked to resume the work but you completely failed till date and number of notices were already issued by the Assistant Engineer REW Baramulla vide his No;-265-26 dated;-20-12-2021 and No;307- dated;-27-12-2021 and the instant work stopped halfway

Whereas the Assistant Engineer REW Sub Division Baramulla vide his above communication also served you the notice for resumption of the work. But till date you have completely failed to complete the instant work well in time. You have given one more chance to resume the work within weeks time positively, if you fail to start the work your CDR is to be forfeited without giving any intimation to you.

Now you are finally asked to resume the work within four days from the issuance of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that you have no interest in getting the work completed the balance work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost.

Notice be treated as final

JK Bank Regularizes Players, JKFA Expresses Gratitude



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Bank football team recently regularized a number of its first team players, prompting the Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) to thank the Bank management. "JKFA expresses sincere thanks to MD and CEO J&K Bank for regularizing the services of Aakif Reshi, Azhar Ali, Faisal Thoker, Furqan Zargar, Rohit Kalotra, Md. Uneeb Wani, Towfeeq Ahmad, Shahid Mushtaq, Waris Amin and Farhan Ganai, football players of the J&K Bank, who were working on contractual basis for last many years," the FA said in a statement.

"The Association is grateful to the Chairman Sports Board, J&K Bank, who has taken the initia-

tive to meet the long pending demand of the above named footballers who have brought laurels to the UT and were instrumental in raising the name & fame of J&K Bank Football Team. JKFA congratulates these players for being the regular employees of the bank," the statement added.

"JKFA requests the heads of other Government Departments, like Food & Supplies Department, J&K SRTC, J&K Forest Department, etc., to kindly regularize the football players working in their departments on contractual basis for a pretty long time. It will be a great gesture on their part and this will encourage the Football Players of these Departments," the JKFA statement concluded.

Harbhajan To Play In 2nd Edition Of Legends League Cricket



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh will be back in the cricket field when he competes in the second season of the Legends League Cricket (LLC) in September.

Harbhajan will join former Indian opener Virender Sehwag, Irfan Pathan, Yusuf Pathan, former Australian speedster Brett Lee, spin legend Muttiah Muralitharan, and World Cup winning former England captain, Eoin Morgan.

The second season of the LLC will feature four teams and 110 former international cricketers.

It makes me feel super charged to be back on the ground and

play with the global legends of the game. I am looking forward to September eagerly, Harbhajan said.

Besides Harbhajan, former Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Mortaza has also confirmed his participation in the upcoming edition of LLC.

Meanwhile, former West Indies cricketers, Lendl Simmons and Denesh Ramdin have joined the league's player draft for the upcoming season.

The inaugural edition of the tournament featured former cricketers from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, England divided into three teams representing India, Asia and Rest of the World respectively.

Spain's Running Of The Bulls Ends With Swift Race, 6 Hurt



Agencies

PAMPLONA: Bulls from Spain's revered Miura ranch starred in a fast and uncomplicated final running of the bulls at this year's San Fermin Festival on Thursday.

The Navarra regional government said six people were treated for minor injuries following Thursday's run that lasted just over two minutes. Initially, the Spanish Red Cross said two people needed treatment.

No horn gorings were reported as the Miuras, known for their alertness and speed of reaction, kept mainly in a pack and took little notice of the runners as they raced to the bullring.

One runner escaped serious injury when one bull's horn appeared to graze the right side of his head before he fell to the ground.

The festival's eighth and final 8

a.m. run saw hundreds of people, mostly men and far fewer than usual, test their agility to accompany six fighting bulls and their guiding steer along an 875-meter (956-yard) route through Pamplona to the city's bullring. The bulls are killed by professional bullfighters later in the day.

Tens of thousands of visitors attend the Pamplona festival, which was immortalized in Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel "The Sun Also Rises." The festival is also popular for its 24-hour partying.

During this year's festival, which started July 6, four people were gored, none seriously.

Eight people were gored in 2019, the last festival before a two-year hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sixteen people have died in Pamplona's bull runs since 1910, with the last death in 2009.

No Kohli, Bumrah In India's T20 Squad For Windies

Agencies

NEW DELHI: India's star batsman Virat Kohli and seamer Jasprit Bumrah have been left out of India's Twenty20 squad for the team's five-match tour of West Indies beginning later this month, the country's cricket board said on Thursday.

Former captain Kohli has endured a lean run of form across formats and is without a century in international cricket since November 2019.

The Indian cricket board (BCCI), which rarely explains team selection, did not specify if Kohli had been dropped or rested.

Bumrah, currently the top-ranked ODI bowler, has likely been rested considering the workload of India's all-format pace spearhead.

Batsman KL Rahul and spinner Kuldeep Yadav were selected in the Rohit Sharma-led squad subject to their fitness. Kohli, currently with the ODI squad in England, missed Tuesday's series opener with a groin injury.

With a number of in-form



batsmen pushing for a top order berth, Kohli's place in the Twenty20 squad has been questioned, especially ahead of this year's World Cup in Australia.

Former coach Ravi Shastri has advised Kohli to take a break from the game and return rejuvenated. BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has backed the 33-year-old to regain his form.

"He himself knows by his own standards it has not been good and I see him coming back and doing well," Ganguly told ANI.

"But he has got to find his way and become successful, which he has been for the last 12-13 years or more and only Virat Kohli can do that."

Team: Rohit Sharma (C), Ishan Kishan, KL Rahul*, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Shreyas Iyer, Dinesh Karthik, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav*, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan, Harshal Patel, Arshdeep Singh.

Will Asia Cup Be Moved To Bangladesh Amid Sri Lanka Crisis?



Agencies

NEW DELHI: Ahead of Asia Cup scheduled to be held in August in Sri Lanka, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Sourav Ganguly on Thursday said that the board will keep monitoring the situation in the island nation amid the ongoing political and economic crisis there.

"I cannot comment at the moment (about the possibility of India hosting the event). We will keep monitoring (the situation in Sri Lanka). Australia is

playing there. The Sri Lankan team is also doing well. I cannot comment at the moment. Let us wait for a month," the BCCI president told ANI.

Sri Lanka had recently hosted Australia for a multi-format series. The series was highly competitive and saw good cricket from both sides. Australia won the T20I series 2-1, the ODI series was won by Sri Lanka 3-2, while the Warne-Murli Trophy in Tests was shared after the two-match series ended in a 1-1 draw.

Ganguly also spoke about

the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic during his tenure as BCCI president.

"But we managed to get cricket going and as you know, broadcast rights have gone exceptionally well. Although I never equate money with the sport, but it is always good to have money because infrastructure is built that way. Indian cricket is in a solid position. As and when we will finish, someone else will come in and take it forward. It is the players and administrators who will take the game forward," said Ganguly. (ANI)

Barça Reaches Deal With Man United For Reluctant De Jong



Agencies

BARCELONA: Barcelona has reached an agreement with Manchester United for the potential transfer of Netherlands midfielder Frenkie de Jong, who would still need to approve the move, a person at the Spanish club with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Thursday.

United has agreed to pay Barcelona 75 million euros (\$75 million) plus another potential 10 million euros in variables for the 25-year-old De Jong, ac-

cording to a club official who spoke under condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk publicly about the deal.

De Jong, who is under contact with Barcelona through June 2026, would still need to agree to the transfer to the English Premier League side. So far, he is reportedly reluctant to leave Camp Nou.

But the Barcelona official with knowledge of the agreement said coach Xavi Hernandez has told De Jong that he will not be a key part of his

squad. Barcelona would prefer for a definite deal to be reached immediately before the team leaves on Saturday for a pre-season tour in the United States.

Barcelona has been working to reduce its payroll as it seeks to reduce its debt. De Jong's salary, the club official said, was no longer in line with its new financial priorities.

De Jong has made 140 appearances, mostly as a regular starter, since Barcelona bought him from Ajax in 2019 for 75 million euros (then \$85.5 million). (AP)

UK Police Launch Probe Over Mo Farah's Revelations



Agencies

LONDON: London's Metropolitan Police said it had opened an investigation after multiple Olympic and world champion athlete Mo Farah told a BBC documentary that he was a victim of child trafficking.

The 39-year-old said he was brought to Britain from Djibouti at the age of nine and was forced to do housework in exchange for food.

"Specialist officers have opened an investigation and are currently assessing the available information," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement, adding that no reports had yet been made directly to the police.

"Where offences are reported in the media which are deemed significant public interest and there is no cause to disbelieve then the Met can create a crime report."

Farah said his name had been changed from Hussein Abdi Kahin in the fake travel documents used to fly him to Britain by a woman he had never met before.

Once he arrived in the UK, the woman took him to her home in Hounslow, west London, and tore apart a paper with the contact details of his relatives. Her family did not allow him to go to school until the age of 12.

"Deciding to speak out and making the film has been a difficult and emotional journey, as I didn't fully understand what had happened to me," Farah said about the documentary "The Real Mo Farah" in a post on Instagram.

"But, now that my twins have reached the age I was when I came here, I felt it was the right time to ask these questions and discover more about my childhood." (Reuters)

Nelson Mandela's 'World Boxing Championship Belt' Stolen From Museum



Agencies

JOHANNESBURG: A World Boxing Council championship belt belonging to former South African President Nelson Mandela has been stolen from a museum in Soweto, according to police.

The belt was given to Mandela by American boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard during one of his visits to South Africa.

It was one of many artifacts inside the Nelson Mandela National Museum museum, a major tourist attraction for local and international travellers.

Mandela, a former amateur boxer, revered the belt and it was prominently displayed in the museum in a house where he once lived in Soweto township, west of Johannesburg.

The museum is one of the top attractions on Vilakazi Street,

the only street in the world to claim two Nobel laureates as former residents.

Mandela and the late anti-apartheid stalwart Archbishop Desmond Tutu both lived on the street.

According to police, the belt was stolen when thieves broke into the museum, popularly referred to as Mandela House, and the theft was reported to police on July 1.

No suspects have been arrested and police have appealed for any information related to the theft, police spokeswoman Dimakatso Sello said.

Mandela became South Africa's first democratically elected leader in 1994 after spending 27 years in prison for his battle against apartheid, the brutal system of white minority rule in effect in the country from 1948 to 1994.

Dembélé Signs New Contract With Barcelona Through 2024

Agencies

BARCELONA: Ousmane Dembélé has agreed to sign a new contract with Barcelona through June 2024.

The deal on Thursday comes a day after club president Joan Laporta said Dembélé would stay on during the presentation of new signing Raphinha.

Dembélé, now 25, joined Barcelona in 2017 on a then club-record transfer from Borussia Dortmund that with variables was set to reach 147 million euros (then \$173 million) as the club sought a young talent after the unwanted exit of Neymar.

After suffering serious injuries early in his stay at Barcelona, Dembélé consolidated himself as one of its most irreplaceable players thanks to his speed and playmaking.

The new contract concludes a drawn-out negotiation between player and club that appeared to have broken down in January when Dembélé rejected Barcelona's renewal offer, prompting the club to tell his agent to find the France winger a new club.

Dembélé continued to play well for coach Xavi Hernández and remained one of his most used players.



But with his contract expiring this summer, it appeared he would leave. Dembélé was linked to possible moves to England's Premier League or to Paris Saint-Germain, the team of Neymar and former Barcelona great Lionel Messi. Now he will be considered one of Xavi's pillars as the coach tries to build a winning side following a season without a title.

The forward has 32 goals and assisted on 34 more in 150 appearances for Barcelona.

As usual, Barcelona did not make his salary public. It is reported Dembélé had one of the highest wages on the squad under his previous contract. Barcelona has successfully convinced several players to take a wage cut as it tries to reduce its enormous debt.