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Tourism On Track

Kashmir Received Over 1 Crore Tourists In Six Months

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: More than ten million tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir this year so far, making it one of the most successful tourism years ever in the scenic valley which has witnessed a relatively plunging tourist footfall in the last three years.

The figures were placed by Union Minister for Tourism G K Reddy on Monday. As per Reddy, 1.05 crore, which is over 10 million, tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir in the first six months of the calendar year 2022. Replying to a query by All



■ File Photo

India Trinamool Congress leader, Mala Roy in Lok Sabha, the Union Minister, as per a

document, said that the tourism sector in J-K is one of the core sectors of the local

SINCE 2021, THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT'S ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN ACROSS major Indian cities and the opening of offbeat destinations has been attracting more tourists. Dozens of winter, spring and summer festivals were organised across J&K to give a boost to the tourism industry."

economy.

"As a result of the initiatives taken by the J&K Government in private as well as Government sectors there has been a significant hike in the tourist footfall despite the Covid challenges,"

he said, adding that J&K has seen tourist flow in all the seasons during the period and that too high-end tourists, who have a good experience of quality services.

As per the Union Minister, in the year 2020, the tourist

footfall was 41,267, which has increased to 1.05 crores during the first six months (January-June) of the calendar year 2022.

"This high influx of tourists has, directly and indirectly, benefited the local populace including the people living in far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir," G K Reddy said.

Pertinently, tourism industry players in the Kashmir region had earlier predicted that the tourist arrivals are set to touch a 10-year high this year after more than 340,000 tourists had arrived in J&K since January, despite restrictions **More on P6**

J&K Logs 152 Cases, 1 Corona Death

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As many as 152 more people tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, while one more person succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, 85 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus were reported from Jammu division and 67 others from Kashmir Valley, taking the number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 457184.

In the Valley, they said, Srinagar detected highest 57 new cases of virus, Baramulla 5, two each in Pulwama and Anantnag and a single case in Budgam district.

In the winter capital, officials said, **More on P6**

'Ready To Deal With Situation If Covid Peaks'

Agencies

Srinagar: The Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Tassaduq Hussain Mir on Monday said that the department is ready to deal with Covid-19 like situation if the cases increase.

According to reports, Mir said, "If in case the Covid-19 cases increase, we will try to bring only 50 percent of the students. As of now, there is no such situation."

"In the past two years, we have gained an experience as to how we can deal with the Covid-19 like situation," he said.

DSEK said that it has made all arrangements in this regard in the government schools.

"We have also increased the seating capacity, social distancing is being **More on P6**

99 Percent Turnout In Presidential Polls

Fate Of Sinha, Murmu Sealed



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Parliamentarians and legislators across the country voted on Monday to elect India's 15th president, choosing between opposition pick Yashwant Sinha and NDA nominee Droupadi Murmu who is favoured to win the battle to the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

With the BJP's dominance and support from regional parties such as the BJD, BSP, Shiromani Akali Dal, Shiv Sena and now JMM, Murmu's vote share is likely to reach nearly two-thirds and she is set to become the first tribal leader and second woman to occupy the top constitutional post.

While MPs filed into Parliament's Room No 63 that had been converted into a polling station to cast their vote, MLAs headed to state assemblies. A total of 4,809 electors, including 776 MPs and 4033 elected MLAs are entitled to vote in the election, but nominated MPs and MLAs, and Members of Legislative Council are not.

After the day's polling, the Election Commission said over 99 per cent of the total electors

had cast their ballot.

In Delhi, voting ended with the 98.90 per cent of the electors permitted to vote in Parliament House exercising their franchise, said Returning Officer PC Mody.

Briefing reporters after the voting, he said 736 electors -- 727 MPs and nine MLAs -- had been permitted by the Election Commission to vote at Parliament House. Eight MPs, including BJP's Sunny Deol, did not cast their vote.

Among those who voted in Parliament were Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

As polling gathered pace for a race in which the end result is seemingly clear, Sinha appealed to parliamentarians and legislators to listen to their "inner voice" and support him.

"I have repeatedly said this election is very important as it will decide the direction as to whether democracy will remain in India or will slowly end. The indications that we are getting is that we are moving towards its end," **More on P6**



A boy dives into a water channel in the interiors of Dal Lake on Monday to beat the heat. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Our Biggest Preference Is To Cement Peace In J&K: LG

Agencies

Ganderbal: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday said that the neighbouring country is trying hard to foment trouble in J&K by hatching conspiracies to provoke security forces to commit a mistake that can fuel street protests but "our forces will never commit any such act."

Addressing two-day multi-stakeholder convention on holistic development of agriculture & allied sectors in J&K, at Ganderbal district of Central Kashmir, the LG said that for ensuring development, peace is must.

"In a place, where there is violence, there can be no



development. The administration and the security forces are working hard to make peace a permanent feature in J&K. But some elements, especially our neighbour keep on hatching conspiracies to provoke our security forces **More on P6**

Announces 10% Reservation For Agniveers In JKP

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has announced 10 per cent reservation for Agniveers in the Jammu and Kashmir Police. During the 16th edition of "Awaaz Ki Awaaz" radio talk on Sunday, Sinha said his decision was based on the suggestion given by two youth from Jammu - Sankarshan Sharma and Akarshit Sharma. "Sankarshan and Akarshit, I want to thank you for your suggestion. **More on P6**

Army Captain, JCO Killed In Blast On LoC

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: An Army captain and a junior commissioned officer were killed in an accidental grenade blast along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Monday.

The Army personnel were on duty when the incident took place in the Mendhar sector of Poonch late on Sunday night, an Army PRO here said.

The Army captain Anand and the naib-subedar (JCO) Bhagwan Singh were immediately taken to Udhampur for treatment on a helicopter, he



said. During the treatment, they succumbed to their injuries.

Anand was a resident of Champa Nagar in Bihar's Bhagalpur and Naib Subedar Bhagwan Singh belonged to village Pokhar Bhatta in Ambedkar Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh.

S H O R T T A K E S

7 LeT Associates Held In Jammu: Police

Observer News Service

A Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant network was unmasked and seven members of the outfit were arrested in Jammu and Rajouri districts, police said on Monday. They said most of militant cases in Jammu province have been solved with the busting of the three LeT modules. "We have busted three terror modules of LeT which were running on instructions from across the border. Seven **More on P6**

Tehsildar, NT Held For Demanding Rs 5L Bribe

Observer News Service

The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Monday arrested two revenue officials for demanding Rs 5 lakh bribe to allow traders to run their business on Nazool land transferred in their favour under the now scrapped Roshni Act. The ACB received a written complaint alleging that Mohammad Younis, Tehsildar and Gh. Rasool Hajam, Naib-Tehsildar of Tehsil Office Shalteng were demanding Rs 5 lakh as bribe for allowing the complainants **More on P6**

IED Material Recovered, 1 Held: Police

Observer News Service

Police on Monday arrested a man after allegedly recovering IED material on his instance along the national highway in this capital city. The recovery was made after the arrest of Zahid Ahmad of Aripanath village in Beerwah of Budgam district on the basis of technical inputs, a police spokesperson said Monday. During examination, Ahmad, he said, disclosed having hidden IED material, he led the police team and caused recovery of P3 type **More on P6**

Electricity Shock Kills Man In Budgam

Observer News Service

A man was electrocuted to death while pruning trees at Chandpora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Monday. 35-year-old Showkat Hussain Thoker, a resident of Chandpora while pruning trees received an electric shock after touching a live wire accidentally, reports said. Thoker was immediately shifted to Budgam hospital where he was declared dead on arrival by the doctors. Police have taken **More on P6**

Militant Hideout Busted In Ramban

Observer News Service

Government forces on Monday busted a suspected militant hideout in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district and seized ammunition and explosives, officials said. A joint search operation by the Rashtriya Rifles and the police was launched in the heights of the Buzla-Khari belt in Banihal which led to the uncovering of the hideout in Hadwagan-Sernihal forest, they said. The forces seized **More on P6**

Nursing Student Found Dead In Rajouri

Observer News Service

A BSc nursing student from Central Kashmir's Budgam district was found dead on Monday in Darhali River in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. The body of Shafed Bilal, studying in second year at Government Medical College Rajouri was recovered from Darhali river in Rajouri town on Monday, reports said. Suspecting it to be a case of drowning, police recovered the body and took it into custody for carrying **More on P6**



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Long COVID Affects 23% SARS-CoV-2 Patients, Study Says

Press Trust Of India

About 23 per cent of people infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus may develop long COVID with symptoms lasting for more than 12 weeks, according to a study.

The research, published recently in the journal Scientific Reports, also identified predictors of who is likely to develop the sometimes-debilitating symptoms that can last for months.

The study is unique because it accounts for preexisting symptoms such as fatigue and sneezing that are common to other conditions and may be mistaken for COVID symptoms, the researchers said.

"Long COVID is a major public health concern. Twenty-three per cent is a very high prevalence, and it may translate to millions of people," said study first author Qiao Wu, a doctoral candidate at the University of Southern California (USC) in the US.

"More knowledge on its prevalence, persistent symptoms and risk factors may help health care professionals allocate resources and services to help long haulers get back to normal lives," Wu said.

The study shows that obesity and hair loss at the time of infection



tion are predictors of long COVID, but that other underlying conditions -- such as diabetes or smoking status -- have no discernable link to long-lasting symptoms.

While SARS-CoV-2 is typically an acute illness lasting about three weeks, some people with COVID-19 have symptoms that last months or longer.

The World Health Organiza-

tion defines long COVID as symptoms that last 12 weeks or longer, a definition that the study's authors also used.

Estimates of the prevalence of long COVID range from 10 per cent to 90 per cent due to evolving diagnostic criteria and differences in study design, the researchers said.

For example, some studies

have focused on hospitalised patients, which provided a limited perspective on long COVID in the broader population, they said.

The researchers used an internet-based national survey conducted by the Center for Economic and Social Research (CESR) at the USC with an estimated 8,000 respondents from across the US. From March 2020 to March 2021,

researchers invited participants to answer biweekly questions about COVID.

Their final sample included 308 infected, non-hospitalised individuals who were interviewed one month before, around the time of infection and 12 weeks later.

After accounting for preexisting symptoms, about 23 per cent of the participants reported that they had experienced new-onset symptoms during infection which lasted for more than 12 weeks, meeting the study's definition of long COVID.

The chances of long COVID among people who experienced chest congestion were lower.

There was a lack of evidence relating the risk of long COVID to preexisting health conditions such as diabetes or asthma, or age, gender, race/ethnicity, education or current smoking status.

"The significant association between long COVID and obesity is consistent with previous studies," said Eileen Crimmins, a professor at USC.

"We differ from some existing studies in that we did not find a link between long COVID and any sociodemographic factors," Crimmins added.

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

Attention Please

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost his/her qualification certificate/s as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 233463

Class : 10th

Year & Session: Sept. 1995

Registration No: ---

Name: Ab Rashid Lone

Father's Name: Ali Mohd Lone

Mother's Name : Rajja Bagum

Date of Birth:- 15-11-1976

Residenc:- Mazhama Magam Budgam - 193401

According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing Sl No: 581261 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F/Cer is-I-DQC/B/KD/17

Dated 05-07-2022

BMG



**Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.**

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Why Is Tech Giant Apple Trying To Teach Our Teachers?

The Conversation

Sydney- Apple products are already a central part of our lives in so many ways. We use them to work, socialise, monitor our heart rates, pay for things and watch TV.

But did you know they are also involved in teaching school teachers?

The shift to online learning following COVID-19 is not only for students. Teachers now also do a lot of professional development online, often via global technology companies or EdTechs.

One familiar sounding example of this is Apple Teacher. This is a free professional learning program developed by Apple for school teachers. Offered in 36 countries including Australia, Apple Teacher claims to support and celebrate teachers using Apple products for teaching and learning.

In my new research, I argue Apple Teacher is helping Apple position itself as a global education expert. This move is largely flying under the radar.

What is Apple Teacher?

Apple has sold technology to schools since the early 1980s, especially in the United States. It has also had programs geared at teachers using Apple technology since the mid-1990s. But the tech giant now provides teacher professional learning via Apple Teacher, which launched in 2016.

As of 2022, there are more than 100 lessons and tutorials freely available on the Apple Teacher Learning Centre. The site promotes a self-paced journey and a great way for schools to offer free professional learning. There are skill-building tutorials, lesson ideas and inspiration to deepen student learning.

This could be something as simple as how to take a selfie on an excursion. Or it could be how to use coding or augmented reality in a lesson. There are also specific supports for COVID-19 remote learning, with time-saving tips and lesson ideas.

Teachers can complete interactive quizzes on how to use Apple software to earn badges. If they collect six badges, they are recognised as Apple Teachers.

Another key feature is the Apple Teacher Portfolio. Here, teachers develop and share lesson plans that intentionally use Apple products in the classroom. These include Keynote (which creates presentations) and GarageBand (which creates music or podcasts). Completing all nine lesson plans rewards teachers with more badges and gives them additional recognition.

Festivals, badges, followers

Beyond rewarding individual teachers, Apple Teacher also offers learning on a larger scale. Apple is in the middle of its third annual Festival of Learning. Between July 11 and 21, this global virtual conference is running 90 sessions on topics such as creating your first app and theatre design, all using Apple products.

As of July 2022, the Apple Education Twitter account (@AppleEDU) has more than one million followers. While not restricted to Apple Teacher participants, it clearly demonstrates its significant reach and appeal.

Apple Teacher is usually completed by individual teachers on their own initiative. However, schools with more than 75% of their staff as Apple Teachers can also seek recognition as an Apple Distinguished School. While the number of Apple Teachers is not publicly available, there are currently 47 Apple Distinguished Schools in Australia out of 689 around the world.

A rebranding for Apple

While it is perhaps unsurprising that Apple promotes the use of its products in schools, COVID-19 has clearly introduced a new sense of urgency and market opportunity

in terms of the teaching and professional development side of the equation.

In comments made in 2021, one of Apple's vice-presidents, Susan Prescott, said the company wanted to help build educators' confidence in reimagining their lessons and [recognise] them for the great work they do every day.

In my research, I argue Apple Teacher positions Apple as a global expert in education. Apple has much to gain financially from this development. In 2021, the global EdTech industry was valued at US \$5 billion (A \$12.5 billion). By 2028, this is expected to explode to US \$230 billion (A \$339.4 billion).

By offering teacher learning and credentials and classroom curriculum guides, Apple is directly challenging more conventional sources of schooling expertise built over decades of experience and research. This includes the significant knowledge that teachers already possess, as well as universities, professional bodies and departments of education.

It is unclear what knowledge or expertise Apple uses to inform Apple Teacher. The company usually cites no research in its publicly available materials. But as the world's largest information technology company, Apple can use its brand recognition to promote its own version of schooling knowledge and teaching qualification.

Apple's reputation for tech products will also likely help attract prospective users to Apple Teacher, regardless of the learning provided. Given a significant focus of Apple Teacher is encouraging teachers to adopt Apple products for classroom use, there are clear financial motivations here as well.

What next



Before COVID-19, teachers were already under extraordinary pressure. In this context, it is understandable that Apple Teacher - free, recognisable and internationally available - might be attractive to overworked, under-appreciated teachers in search of support.

But, as teachers themselves know, not all learning opportunities are equal.

We already have decades of research that can support quality teacher learning and classroom practice. We should not accept a global EdTech as the preferred source of solutions, especially when these solutions involve promoting their own products.

Education policymakers and school leaders need to make sure programs like Apple Teacher are not the only opportunity for professional development. They can do this by providing additional time for teacher professional learning, or funding greater access to quality research behind paywalls.

Fostering close ongoing connections between teachers, professional organisations and academic researchers will also allow for conversations between experts without the risk of product placement and promotion.

We cannot continue to expect so much of teachers if we do not support the vital work they do. Ceding this space to profit-motivated EdTechs will only make the problem worse.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FERROZPORA BASIN IRRIGATION DIVISION FBI DIVISION TANGMARG.

Office Phone No.01954-254611

Email Address: fbdivisiontangmarg@gmail.com E-TENDER NOTICE No.29of 2022-23 FBI Division Tangmarg(STAGE CONTRACT)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved registered eligible contractors with J&K UTGovt. for following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Upper Ceiling. Cost of Work (In Lacs)	Earnest Money/ (Amount in Rupees)	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Amount in Rupee)	M.H. of Account	Position Of Funds
1	Stage Contract for Carriage etc of various items in the Divisional store of F.B.I Division Tangmarg /PHE Sector.	4.00 lacs	8000/-	30-07-2022 to 31-03-2023	DEE	200/-	CSS under PHE sector/	Assured
2	Stage Contract for Carriage etc of various items in the Divisional store of F.B.I Division Tangmarg /I&FC Sector.	0.60 Lacs	1200/-	30-07-2022 to 31-03-2023	DEE	200/-	CSS under I&FC sector	Assured

1. AAA NO. SE/Hyd/DB/11 of 2021-22 Dated:- 16-07-2021
2. AAA NO. SE/Hyd/DB/03 of 2021-22 Dated:- 01-06-2021
3. AAA NO. SE/Hyd/DB/02 of 2021-22 Dated:- 01-06-2021
4. AAA NO. SE/Hyd/DB/01 of 2021-22 Dated:- 01-06-2021
5. CE/PHE/DB/33 of 06-2019 dated:- 29-06-2019.
6. Govt. order No.69-jk(JSD) of 2Ass021 Dated:-05-03-2021.

1	Publishing date:	16-07-2022	05:00 PM
2	Download date start:	16-07-2022	06:00 PM
3	Bid Submission date start:	17-07-2022	10:00 AM
4	Bid Submission date Ends:	25-07-2022	04:00 PM
5	Date of Opening	26-07-2022	2:00 PM

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of 2% CDR/FDR tender document non-refundable /non-transferable) to be deposited under M.H 0702 Rev Misc for S.No.2 and M.H 0215 for S.No.1 in the shape of Treasury challan /e-challan (mentioning therein NIT No. S.No of work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti FBI Division Tangmarg and date on it must be prior to date of issuance of this tender notice.

2. No tender document will qualify if the tendered cost of the works, works out below 35% of advst. cost the said tender will be rejected outrightly.

3. Bidders must upload the scanned copy of all necessary documents like CDR / FDR / PAN/ Tin /treasury Challan /E- Challan /latest GST Clearance Certificate/ Registration card duly renewed and hard copies of LI physically to Tender Receiving Authority after the date of opening of bid.

4. Any item or items of work found necessary for execution at the site and not covered in the allotted items of this stage contract will be paid as per SSR 2020 with over all allotted appreciation/depreciation of this stage contract and other items not included in the SSR 2020 will be as per the LMR or analysed rates respectively whichever is found lowest.

5. The allottee agency has to mobilize his resources like men/machinery for supply of material to divisional stores within time period at multiple spots, immediately asand wherellected by Asstt. Executive Engineer in -charge divisional stores during any emergency as may arise, telephonically /SMS/Whats-app /verbally. However, in case the allottee fails in this regard, the work shall be got executed by other agency at the risk, responsibility and cost of allottee contractor. The number of men /Machinery for supply of material deployed at multiple spots, shall be sufficient to tackle the situation during peak migrancy or at other spots

6. The contract shall be valid upto 31-3-2023 from the issuance of formal LOI/allotment by this office and the additional performance if any, will be released only after the completion of the validity period.

7. The tender is floated only to mitigate the urgencies/emergencies with regard to supply of departmental materials.

8. Payment shall be made as and when funds are made available under relevant Head of account.

9. The lowest bidder has to submit hardcopies of CDR/ Treasury Receipt/E-Challan etc. Latest GST certificate in the office of Executive Engineer, FBI Division Tangmarg. Or Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Baramulla H.Q. Sopore, as per the time Schedule given above after opening of the tender.

10. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Specification, Bill of Quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Department website www.jktenders.gov.in. The tenders shall be uploaded in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in. The tenders uploaded on the website up to due date will be opened as per the schedule given above in the office of the Executive Engineer, FBI Division Tangmarg.

11. If the non-responsive attitude or non-cooperation from the successful bidder in the execution of emergency works is repeatedly shown by the allottee, up to a maximum of three times, his contract will be deemed to have been cancelled and his Performance guarantee shall be forfeited besides debarring him from participation in the tendering process of this division as per rules.

12. The contractor has to arrange all required transportation facilities for supply of materials to the actual location on his own during the life of this stage contract.

13. The tender documents can be downloaded as per schedule shown in the e-Nit.

14. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of eChallan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favor of Executive Engineer FBI Division Tangmarg. Tender inviting authority and CDR pledged to Executive Engineer FBI Division Tangmarg.

15. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on Website http://www.jktenders.gov.in in aquaint bid submission process. Bidder must ensure upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. The successful bidder will have to submit the original/ attested photocopies documents related to the bid physically within 2 days of Opening of tenders, which includes PG /CDR/E- Challan Or treasury Challan etc as mentioned in this tender document.

16. The Bidders will firmly note that the above items of work involved for aforesaid Work(s) shall include but not limited to the following:-

- a. All safety arrangements as per relevant IS, IRC and IRS Codes of practice and as specified.
- b. Construction of all Access roads as required to different construction spots and construction of all temporary diversion of roads, laying of temporary crossing, maintenance of all roads and dismantling same after completion and making same good.
- c. Construction of all temporary cross drains are required and construction of all temporary diversion of streams/nallah/Canals, maintenance of all diversion etc. as per site conditions and direction by the Engineer in charge.
- d. The rate shall include the Charges for Submission of progress photographs (digital) video graphic record/Still photographs through the professional person during & after construction and Progress reports in soft copies and hardcopies on works register & office record. Taking levels by Auto Level / ETS before and after execution. Preparation of work abstract of executed work, preparation of Bills. The information and data stated and incorporated is for the General guidance only and may vary as a result of more detailed construction drawing and as per site requirements. Also Providing of First Aid medical facilities to the Labourers, working staff at site of work in addition as mentioned at above site(s) & the insurance as well

17. Tenders will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in the office of Executive Engineer, FBI Division, Tangmarg on the day as mentioned in the E-Nit above or on any subsequent working day, in presence of such tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to remain present at the time of opening of tenders.

18. If it is found that any bidders has /have furnished misleading/wrong or Fraudulent information/ documents, his/their tender shall not be considered and the (PG) additional of the tenderer/s will be forfeited.

19. If the documents/ information submitted is found to be wrong

20. Executive Engineer, FBI Division Tangmarg reserves the right to postpone the tender Submission/opening date and to accept/ reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. The decision of the Executive Engineer, FBI Division Tangmarg after assessment of suitability as per eligibility criteria shall be final and binding.

21. The complete bidding process will be online.

22. The PG shall be forfeited if:-

- a) Any tenderer withdraws his tender during the period of tender validity or make any modification in terms and conditions of the tender.
- b. The contractor fails to execute the agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.

DIPK-6185/22

No:- FBID/CC/2984-3002

Dated:- 16-07-2022

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
F.B.I Division Tangmarg.



Independence Day Arrangements Reviewed At Bakhshi Stadium

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Inspector General, Central Kashmir, Sujit Kumar and Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Qazi Sarwar on Monday visited Bakhshi Stadium to review the arrangements and preparation of the venue for celebration of Independence Day (ID), 2022 here.

Taking stock of arrangements and facilities, the visiting officers issued slew of instructions regarding designation of parking places, entry and exit of VVIPs and other participants, seating arrangements, fixation of podium, participation of contingents, security arrangements, lighting and illumination, installation of CCTV in peripheral areas of the stadium and contingency plan.

Also, they elaborated concerned departments for proper arrangements regarding dewatering plan and covering of ground in case of drizzling ahead of August 15.

The officers fixed roles and responsibilities to facilitate participants and students, display of cultural programmes, media coverage from fixed enclosures to present an impressive celebration of Independence Day.

They emphasized on officers of all the departments to cooperate with each other to make celebration of national day successful.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Secretary Sports Council, SSP security; CE of R&B, PHE; officers of various departments including Information, Health, Traffic, UED, KPDCL and other departments were present at the venue.

Police Requests Public To Bring Demand Of Bribe From officials To Its Notice

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Monday requested the public to bring any demand of bribe or favor from any officer or personnel of district police to their notice.

According to a statement, police said that the general public should bring to light any demand of bribe or favor from any officer or personnel of district police at 9596770502.

The statement reads that this number is directly under supervision of SSP Srinagar.

It added that the impetus is on transparent policing & hassle free citizen centric services. "Citizens are further requested to report about drugs, gambling and about other social crimes without fear at the above mentioned number."

Govt Sanctions Rs.149 Crores For Setting Up STP Around Doodh Ganga

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In what is seen as a major effort by the Government to restore Doodh Ganga (a major tributary of river Jhelum) to its pristine glory, the government has sanctioned Rs 149 crores for building STP around Doodh Ganga.

The setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants STP is part of the comprehensive action plan to prevent direct discharge of untreated sewage into the Doodh Ganga tributary.

The salient features of the project include "Technology intervention for Discharging DWF into Doodh Ganga Nallah from Chadoora, Budgam to Tengpora, Srinagar".

The project has been divided into two parts. The estimated cost of setting up STP from Chadura to Baghe Mehtab is Rs 84.34 crores. Similarly, the estimated project cost from Baghe Mehtab to Tengpora is Rs. 59.14 crores which amounts to Rs 149 crores.

The government response comes in view of the petition filed by Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat Chairman of RTI Movement to SHRC.

In the petition Bhat, the petitioner had alleged hundreds of lavatories go in

the Doodh Ganga Nallah near Chadoora area of Budgam District and PHE supplies the same water from its water filtration plant located in the city outskirts.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) took a serious view on the petition and had constituted a 5 member committee to identify the factors contributing to its pollution and submit a factual report regarding the measure being taken for the cleanliness of the tributary.

In the petition, it was alleged that extensive pollution of the Doodh Ganga River in Kashmir was caused by government agencies over the last several years and the government had failed to acknowledge and address the issue.

Doodh Ganga, which literally means a river of milk, originates from the glaciers of Pir Panjal Mountains between the Budgam and Poonch districts.

More than five hundred thousand people get their drinking water supply from the river, over the decades the water body has been turned into a drain as people put both solid and liquid waste into the tributary.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is accused of pumping all its liquid waste, which includes hazardous waste and human excreta, into it without any treatment.

Sources revealed that SMC has been constructing around 50 Intermediary Pump Stations (IPS) in Srinagar city to prevent flooding in low lying areas. Four pump stations are being upgraded by the SMC's city drainage division at the Natipora, Barzulla, Bul Bul Bagh and Magray Pora localities of uptown Srinagar. The work is going on at full pace.

The petitioner Bhat voiced his excitement over the construction of STP by the government.

"It is encouraging to know that the Govt is planning to spend around Rs 149 Crore for treatment of waste water that goes into Doodh Ganga from Chadoora to Tengpora downstream. I am grateful to Principal Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department Dheeraj Gupta for his personal intervention" Bhat said.

"I hope the best technology will be used for setting up of the STP" said Dr Raja Muzaffar, social activist and Petitioner in the case.

It is pertinent to mention, earlier this year, National Green Tribunal (NGT) had slashed a penalty of Rs 3 crore on some officers of the government and polluters for not taking steps to control pollution and illegal mining in Doodh Ganga and Mamath Kul.

LCMA Conducts Demolition Drive In City Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A Special demolition drive was launched on Monday by Lake Conservation & Management Authority



(LCMA) through its Enforcement Wing in the areas of Nigeen, Saidakadal, Saderbal, Baghwanpora Lal Bazar, Mandibal Nowshera and Nowpora.

In a statement LCMA said, two single storeys, three 2nd storeys, one Banker, two Plinths and one Block, were demolished onspot. Moreover, legal action was also initiated against the violators.

The demolition team was accompanied by a police party from PCR.

Meanwhile, all the public residing within the LCMA jurisdiction and in

lake are hereby once again directed not to go for any sort of illegal encroachments, as the Enforcement wing will continue its demolition drives of illegal constructions, removal of encroach-

ments and strict action will be taken against the violators who shall be found indulging in illegal construction activities.

Also, CCTV Cameras have been installed and barricades have been erected in order to curb the transportation of illegal building material in the LCMA jurisdiction.

Moreover, the locals residing in the area of LCMA are informed to apply for online building permissions through LCMA online official website.

To Preserve Eco-Friendly Environment, Youth Starts Renting Bicycles

Agencies

Srinagar: In a bid to preserve an eco-friendly environment, a 25-year-old youth has taken a unique initiative of providing bicycles on rent basis, which according to him would help in reducing pollution level and also address the frequent traffic congestion on roads.

Mohammad Ubaid Nazir, 25, has come up with an initiative 'Cielo' to bring a respite from rising pollution levels in the environment.

The youth is charging Rs 2 per minute to his customers. The cycles are fitted with GPS tracking, he said.

Ubaid said "The aim and objective of this initiative is to provide facilities in an eco-friendly environment to Srinagar city. It came to my mind two months ago to take initiative like this, initially I thought about 2 wheelers like scotty and bikes but later thought due to traffic mess in the city, it will not work as expected and finally decided to rent bicycles."

He further said, "We have started this initiative from Dalgate 'Ghat 01' where visitors as well locals can come and take a bicycle on a rent basis, but my aim is to start this in whole Kashmir, where any customer can pick a bicycle and later can drop at his feasible spot he wants."

"We have eight cycles available now but will work to get more soon as we are planning to add more spots in Kashmir," he said. (KNO)

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- Srinagar: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 53
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:34
Magrib	7:44
ISHA	9: 20

This Day In History

- 1850 - Airship Elizabeth leaves in storm for Fire Island, crashes (42 die)
- 1860 - 1st railroad reaches Kansas
- 1863 - Battle of Buffington's Island (St George Creek), Ohio
- 1864 - Third Battle of Winchester, VA (Stephenson's Depot)
- 1870 - France declares war on Prussia; Franco-Prussian war begins
- 1912 - A meteorite of estimated 190kg mass explodes over Holbrook in Navajo County, Arizona, causing approximately 16,000 pieces of debris to rain down on the town
- 1918 - World War I: German armies retreat across Marne River in France
- 1963 - NASA civilian Test pilot Joe Walker in X-15 reaches 105 km
- 1967 - US launches Explorer 35 for lunar orbit (800/7400 km)
- 1969 - Apollo 11 goes into Moon orbit
- 1974 - Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 14 lands back on earth
- 1975 - Apollo & Soyuz linked in orbit for 2 days, separate
- 1979 - 2 supertankers collide off Tobago-260,000 tons of oil spill
- 1989 - United Airlines DC-10 crashes at Sioux City Iowa, kills 112
- 1994 - Bomb explosion in Alas Airlines at Colon Panama, 21 killed
- 2001 - Michael Brunet discovers the skull of Sahelanthropus tchadensis in the Djurab Desert, Chad. One of the oldest known species in the human family tree, 6-7 million years ago years old.
- 2015 - World Health Organization puts world's Ebola death toll at 11,284
- 2017 - US scientists calculate total amount plastic ever produced - 8.3 million tonnes, equal to weight of 1 billion elephants.
- 2017 - Archaeological dig in Kakadu National Park extends Aboriginal peoples time in Australia to 65,000 to 80,000 years ago
- 2017 - BBC publishes salaries of its top-earning journalists and presenters, two-thirds male, Chris Evans highest at over £2.2 million

From KO Archives

Australia Frees Kashmiri Detainee After 7 Years

SYDNEY - A Kashmiri youth, freed yesterday after spending a record of almost seven years in an Australian immigration detention, thanked the Prime Minister, John Howard, and the Immigration Minister, Amanda Vanstone, for "showing me compassion".

Peter Qasim, was 24 when he arrived on Thursday Island via Papua New Guinea, in September 1998.

He is still in the Adelaide psychiatric hospital to which he was admitted five weeks ago, but will leave early this week after being granted a visa to live in the community, with full health benefits and employment rights. A Christian couple from Adelaide's southern suburbs, Paye and David, who have visited him in Baxter detention centre near Port Augusta many times, were at his side yesterday, excited to be taking him home.

He calls them Mum and Dad, and thanked them and the Liberal backbenchers who made his plight public, and other "loving, caring supporters" including the Sydney entrepreneur Dick Smith.

"I have been living for almost seven years in a very hard situation," said Qasim, looking relaxed as he read slowly from a prepared statement. "I don't know what my future is now, but I am happy to have the chance to live a normal life. I never wanted to be a burden on Australia." Although his application for asylum was rejected, Qasim can live as an Australian citizen pending deportation. In reality, he has tried unsuccessfully to be deported for the past two years, and it is unlikely this will happen. Although he asserts he is a Kashmiri national, an orphan who fled the country after becoming involved with the separatist Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, no government will accept him and he is effectively stateless.

He has also applied for a permanent visa under a section of the Immigration Act that allows the minister to grant visas on humanitarian grounds.

(Kashmir Observer, 19 July, 2005)

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NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS
TRANSFER OF EQUITY SHARES TO
INVESTOR EDUCATION & PROTECTION FUND

This Notice is published pursuant to Section 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules"), as amended.

The Rules, inter-alia, provide for transfer of all shares in respect of which dividend has not been paid or claimed by the shareholders for seven consecutive years, to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF), set up by the Central Government. The Company is in the process of sending individual communications to those shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF under the said Rules at their latest available addresses. The Company has uploaded the details of such shareholders and shares due for transfer to IEPF on its website at www.nalcoindia.com. Shareholders are requested to refer to the Investor Services page on the Company's website to verify the details of the shares liable to be transferred to IEPF.

Notice is hereby given to all such shareholders to make application to the Company's Registrar (M/s. KFin Technologies Limited) by 25.10.2022 with a request to claim their unpaid final dividend for the year 2014-15 onwards so that the shares are not transferred to the IEPF. It may please be noted that if no claim is made by 25.10.2022, the Company will be compelled to transfer the shares to the IEPF, without any further notice.

It may also be noted that the shares transferred to IEPF, including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, can be claimed back from the IEPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed under the Rules. For any clarification on the matter, please contact the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agents: Shri G. Ramdas, Manager, M/s. KFin Technologies Limited, Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500032; Toll Free No.-18003094001; email: einward.ris@kfintech.com; website: www.kfintech.com.

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(N. K. Mohanty)
GGM & Company Secretary

Place : Bhubaneswar
Date : 28.06.2022

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OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Covid Is Back

After a drastic dip in Covid infections across the country, there has been a renewed surge in cases. India logged over twenty thousand new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, according to the Union health ministry data. Though the numbers are still negligible compared to the successive Covid waves witnessed in 2020 and 2021, there is reason to be wary of a fresh spike in the infections. More so, with the advent of new Covid variants. In the recent past, India has witnessed the emergence of a new super contagious omicron mutant that's worrying scientists as it spreads in India. The mutant-called BA.2.75 - has also reached other countries, including the United States. In India, the rates of transmission are showing an exponential increase, according to experts. This is happening at a time when vaccinations have hit 200 crore mark, 18 months after vaccinations began in the country on 16 January 2021.

According to official data, 96 percent of the country's population has received the first dose of the covid vaccine, while 87 percent have taken both doses. On global scale, 62.1 percent of the world's population is fully vaccinated against the virus. Starting July 15, 2022, the Union government has announced free administration of COVID-19 vaccine booster shots for all adults in the age group of 18-59. As things stand, the response has not been encouraging. Though people were keen to get jabbed over the last two years considering the virulent nature of the initial Covid infections, they are not keen to take booster doses. This is borne out by the figures. According to the Union health ministry, around 92 percent of Indians - , nearly 594 million adults - who are currently eligible for the precautionary dose, have not yet received their third jab.

As things stand, despite the sudden spike in the cases, the number is too low to be taken seriously yet. So, the coming days will be crucial as to the trend of infections. Any significant rise in the cases will require government intervention just as China has done in Shanghai. The world's biggest city has been under lockdown for some time. However, India is unlikely to go that far as, unlike Beijing, New Delhi doesn't follow zero-Covid policy. It is thus premature to rule out more Covid waves and we have to be prepared for them. The world has been through several successive waves of the pandemic, which have infected millions and claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. But fresh surges in some countries and now in India also should be a warning that the virus is here to stay for some more time. It's time for us to get back to wearing masks and observing SOPs.

OTHER OPINION

Time For Vigilance

Never before has the virus spread to more than a hundred people a year during any outbreak in endemic countries except Congo. In fact, sustained transmission beyond a few generations has been rare in Africa. In contrast, the rapid increase in cases and geographical spread have primarily been due to human-to-human transmission largely during sexual contact, especially among men who have sex with men (MSM). While a few rave parties in Spain and Belgium have turned out to be super-spreader events, WHO suspects that "undetected transmission for some unknown duration of time followed by recent amplifier events" to be responsible for cases being detected simultaneously in several countries outside Africa. With cases crossing the 10,000-mark in non-endemic countries, and a large number of cases in Spain (2,034), the U.K. (1,735), Germany (1,556) and the U.S. (1,470), the risk of the virus becoming established in some of these countries is becoming increasingly real.

While the first human case was reported in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the virus became endemic in 11 countries in Africa causing small outbreaks, no attempts were made to study it all these years. With the virus having a free run in non-endemic countries, scientists have now unveiled many disconcerting facts: the virus appears to mutate at a much higher rate than what was assumed. And, based on genome sequences from the current outbreak, they have found the emergence of a novel clade of the virus in early March. A recent study has found monkeypox virus DNA in samples of semen, saliva, urine, rectal swabs and faeces, and at high viral loads; the infectious and disease potential of these body fluids was not studied. Whether the new clade by itself has a higher potential for human spread is not known. But surely, close sexual contact is providing the virus much opportunity to spread within the MSM community. With the sustained spread and a few cases already detected in women, the possibility of spread into the general community cannot be totally dismissed. Increased testing, contact tracing and building awareness, and not stigmatising the infected people can stop the spread.

The Hindu

DARWAN BASTI
Signalling the Need for Model
Biodiversity Centres in J&K

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Recently, I along with my friends went to Yusmarg which is a tourist destination located in Budgam district under the foothills of Pir Panjal mountains. Instead of mingling with the tourists in the Yusmarg meadow, I suggested the group visit a nearby migratory habitation called Darwani Basti which is located on the southern end of Yusmarg valley. All my friends liked the idea. We had two non-local friends from Mumbai also and they seemed very excited once we entered this habitation locally called Darwan Basti. This was not my first visit to this basti but I keep going there, on and off during summers.

Here, we came across a unique Mushroom. Our local host Qadeer Doe's son Tariq brought some mushrooms from the nearby local forest. The said mushrooms are locally called Paenz Ungee in Kashmiri dialect which means Money Fingers. These mushrooms are called Ramaria Coral Mushrooms. Pertinently, the genus Ramaria and Clavaria belong to coral fungi. These are a group of edible mushrooms that are distributed all over the world. The studies on different species of Ramaria and Clavaria have revealed their medicinal potentials as well.

Qadeer Doe, 65 who belongs to Gujjar community hails from Chaoonti Nad village of Charar e Sharief tehsil of Budgam. The village is located around 6 kms down Yusmarg. It has been the tradition of Doe family and his neighbours whether Gujjars of Kashmiri's to migrate to Yusmarg in summer months. These people carry all their livestock with them to the Yusmarg area (Darwan Basti). Infact, this year, Doe left for Yusmarg mid of March as the weather was warmer those days.

Qadeer Doe has maintained his family tradition and so are his sons. Because of their seasonal migration Qadeer, his wife Fatima and his children are quite familiar with the local forest biodiversity of the area. They know edible and medicinal value of most of the herbs and mushrooms found in the Yusmarg area.

Darwan Basti

There are around 300 families living around Darwan Basti of Yusmarg. The families have small huts made of wooden logs, stones and mud. They are locally called Kothas.

People from around 6 to 7 villages located in upper areas of Charar-e-Sharief migrate to Yusmarg. The villages where seasonal migration takes place are Darwan, Nowgam, Watkaloo, Chalyan, Choonthead, Dudkathoo, Bradipathri etc.

As Darwan is a bigger village (Revenue village), the migratory habitation at Yusmarg is called Darwan Basti. This habitation is located at just the backside of the Irrigation bungalow Yusmarg.

The tiny village looks like an ancient village in view of the traditional mud and log huts. It is prohibited to make concrete structures or other modern houses in these forest habitations. This is good, otherwise our forests would have been like small towns or modern villages.

Darwan Basti in Yusmarg depicts our culture and age-old tradition. Both Gujjars and Kashmiri families live in this beautiful meadow for 6 to 7 months and this has strengthened their social relations as well. The seasonal migration has

been an old age tradition across the world and living near mountains of Jammu & Kashmir from centuries have been adopted to this tradition. Bakerwals, Chopans, Gaddi's, Sippis migrate to very high altitude areas and keep travelling long distances but when it comes to Gujjars they migrate just 5 to 10 kms away from near native villages.

Forest Food Festival

I am fond of travelling in the woods and meadows of Pir Panjal and other places. From my school days I would go for camping to Yusmarg, Aharbal and other places. I would roam in forests but was not much familiar with the local biodiversity and herbal wealth. It was only after I met Mr O P Sharma, a great naturalist and forester, that I developed a passion for herbs and mushrooms found in our forests. I attended several tree talks of O P Sharma who retired as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests some years back. In one of the tree talks held on World Environment Day in 2015 (June 5th 2015) at Basant Wodder village in Raithan forest range of District Budgam, I suggested Mr Sharma to hold a forest food festival,

As HoFF, he can utilise the services of his forest field staff in creating a massive awareness about the Forest Biodiversity. I would also suggest that he create some model Biodiversity villages in J&K where biodiversity researchers, master trainers and local people with traditional knowledge about medicinal plants, herbs, forest vegetables, berries, insects and animals can sit together and do a lot of brainstorming

so that the forest herbs, vegetables or mushrooms he was discussing during his tree talk at Basant Wodder would get exposed to outer world. He liked the idea and we started working on it. For organizing such programmes Government departments usually spend large amounts of money, but Sharma sir did majority of his programmes without using even a single penny from the state exchequer. Sharma sir who was of the rank of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests in 2015 drove with me in my small alto car without even caring for protocol. He mixed up with the local villagers who had organized a small chakri (Kashmiri folk music) programme. It was at Basant Wodder that I suggested Sharma ji to have a food festival so that our herbs could be explored and people be educated about them. He agreed and said let it be a forest food festival. Luckily Mr Sharma was posted as Director Environment, Ecology and Remote Sensing during the same time and when he took over the charge of Director on 26 th of August 2015, on the very first day we had a meeting with him and decided to organize a Food Festival at Yusmarg. The then SSP Budgam Fayaz Ahmad Lone and his wife Nusrat Jahanara were also very much enthusiastic about it. They both supported this initiative. We all visited Yusmarg to see the proposed venue. Due to bad weather and other logistical problems in Yusmarg, we were not able to organize the 1st Forest Food Festival there. Finally, we requested the then Principal of Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) Srinagar to have a venue in his institution. The gentleman welcomed the idea and we organized the first ever Forest Food Festival on Oct 4th 2015 at IHM campus Rajbagh Srinagar. Before organizing this programme we held several rounds of meetings with IHM officials, especially Chef Yaseen who prepared

all the dishes from Forest herbs. The programme was a great success and was inaugurated by the then Forest Minister of J&K. Our colleague and noted activist late Mohammad Ramzan Khan got several herbs from his native place Gurez. Ramzan sahib was a passionate naturalist who left us last year during COVID 19 pandemic. Mr Khan was a very close friend of Sharma ji.

During this first ever Forest Food Festival in J&K the dishes were prepared only from the locally available forest herbs which include Soyee, Machran Chai, Lissa, Nunner, Pamb Haakh, Wopal Hakaah, Wan Pran, Mawal, Makki Ataa, Bamm Tchoonth etc. We had Mawal cookies, Pudina cookies and Barfi from Makki atta roti, Makki atta ka Halwa. Similarly Soyee tea and Soup plus Wopal Haakh Paranthas were also found to be attractive. The live demonstration by village women making makki rotis on mud choola at IHM Rajbagh and village potter (Kumhar) making earthenware on his wheel was also hailed by the visitors.

Why Darwan Basti Yusmarg ?

With an aim to create aware-

lowing functions as well:

Conservation, sustainable use and access and benefit sharing of biological resources and eco-restoration of the local biodiversity.

B) Feedback/information to the Board and the National Biodiversity.

C) Authority in the matter of Intellectual Property Right (IPR), Traditional Knowledge and local Biodiversity issues. Management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites including Heritage Trees, Animals/ Micro organisms etc and Sacred Groves and Sacred Water bodies.

D) Regulation of access to the biological resources and/ or associated Traditional Knowledge, for commercial and research purposes. Conservation of traditional varieties/breeds of economically important plants/ animals.

E) Biodiversity Education and Awareness building. Documentation enables procedures to develop bio cultural protocols.

F) To advise on any matter referred to by the State Biodiversity Board, Biodiversity Councils (in UTs) for granting approval, maintain data about the local Hakeems, Vaidas and practitioners using the biological resources.

Suggestions

We are fortunate enough to have Dr Mohit Gera, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests as Head of Forest Force (HoFF) in J&K. He also holds the charge of Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council. Mr Gera like Sharma Ji is also very much passionate about protecting our Biodiversity. He recently held the sensitizing workshop on Biodiversity Act for district level BMC members. He also agreed to implement several suggestions like creating master trainers at district level who can be resource persons for conducting training and workshops on Biodiversity Act. Mr Gera also agreed to link up the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and Biodiversity Act so that there is no conflict between the two. As HoFF, he can utilise the services of his forest field staff in creating a massive awareness about the Forest Biodiversity. I would also suggest that he create some model Biodiversity villages in J&K where biodiversity researchers, master trainers and local people with traditional knowledge about medicinal plants, herbs, forest vegetables, berries, insects and animals can sit together and do a lot of brainstorming. The local level People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) can be updated accordingly which can even be then digitized (e-PBRs) on the pattern of Kerala state where more than 2 years back State Biodiversity Board converted PBRs drafted by local bodies into electronic format. These model Biodiversity Centres can act as institutions for researchers, university scholars and students as well. Let the Forest Department and Biodiversity Council jointly set up one such centre in every hill district of J&K and this may be started from Darwan Basti in Yusmarg.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Chairman District Biodiversity Management Committee Budgam and Anant Fellow for Climate Action



OBSERVER
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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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Flouting Precautions

Through the column of this reputable newspaper, I want to express my anguish over the lack of consciousness shown by people regarding the spread of coronavirus lately. People have completely shun all preventive measures that were supposed to be observed by us in order to contain

the spread of the virus. Daily cases have crossed the 200 mark in Jammu & Kashmir yesterday, once again sparking fear among people.

It is better to take preventive measures than taking the risk of getting affected by the disease. Therefore, it is time to renew restrictions and protocols to prevent this contagious virus from

spreading again. But people do not seem to be strictly following any of the SOPs. People have even stopped using face masks, let alone social distancing norms.

We have witnessed the virus ruining the world for over two years but we are somehow still unmindful of it. Innumerable amounts of people have lost their livelihood, many people

have even lost their loved ones and it is unfortunate that people are still not putting efforts to stop this virus from spreading. People must realise that it is upto us and our actions to prevent or aid the spread of coronavirus. We should take appropriate steps and measures before it is too late.

Humaira Shah

Can the Heatwave Change Your Mood?

Laurence Wainwright
Eileen Neumann

Heatwaves have a huge impact on our physical and mental health. Doctors usually dread them, as emergency rooms quickly fill up with patients suffering from dehydration, delirium and fainting. Recent studies suggest at least a 10% rise in hospital emergency room visits on days when temperatures reach or exceed the top 5% of the normal temperature range for a given location.

Soaring temperatures can also make symptoms worse in those with mental health conditions. Heatwaves – as well as other weather events such as floods and fires – have been linked to a rise in depressive symptoms in people with depression, and a rise in anxiety symptoms in those with generalised anxiety disorder – a disorder where people feel anxious most of the time.

There is also a link between daily high temperature and suicide and suicide attempts. And, roughly speaking, for every 1°C increase in monthly average temperature, mental health-related deaths increase by 2.2%. Spikes in relative humidity also result in a higher occurrence of suicide.

Humidity and temperature – both of which are changing as a result of human-induced climate change – have been causally linked to a rise in manic episodes

in people with bipolar disorder. This state of the illness causes significant harm and can result in hospitalisation for psychosis and thoughts of suicide.

Further problems are posed by the fact that the effectiveness of important drugs used to treat psychiatric illness can be reduced by the effects of heat. We know that many drugs increase the risk of heat-related death, for example, antipsychotics, which can suppress thirst resulting in people becoming dehydrated. Some drugs will work differently depending on the body temperature and how dehydrated the person is, such as lithium, a very potent and widely used mood-stabiliser, frequently prescribed for people with bipolar disorder.

FUZZY THINKING, AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

Heat can also affect the mental health and ability to think and reason of people without a mental health disorder. Research shows that areas of the brain responsible for framing and solving complex cognitive tasks are impaired by heat stress.

A study of students in Boston found that those in rooms without air conditioning during a heatwave performed 13% worse than their peers in cognitive tests and had 13% slower reaction time.

When people are not thinking clearly due to heat, it is more likely they will become frustrated, and this, in turn, can lead to aggression.

There is strong evidence linking extreme heat with a rise in violent crime. Even just a one or two degree celsius increase in ambient temperatures can lead to a 3-5% spike in assaults.

By 2090, it is estimated that climate change could be responsible for up to a 5% increase in all crime categories, globally. The reasons for these increases involve a complex interaction of psychological, social and biological factors. For instance, a brain chemical called serotonin, which, among other things, keeps levels of aggression in check, is affected by high temperatures.

Hot days can also exacerbate eco-anxiety. In the UK, 60% of young people surveyed said they are very worried or extremely worried about climate change. More than 45% of those questioned said feelings about the climate affected their daily lives.

There is still a lot we don't understand about the complex interplay and feedback loops between climate change and mental health – especially the effects of heatwaves. But what we do know is that we are playing a dangerous game with ourselves and the planet. Heatwaves, and the effects they have on our mental health, are important reminders that the best thing we can do to help ourselves and future generations is to act on climate change.

By arrangements with The Conversation



“When people are not thinking clearly due to heat, it is more likely they will become frustrated, and this, in turn, can lead to aggression

Education Does Not Buffer An Aging Brain

Emily Willingham

“Altogether, our findings highlight that aging is not kinder with the more educated.”

So write the authors of a new study examining whether education level has a role in mitigating the cognitive declines we all experience with aging.

The amount of cognitive ability we can devote to education certainly is associated with our level of educational achievement. But debates have gone on and on about whether education can expand or maintain cognitive ability, as we measure it. Some studies have linked performance on cognitive tests with staying in school. Trailing on these discussions is the longstanding impression that higher education level could mitigate against cognitive wear and tear as we gain in years.

I've written here before about trajectories of two types of cognition that we try to measure: crystallized intelligence, referencing our ability to collect, retain, and recall nuggets of information, and fluid intelligence, which references how much information we can hold in the short term and how fast we can, for example, grasp and solve a problem.

What I wrote about these types of cognition was not especially good news for those hoping that stockpiling crystallized knowledge might buffer against losing fluid intelligence with age: Research suggests that's not the case.

This latest study, conducted in a population in Japan, seems to reinforce the lack of effect. As a warning, the report currently is posted on a site that hosts manuscripts before they've undergone peer review, so what I'm writing about here hasn't been vetted by other knowledgeable researchers. That said, the first author has an interesting track record of taking on mixed findings around questions like this, applying rigorous analyses to them, and, yes, producing results that tend to be disappointing, including that playing chess and learning music aren't cognitive boosters.

The authors ultimately tracked 1892 people ages 40 to 79 years at the study start for more than 20 years, checking on their crystallized and fluid intelligence measures every 2 or 5 years. Although baseline crystallized intelligence scores were linked to education – which is to be expected, as these scores reflect things we learn – rates of change in these scores over time showed no association with education. In general, they went up a little at a time with age, which again is to be expected, as we (one hopes) accumulate knowledge as we accumulate years.

What was not expected was the pattern with fluid intelligence. Although it did pre-

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Although it did predictably decrease with age, it seems to have declined a little faster with increasing education level. That was the case even though education was associated with higher fluid intelligence scores on the testing at study entry. Whatever that effect was, it not only didn't last, it may have flipped to being negative

dictably decrease with age, it seems to have declined a little faster with increasing education level. That was the case even though education was associated with higher fluid intelligence scores on the testing at study entry. Whatever that effect was, it not only didn't last, it may have flipped to being negative.

The study authors think that this latter finding may have just been a fluke. But, they say, it's also possible that people who score well at baseline might have good test-taking skills that over time cannot compensate sufficiently for aging-related cognitive decline.

So how to explain the association found again and again between increased education level and reduced dementia risk? The authors have a hypothesis for that, too: An advanced education often goes hand in hand with other perks, including high socioeconomic status, access to better healthcare, and even access to leisure activities that require heavier cognitive lifts. In that sense, any role of education would be secondary to these other factors.

The article was originally published by Medium



IndiGo Imposes Travel Ban On Kerala's Ruling LDF Convenor 2 Youth Cong Workers; Triggers Fresh Political Slugfest

Press Trust of India

New Delhi/Thiruvananthapuram: IndiGo has imposed a flying ban on Kerala ruling front LDF's Convenor EP Jayarajan and two Youth Congress workers in connection with the scuffle on-board the plane carrying state Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan last month.

The development triggered a fresh political slugfest between the Left and Congress on Monday.

The country's largest airline's decision comes a little over a month after the incident on June 13, when the two protestors shouted slogans against the chief minister inside the IndiGo aircraft soon after it landed at Thiruvananthapuram airport from Kannur. Jayarajan, who was also onboard, allegedly pushed aside the two protesters.

A three-week travel ban has been imposed on Jayarajan and a two-week ban each on the two Youth Congress workers, Farzeen Majid and Naveen Kumar, according to sources.

There was no comment from IndiGo on the decision.

Under the aviation regulations, airlines have the power to ban passengers for varying periods for unruly behaviour. The ban means that the three individuals cannot fly IndiGo for the specified period as they are now included in the no-fly list of the airline.

Irked by the three-week ban, an outspoken Jayarajan on Monday said neither he nor his family would ever travel by IndiGo.

"Neither me nor my family will ever travel by IndiGo again.

I will walk to my destination if required but will not travel on their planes," he said.

The state's ruling CPI (M) protested the flying ban on Jayarajan and urged the airline to re-examine its decision.

However, Congress, the opposition party in the state, has demanded the arrest of Jayarajan for his unruly behaviour.

Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly VD Satheesan alleged Jayarajan committed a more serious crime than the alleged crime committed by the Youth Congress workers.

"The Chief Minister said in the Assembly that Jayarajan did not commit any crime. A case should be registered against Jayarajan who beat up the protesting Youth Congress workers," he told reporters in Thiruvananthapuram.

This is the latest flash-point between the ruling LDF and Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) that are already at loggerheads over a raft of issues.

According to a senior official at aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), it is up to other airlines to decide whether these people should be barred from flying on their flights too.

There was no response from SpiceJet and Vistara on whether they would also be imposing a travel ban on the three individuals.

"Air India has always been adhering to all the rules and guidelines laid down by the regulatory authorities/ CAR/ DGCA and will act conforming to the same in any given situation," a senior Air India official said.

Eastern Ladakh row

India, China Fail To Make Headway In Resolving Remaining Issues During Military Talks

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: India and China failed to make any breakthrough in resolving outstanding issues on the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh at the 16th round of military talks on Sunday, but agreed to maintain dialogue to arrive at a mutually acceptable resolution at the earliest.

A day after the nearly 12-and-half-hour talks, the two sides, in a joint statement on Monday, reaffirmed that the resolution of the pending issues would help in the restoration of peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the region and enable progress in bilateral relations.

At the talks, India strongly pressed for early disengagement of troops from all the remaining friction points in the region and demanded the restoration of the status quo ante as of April 2020 -- before the start of the military standoff, official sources said.

The joint statement said the two sides agreed to maintain security and stability on the ground in eastern Ladakh and agreed to stay in "close contact" and maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels to work out a mutually acceptable resolution to the remaining issues "at the earliest".

Ahead of the talks, official sources said there were some expectations of progress on completing the disengagement process at Patrolling Point-15 in the Hot Springs area.

"Building on the progress made at the last meeting on 11th March 2022, the two sides continued discussions for the resolution of the relevant issues



along the LAC in the Western Sector in a constructive and forward-looking manner," the statement said.

"They had a frank and in-depth exchange of views in this regard, in keeping with the guidance provided by the state leaders to work for the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest," it said.

The government refers to the eastern Ladakh region as the Western sector.

"The two sides reaffirmed that the resolution of remaining issues would help in the restoration of peace and tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector and enable progress in bilateral relations," the statement said.

It said, in the interim, the two sides agreed to maintain the security and stability on the ground in the region.

"The two sides agreed to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest," it said.

The talks took place at the Chushul Moldo meeting point on the Indian

side of the LAC in the region.

The Indian delegation at the talks was led by Lt-General Anindya Sengupta, the commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps, while the Chinese team was headed by South Xinjiang Military District Chief Major General Yang Lin.

The 15th round of military dialogue took place on March 11 and it too failed to yield any significant outcome.

It is learnt that the Indian delegation also sought resolution of pending issues in Depsang Bulge and Demchok.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC were key for the overall development of the bilateral ties.

The 16th round of military talks was held 10 days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Bali.

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

Aircraft Snags DGCA Conducts Spot Checks, Finds Insufficient Engineering Staff Certifying Planes

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: With airlines reporting multiple technical malfunction incidents, aviation regulator DGCA on Monday said it conducted spot checks and found that there is an insufficient number of engineering personnel certifying planes of various carriers before their departure.

Before each departure, an aircraft is checked and certified by an aircraft maintenance engineer (AME). The DGCA has now issued guidelines for airlines on the deployment of AME personnel and directed them to comply by July 28.

The spot checks also found that the AME teams of airlines are improperly identifying the "cause of a reported defect", the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)'s order noted.

They also found that there has been an "increasing trend of MEL (minimum equipment list) releases" of aircraft, it said. "MEL releases" means an aircraft is allowed to fly with certain inoperative equipment or instruments for a specific period of time, until the repairs are done.

"It is also seen that airlines are resorting to frequent one-off authorisation to Category A certifying staff at transit stations which is not in line with existing regulatory provisions," the DGCA said.

The engineering head of one of the Indian airlines explained that a Category A engineer is called a 'limited scope engineer', and he or she is allowed to certify and release planes for departures only when the aircraft does not have any complex defect.

The Category B1 engineer is

one step above the Category A engineer and he or she is capable of handling mechanical defects.

Similarly, Category B2 engineering is capable of handling defects in the electronic equipment of planes.

The DGCA said: "It has been decided that all aircraft at base and transit stations shall be released by certifying staff holding AME Category B1/B2 license with appropriate authorisation by their organisation."

The regulator told airlines to position Category B1 and Category B2 engineers at all base and transit stations and make sure that required tools and equipment are available.

"Alternatively, you may opt for sending the certifying staff on flight duties," the DGCA mentioned.

The DGCA said that its directions must be complied with by July 28.

The airline engineering head, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that it will be very difficult for airlines to place Category B1 or Category B2 engineers on all transit stations.

"If I operate one flight per day from Jorhat or Jharsuguda, how can I keep two Category B1 or B2 engineers -- which are anyway in fewer numbers -- just to certify and release that one flight," the head explained.

There have been multiple technical malfunction incidents in Indian carriers' planes during the last one month.

On Sunday, IndiGo's Sharjah-Hyderabad flight was diverted to Karachi as a precautionary measure after pilots observed a defect in one of the engines.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Fate Of Sinha

the 84-year-old told reporters. The votes will be counted on July 21 and the next president will take oath on July 25.

Though the result appeared to be a foregone conclusion, there was an element of political excitement with speculation about cross-voting in favour of Murmu in several states, including Assam, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

The details of exactly how many MPs and MLAs cross-voted will be known when the votes are counted.

In Assam, AIUDF MLA Karimuddin Barbhuiyan claimed that around 20 Congress MLAs from the state cross-voted.

In Uttar Pradesh, Shivpal Singh Yadav of the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party Lohia claimed he would never support Sinha as he had once accused his brother, SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, of being an "ISI agent".

Haryana Congress MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi, who had cross-voted in last month's Rajya Sabha polls, also indicated that he had supported the ruling National Democratic Alliance candidate.

"Like Rajya Sabha, I have cast my vote in this election too as per my conscience," he told reporters.

Congress MLA in Odisha Mohammed Moquim created a flutter by announcing that he had voted in favour of Murmu as she was a "daughter of Odisha".

In Jharkhand, NCP MLA Kamlesh Singh announced his backing for Murmu and said he went by his conscience call.

His party colleague Kandhal Jadeja echoed him in Gujarat.

"I cast my vote for the BJP candidate," he said. Maharashtra BJP president Chandrakant Patil was confident some Congress legislators, who were absent during the Eknath Shinde government's trust vote, voted for Murmu.

"I am sure some Congress MLAs who remained absent during the vote of confidence will apply their conscience this time as well, Patil said in Mumbai. The Congress, he said, can't guard its own MLAs.

Shiromani Akali Dal MLA Manpreet Singh Ayali chose to boycott the poll and blamed the BJP-led Centre, previous Congress-led governments for not settling various issues related to Punjab and also his own party.

As the process of voting continued in fits and starts through the country, some scenes stood out.

A visibly frail former prime minister Manmohan Singh, 89, came to vote in a wheelchair. As did 82-year-old Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav who faltered while casting his vote and was given another chance. Manmohan Singh was also assisted by polling officers in exercising his franchise.

Odisha leader of opposition, BJP leader Pradipta Kumar Naik, came in a wheelchair straight from hospital where he was admitted with post-Covid complications. An oxygen cylinder accompanied him.

In Patna, BJP MLA Mithilesh Kumar, who was in a road accident about a month ago, arrived on a stretcher to cast his vote.

And in Chennai, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, the first to vote in the secretariat complex, reached the polling booth straight from a hospital after being discharged following his recovery from Covid.

Other early voters in various cities included Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Maharashtra's Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis as well as Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

As Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla put it, elections in India are celebrated as a festival. Members should participate in the festival, the speaker said while adjourning the House till 2 pm in the morning so MPs could go and vote.

The Rajya Sabha was also adjourned to enable members to participate in the presidential poll.

The system of secret ballot is followed in the presidential election, and parties cannot issue whips to their MPs and MLAs with regard to voting.

The value of the vote of an MP has gone down to 700 from 708 in this presidential poll due to the absence of a legislative assembly in Jammu and Kashmir.

The value of vote of an MLA varies in different states. In Uttar Pradesh, for instance, the value is 208, followed by 176 in Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu. In Sikkim, the value of vote per MLA is seven, while it is nine in Nagaland and eight in Mizoram.

According to the Election Commission's directions, while MPs get a green ballot paper, MLAs get a pink ballot paper. The separate colours help the returning officer ascertain the value of vote of each MLA and MP.

Seeking to maintain secrecy of voting, the EC issued a specially designed pen with violet ink to enable voters to mark their ballot papers.

Murmu, who at 64 could be among the youngest presidents of India, did not speak today but said on Sunday that tribals and women are delighted over her nomination.

"There are around 10 crore tribals with more than 700 communities, and all are delighted with my nomination," she was quoted as saying at a gathering of NDA MPs

Kashmir Received

on foreign tourists and some incidents of targeted killings.

As per the data, this is for the first time since 2012 that the tourist footfall has gained a massive growth. In 2012, the number of tourists arriving in J&K was recorded to be over nine million.

In 2012, till October, 27,596 foreigners, 10, 42,431 domestic and 6, 21,104 Amarnath Yatris visited Kashmir while a total of 1,40,288 tourists visited Ladakh region. The number of pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu was 76, 88,291.

Notably, the Union government is supplementing the efforts of J&K's tourism department with resources and necessary support. "Liberal funding of a record budget allocation of Rs 786 crore, Rs 509 crore higher than last budgetary allocation, speaks volumes of the Union government's keenness to boost tourism infrastructure and related services in Jammu and Kashmir," Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha had said in April, when the tourist footfall stood at 8 million.

As per the data available with Kashmir Observer, for the first time since 2015, the number of tourist arrivals for the month of November in 2021 had reached a record 1, 25,605 and in January and February 2022, over 1.5 lakh tourists had visited Gulmarg with over 80,000 domestic tourists.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, a top Tourism Official said, the exhilarating figures from the Union ministry are a testament to how keen Tourism Department and J&K Government is in reviving J&K's tourism economy that has suffered massive damage on account of lockdowns and pandemic induced hiatus.

"Since 2021, the Tourism Department's advertising campaign across major Indian cities and the opening of offbeat destinations has been attracting more tourists. Dozens of winter, spring and summer festivals were organised across J&K to give a boost to the tourism industry," the official said.

The official noted that the department has tried its best to spread a word about J&K's scenic beauty to the length and breadth of the world.

"And I guess, all these attempts have painted a very exhilarating picture, that can be seen through figures," The official said, adding that the government is expecting these figures to double by the end of this year.

J&K Logs

Jammu reported a maximum of 64 fresh cases of Coronavirus, Udhampur 11, Kathua 4, Samba 3, Poonch 2 and Doda 1.

Also, the officials said that one more person succumbed to the virus in Jammu division on Monday raising the overall fatality count to 4759 in J&K—2333 in Jammu and 2426 in Kashmir.

"Moreover, 55 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 38 from Jammu division and 17 from Kashmir division," they added.

'Ready To Deal

monitored. All things are in place," he said. On asking about the new entrants in government schools, Mir said, "We cannot say that there is a 100 percent student enrolment in government schools because private schools are also doing a good job. We are also doing our work religiously."

"Out thought is that no student is out of school and in this regard, we have enrolled those students in government schools that were out of school and the students who couldn't pay the tuition fee during the Covid-19 period," he said.

DSEK further said that in the previous academic year, there was an increase in new admission by 19 percent in government schools wherein the department brought over 1,18,000 such students who weren't able to pay the fee in private schools.

"Besides, the department also enrolled the Children with Special Needs"

Mir said, "We are trying to ensure that every child should be in the schools."

Speaking about the New Education Policy, DSEK said, "The endeavor of New Education Policy is to be prepared for every challenge we may face in the next 30-40 years."

"One of the major things in the NEP is the change in the evaluation system. Besides, it focuses on early childhood, vocational education, inclusive education and the NEP is also focused on child friendly education. We are on it. Targets have also been set and soon we will be implementing it," he said.

Our Biggest Preference

so that they commit any mistake that can set base for street protests in Kashmir," the LG said, adding that "Our security forces will never commit any such act that can set base for street protests in the Valley, no matter how far they would be provoked."

He said in J&K, an infrastructure worth Rs one lakh crore is coming up. "For that peace is very imperative," the LG said. "Our biggest preference is to cement peace in J&K."

He said that in the months ahead, a full-fledged Agriculture policy will be framed to promote the sector. "70 percent of J&K's population depends on Agriculture and it is our duty to take steps to safeguard and to promote this sector," the LG said.

The LG said that till April 24, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited J&K, a total outside investment was only Rs 38,000 which is all set to reach Rs 70,000 by the year end.

He said that the highest tourist rush has been recorded in Kashmir this year and in the last two years things have changed a lot here and people are fully aware about it.

"In 2020 only 32 flights were operated at Srinagar airport in contrast, there are 120 flights operating at Srinagar airport today," he said.

He added that tail connectivity from Kashmir to Kanyakumari will be operational next year, while some people don't like these things especially the neighboring country.

Announces 10%

I want to tell you that we will implement the 10 per cent reservation for Agniveers with immediate effect," the LG said.

Sinha instructed officials of Mission Youth, district administrations and top police officials to provide necessary facilities to all the youth preparing for the four-year Agniveer military recruitment scheme via various training programmes. (PTI)

7 LeT Associates

members of the terror network have been arrested. This has given a setback to the LeT in Jammu," Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu division, Mukesh Singh told a press conference here.

Two modules were busted in Rajouri district and five members of the LeT were arrested. One module was busted in Jammu district and two LeT members were nabbed, he added.

A large cache of arms, ammunition and explosives, including two AK rifles, six pistols, three silencers, eight grenades, three UBGLs, six pistol magazines, six AK magazines, 120 rounds, besides other explosive material were seized, Singh said.

The LeT module busted in Jammu was in operation for over two years in the Khatika Talab area in the city. It was involved in collection and ferrying of weapons and explosives being dropped via drones from the Pakistani side along the International Border, he said.

It was being operated by one Faisal Muneer of Khatika Talab, who was being directed by LeT militant Bashir of Doda, currently in Pakistan, and another militant code named Albert, the police official said.

Tehsildar, NT Held

to run their business on Nazool land transferred in their favour under Roshni Act, at

Rampur, Chattabal Srinagar, while the matter is sub-judice and pending disposal before the Court of law, a Bureau spokesperson said Monday.

The complainants, he said, alleged that the revenue officials settled that the amount of bribe to be paid in installments, the first installment being Rs 2 lakh

"However, before paying the bribe amount to the accused persons, the complainants approached Anti Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against the accused public servants under law," he added.

On the basis of complaint, the spokesperson said that a case FIR No. 29/2022 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 r/w 120-B IPC was registered in this Bureau and investigation was taken up. During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted.

"The team laid a successful trap and caught red-handed Gh. Rasool Hajam, Naib Tehsildar, Shalteng while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of 2 lakh from the complainant as first installment of Rs5 lakh. The bribe money was recovered from the possession of the accused Naib Tehsildar, Batmaloo in presence of independent witness. Mohammad Younis Bangroo, Tehsildar Shalteng was also arrested by the ACB team," he said.

Later, he said that the searches were carried out at the residences and official quarters of the alleged accused Public Servants, subsequent to the searches at Tehsil office, Shalteng.

"Further investigation into the case is going on," the spokesperson added.

IED Material

explosive material (weighing approximately 06 kg), one Electric detonator and around 500 gms of ball bearings & nails. These Ball bearings & nails were to be used as projectiles/shrapnels during blast.

"The explosive substance was recovered near Sham lal petrol pump located on NHW. The explosive substance recovered was meant for the manufacture of IEDs, so as to target the Security forces deployed on the National Highway.

In this regard, a case under FIR No 99/2022 has been registered at Batmaloo PS u/s 13, 23, 38, 39 of UAPA and 3/5 of Explosive Substances Act," the spokesperson added.

Electricity Shock

cognizance of the incident and further investigation is on.

Militant Hideout

a fragmentation grenade, 35 rounds of AK rifle, seven Pike rounds, two magazines, seven pistol rounds, two tiffin boxes, a kerosene stove, a radio set, one UBGL, utensils, 1 kg of an explosive-like material in polythene, 2 kg of explosive materials in steel container, a cassette player, IED equipment with wire and a pouch, the officials said.

All the ammunition was rusted and appeared very old, they said.

Nursing Student

out medico-legal formalities. Police further said that investigation into the matter is going on—(KNO)

Admin 'Fails' To Repair Link Road In Banihal

BDC Chairman, 22 PRI Members Resign In Protest

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A block development committee (BDC) chairman and other 22 members of the panchayat raj institutions (PRI) resigned from their posts in protest against the alleged failure of the administration to repair a link road in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district.

The Nachilana-Khari-Mundakbass link road, which caters to over 30,000 population of the hilly belt in Banihal sub-division, is in a very dilapidated condition as the road is being used by railway construction agency IRCON international for the past two decades without carrying out any repair, they said.

In a joint letter to district magistrate Ramban, one BDC, six sarpanchs, five naib sarpanchs and 11 panchs said they have resigned from their posts over the failure of the administration and the IRCON to repair and maintain the hilly road link as well as indifferent attitude of authorities to address their demand.

"We are submitting joint resignation before your goodself, so that

we come out of public pressure (due to failure of administration to repair and maintain road link by administration and IRCON). Please accept the resignation", BDC chairman of Khari Sajjad Hussain said in the letter on Monday.

He said the link road is used by railway construction agency IRCON international and its tunnel construction partners for the past 15- 20 years but no repair work was carried out on the dilapidated road connecting over 30,000 population of Khari-Mahoo Mangit tehsil.

"Several representation were given to district, tehsil, heads of PWD, IRCON, railway administration, besides protest were held in this regard but nothing was done so far," Hussain said.

He said cold response from the IRCON and the administration forced them to submit mass resignation. We 21 PRI representatives from Khari block submitted the same to DC Ramban for further action, he added.

Hussain said all PRIs are under pressure from public over the poor condition of Nachilana-Khari-Mundakbass link road.

Govt Notifies Up To 125% Enhancement In Scholarship For Tribal Students

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: In a major boost to quality education for tribal students, the Jammu and Kashmir administration Monday notified up to 125 per cent enhancement in the scholarship amount for higher studies in government and recognised private institutions including universities and colleges, officials said.

The Tribal Affairs Department notified the first ever revision of scholarship amount since 2011-2012 and also increased the number of courses covered to over 350 from existing less than 50, they said.

The officials said the department, with an aim to boost support to the education of tribal students, has increased the scholarship in Group-A courses from existing Rs 30,000 per annum to Rs 72,000 per annum, including Rs 12,000 allowances.

The scholarship for Group-B courses which was stagnant at Rs 20,000 per annum since 2011-12 has now been enhanced to Rs 53,200, including Rs 8,200 as allowances, they said.

In Group-C courses, the scholarship has been enhanced from Rs 18,000 to Rs 41,700, and in Group-D courses from Rs 12,000 to Rs 28,700 including allowances, the official said.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said the government

has enhanced the scholarship amount to fund the tuition and other expenses in higher education starting Class 11 and up to post-Graduate courses.

"The revision of scholarship for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students was overdue for more than 10 years," he said.

He said that in view of the persistent demand of students over the years and in wake of emerging fields of studies, the department has also added more than 300 new courses covering management, soft skills, robotics, data analytics, block chain, artificial intelligence, aviation, coding and so on, under the scholarship scheme.

"The scholarship will now be revised every two years based on various parameters including cost of living, fee structure, expenses on books, stationery and other allied material.

"The scholarship will be disbursed through an online portal which is notified to be live from July 20 for fresh applications and students have been advised to ensure accurate information of various components of scholarship is filled in through respective institutions before the cut off date August 31," Choudhary said.

The department had earlier this year awarded the highest-ever Rs 31 crore scholarship and also covered backlog cases of previous years.

Bandipora Admin Makes Face Masks Mandatory

Agencies

SRINAGAR: District administration in Bandipora on Monday made use of face masks mandatory in public places in the north Kashmir district with immediate effect.

"In the interest of Health and Wellbeing of the general public, I, Dr. Owais Ahmad, IAS, Chairperson, District Disaster Management Authority / Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, In

exercise of powers vested in me under Section-34 of Disaster Management Act, 2005, do hereby order that the use of masks shall be compulsory at public places in District Bandipora, with immediate effect, till further orders," the Deputy Commissioner said in an order.

"Moreover, all District/ Sectoral Officers shall ensure usage of masks by all officers/ officials in the offices." (GNS)

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN J&K

LG Inaugurates Two-Day Convention At SKICC



SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday inaugurated a two-day multi-stakeholder convention on holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors in J&K, at SKICC, Srinagar.

The historic conference seeks to build innovative structures for holistic development of agriculture & allied sectors in J&K with the help of renowned Scientists and Policy planners of the country, an official spokesperson said.

On the occasion, he said, the LG announced that a high-powered committee of agricultural scientists will be formed under the chairmanship of renowned scientist, Dr. Mangala Rai to prepare a futuristic roadmap for accelerated development of agriculture & allied sectors and making the farming viable, steady and sustainable.

Noting the immense scope of possibilities in harnessing the real potential of agriculture & allied sectors and to make it a strong base of the UT's economy, the LG, as per the spokesperson said that the government is focusing on higher investment in agro-based industries.

"High value crops, greater value addition will provide a boost to this industry. Our prime objective is to double the agriculture & allied sectors' contribution to GDP," Sinha said.

According to the spokesperson, the LG highlighted the challenge of increasing the income of farmers through growth in Dairy, Fisheries and livestock and called for a sustained effort for investment in dairy sector to enhance processing of milk from 1.5 lakh litres to 5 lakh litres in the next three years.

"85% farmers have smaller landholdings. Economically viable innovative solutions to enhance productivity of small & marginal farmers are need of the hour. We need to bridge the gap between goals achieved & achievable, we need to strengthen the extension services and quality inputs," the LG said.

"We need to increase export while maintaining food security. We need to streamline the farm practices to ensure better incentives to the farmers. We need to streamline value addition technology for food processing, packaging, market outreach and minimize post-harvest wastages," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG said that the acceleration of agricultural reforms by PM Narendra Modi seems to be bearing fruit; the average farm income has risen, and now J&K figures among top 5 states/UTs.

"However, filling the policy vacuum of last many decades in Agriculture sector requires concerted efforts of all stakeholders," the LG said.

"The UT administration has initiated area-specific strategies to enhance productivity, post-harvest technology, credit support, market access and to bring about sustainable revolution in Agriculture & allied sectors. Each step is being taken in order to ensure farmers' prosperity that benefits all," he added.

Underlining that a strong Agriculture and Industries sector is imperative to make Jammu and Kashmir financially self-reliant, prosperous, the LG, as per the spokesperson said, the UT govern-

ment is making every effort to formulate the right policies and create a cohesive plan so that we achieve greater heights of prosperity for our farmers and the nation.

"This two-day workshop has the potential to change the future of Jammu and Kashmir. Experts, experienced farmers from all over the country have come together to formulate a policy document and it is our responsibility to get it implemented on the ground," Sinha said.

The LG, he said, also spoke about the Agriculture Infrastructure fund launched by Prime Minister and said that it will be instrumental in solving critical gaps in Agriculture & allied sectors.

"While utilizing the money provided by the Union Government, emphasis should be laid on processing, value addition & handholding of the entrepreneurs," the LG added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG further observed that the government is steadily strengthening the institution of Cooperative societies in the UT.

"These societies will be instrumental in bridging investment, credit and infrastructure deficit and help in effective action plan for the future," Sinha said, adding, "Experts and policy planners' vision, technological ability, focused intersectoral approaches and administrative efficiency is key to taking our agriculture & allied sectors to new heights and changing the lives of millions of farmers."

He also appreciated the role of Agriculture Universities in providing mentoring and handholding to the farmers of J&K.

Committee Probing Into Selection List Of FAA: Govt



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday said a committee headed by the additional chief secretary (Home) was inquiring into the selection list of Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) to en-

sure that no irregularities have been committed.

The FAA aspirants have been protesting here for the past four days, demanding the selection list be made public.

Selection list of Finance Accounts Assistant is also being inquired by a committee

headed by ACS Home. Action will be taken based on report of inquiry. If no irregularities are found, process will be taken up further. If irregularities are found, strict action will follow," the union territory administration said in a tweet.

Only Elected Govt Will End Miseries Of People: Bukhari

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Apni Party on Monday said assembly elections should be held in Jammu and Kashmir so that an elected government is formed which will end the miseries of the people.

The party hit out at the BJP and alleged that it was responsible for divisive politics, growing unemployment and underdevelopment in the union territory.

If we have to subside the pain of people, we should not be conditional. We say please hold elections first, then give it (restoration of statehood J-K). You have to give it back to us. It is our right," Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari told reporters here.

He said people were facing grave difficulties and only the elected government will end their pain.

Bukhari said his party represents the aspirations of both the regions of J-K and assured that it was committed for the inclusive development of all sections of society.

J-K government is working directly on the directions of BJP. Yet, the problems of the general masses remain unsolved. In-

stead of working for public welfare, the bureaucracy behaves like they are the rulers while sitting in their AC rooms and avoid addressing public issues. he alleged.

Bukhari said the BJP befooled the people of Jammu in the name of discrimination.

Similarly Kashmir-based traditional political parties took advantage of BJP's divisive politics and accordingly charged the situation against Jammu by raking up issues of discrimination with Kashmir with an intention to help BJP in Jammu, he said.

He said the BJP stopped the Darbar Move practice which was started by Dogra Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872 and also abrogated special status and the statehood of J-K by downgrading it into two union territories and all these acts were against the interests of Jammu.

Bukhari said, Tourists are nowhere in Jammu and markets are deserted. Ultimately, the BJP has turned Jammu into Pathankot. Jammu was a famous destination in the past for religious tourists. The economic condition of businessmen is worse and there are no future plans to protect the interests of Jammu.

44 DVCs Established At Gram Panchayat Level Across J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To empower Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at Gram Panchayat level, 44 Digital village Centres (DVCs) have been established, two in each district, across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Under this mission, 44 Panchayat Ghars were identified by concerned District Commissioners. The DVCs were established in these Panchayat Ghars and were equipped with IT infrastructure, other equipments and all connectivity.

DVCs will act as one stop service solution at the village level and provide services like Wi-Fi Hotspots, telemedicine, Agricultural support service, digital payments and other G2C/B2C services. IT department, with active support of Finance Department, plans to establish more such DVCs in rest of the Gram Panchayats of J&K.

The programme was launched on pilot basis at a cost of Rs 5 Crore across 44 villages in J&K.

In the first phase, two villages are being taken up from each district, feasible in terms of connectivity (Fibre VSAT) to offer digital services. After ascertaining the impact in the pilot phase, remaining Gram Panchayats are being taken up in second phase.

The basic aim of the programme is to deliver governance effectively through IT enabled services, generate awareness regarding implementation of Government Schemes and upgrade the socio-economic status of the rural masses.

The existing Gram Panchayat buildings are designated as Digital Village Centres (DVCs), provided with facilities like Smart LEDs, Computers, Screens, internet and other relevant facilities. The Village Level Workers (VLWs) of the Rural Development Department are the custodians of the DVCs; responsible for overall management of the centres. These centres are looked after by concerned village Nambardar/Lambardar(s) and Chowkidar(s) as well.

Navayuga Quazigund Expressway

NIIFL Acquires Stake For ₹3,036 Crore

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: National Investment and Infrastructure Fund has picked up a stake in tunnel road Navayuga Quazigund Expressway in Jammu and Kashmir for about Rs 3,036 crore (USD 380 million) to diversify its asset base.

"National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) announces the acquisition of an equity stake in the Navayuga Quazigund Expressway Private Limited (NQEPL) through the NIIF Master Fund at an enterprise value of around USD 380 million. This acquisition further expands the fund's broad portfolio and diversifies its asset base," a release said on Monday.

The company did not disclose

the quantum of the stake it has acquired in NQEPL.

The operational tunnel road in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be managed by NIIF Master Fund's proprietary roads platform Athaang Infrastructure.

NQEPL is one of the largest annuity projects awarded by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on a BOT (build-operate-transfer) basis.

This project receives fixed, semi-annual payments from NHAI, providing stable and predictable cash flows, NIIFL said.

NIIF Master Fund Managing Partner Vinod Giri said this addition is an important asset to the company's portfolio, which is also the first tunnel road acquired by it.

E-Unnat Web Portal Fulfills Dream Of J&K Citizens Of Responsive Governance

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Government is empowering the citizens of J&K particularly youngsters to avail government services at the click of a button on e-portal; accessed by logging into eunnat.jk.gov.in.

It is a dream come true for the youngsters who always aspired for using the power of technology to access and avail services provided by different departments of the UT to become a partner in the governance of UT, an official spokesperson said Monday.

"Being tech savvy they always envisioned of the system that is in consonance with their wishes and aspira-

tions. They wanted to use the gadgets in their hands to reach where they had to spend days wandering in the corridors of government offices," he said.

It was a change they had envisioned. It was only a bleak, far off idea they used to crave for. It was their desire. A hope to realize their innate potential. An easy opportunity to fill colours in their dreams. That also without having to tire themselves in the labyrinthine alleys of offices and departments.

Then a system took shape that truly sensed the needs and aspirations of these youngsters. It foresaw what these youngsters were harboring for years. Those at helm took it upon themselves to ma-

terialize what was immaterial for all these years. They started working on all these deliverable and dedicating the same to public one by one. This new dispensation embarked on the path of less government more governance.

It is in this pursuit the LG, Manoj Sinha's able administration powered by an efficient team of officers led by Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta worked day in and day out to bring paperless and corruption free administration at the doorsteps of people.

The recent launching of unified, single digital platform called e-Unnat for availing much of the significant government services is an

instance favoring the same.

From this single interface a one-time registration gives a person access to all these services and provisions.

Be it registration of birth or death, obtaining NOC for installing the mobile tower, street vending license, registration of dairy farm/Gaushalla, road cutting permission, permission for trade fair (Mela), sewerage connection by Housing Department. Or be it issuance of Income certificate, Character, Unemployment, Legal Heir, Dependency, SC/ ST/ OBC/ RBA/ EWS/ PSP/ IB/ALC certificates by Tehsildar besides attestation of mutations by him all are provided over this single interface.

Moreover applications regarding obtaining of Marriage Assistance, financial assistance under Ladli Beti, and several pensions by the Social welfare department could now be accomplished from this digital platform.

The statistics of response received received on the platform reveals 128857 applications were received for above services. Out of these 115135 certificates already stands issued digitally with just 13722 applications under process.

The monitoring is done at each level to ensure all the services are delivered as per the timelines fixed under J&K Public Services Gaurantee Act (PSGA).

The interface is user-friendly as it has been created with an aim to make all Government services accessible to the common man at the click of a button and ensure efficiency, transparency, responsiveness and reliability of such services to realize the basic needs of the common man.

Citizens need to first register and apply for any service by filling an application form and will receive an output certificate/report as the service deliverables in the portal itself.

Marking a remarkable achievement in the digital journey of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Unnat provides a window to the government to get feedback from citizens on

any subject related to service delivery, its quality for further improvement.

The platform is integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS) that gives users an opportunity to give their feedback about their experience of using the service.

Further the platform has been fully integrated with the national portal 'Meri Pehchan' for more fruitful access and availability. It has also been synchronised with Digi Locker, UMANG app, SMS/e-Payment gateway for the overall comfort and ease of the users. It will usher in freedom from running to government offices and will provide strength to the dream of making JK fully digital.

A-Division Football League Begins In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: DFA Srinagar A-Division Annual Football League 2022 kick started on Monday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The inaugural match of the league was played between Kashmir Heroes Football Academy and Al-Rashid FC. It was a one-sided affair as Al-Rashid FC dominated the show and defeated Kashmir Heroes FA by 6 goals to nil. The scorers for Al-Rashid FC were Muzamil, Shahid, Ibrahim, Zameer and Abid.

The second match of the day was played between Real Cosmo FC and Baghi Hamdan FC. Real Cosmo FC defeated Baghi Ham-

dan FC by 4 goals to nil.

The scorers for RCFC were Ragav Umair Zahoor, who scored two goals, and Shakir Owais and Mohd Areeb, who scored one goal each.

Earlier, the clubs were introduced to S.A Hameed Executive Officer JKFA, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Among others who were present included Z.A. Thakur, President JKFA, Prof. B.A Shah, Hony. General Secretary, Fayaz Ahmad Sofi, District President DFA Srinagar and other members of J&K Football Association.

The A-Division league is organised by DFA Srinagar (JKFA) in collaboration with JKSC.

Under-19 Cricket Talent Hunt Concludes In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With focus to find real talent from all corners of J&K, the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA)-organised Talent Hunt for Under-19 cricketers, named Multi Day Cricket for Peace Tournament 2022, concluded on Monday at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium Sonwar.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, presided over the prize distribution ceremony.

Commandant SDRF, Hasseb ul Rehman attended the function as Guest of Honour, while, Member Legal Affairs, JKCA, Sunil Sethi, Member, Sub Committee, JKCA, Mithun Manhas and other members and staff were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, lauded the efforts of JKCA taken for betterment of Cricket in J&K to promote Cricket and help in sporting the talent in the length and breadth of Jammu & Kashmir.

While congratulating both the finalists in general and JKCA Blues in particular for winning the Cricket for Peace Tournament 2022, the DC said the future of Cricket in J&K is bright and there is no dearth of talent.

The DC extended his best wishes to the young cricket talent and hoped they will bring laurels for J&K.

Later, during the prize distribution ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner gave away trophies and mementos among the winning team and other participating players of the Tournament.

Secretary JKSC Visits National Pencak Silat Coaching Camp



PIC: ADIL HUSSAIN KHAN

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary, J&K Sports Council (JKSC), Nuzhat Gull on Monday visited Pencak Silat national coaching camp being held at Indoor Sports Hall Polo Ground, here to take stock of the arrangements put in place for the participants including their boarding and lodging.

This camp that started from 1st July and is scheduled to culminate on 22 July is aimed at preparing the team for 19th World Pencak Silat Championship 2022 to be held at Melaka Malaysia later this month.

Around 38 players from different states as well as paramilitary forces including SSB are taking part in the coaching camp.

The camp is being organised under the aegis of Malaysia Youth and Sports along with the National Olympic Committee of Malaysia.

While interacting with the players, the Secretary apprised the participants about the role JKSC is playing to provide the best training and coaching facilities. She also appreciated the efforts made by the Pencak Silat Federation for the conduct of the said camp in Kashmir.

The world championship is cleared by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and J&K Sports Council has also sponsored the J&K based athletes for the championship.

The athletes are training under the tutelage of battery of coaches including Mohammad Iqbal, Irfan Aziz Botta, Vinod Kumar (Haryana) and Rajesh Kumar (Delhi).

This is for the first time that the National team will be flagged-off from J&K.

The Sports Council was flanked by chief accounts officer J&K Sports Council Dr Zaffar Iqbal.

India Consolidate 3rd Spot In ICC ODI Rankings



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India has consolidated its third spot in the latest ICC ODI Team Rankings after the away series victory over England.

Rishabh Pant's maiden ODI century and Hardik Pandya's all-round heroics fired India to an emphatic five-wicket win over England in the third ODI, helping the visitors seal the series 2-1.

With a rating of 109 points, India are three rating points clear of Pakistan (106) in the list.

New Zealand continue to reign supreme at the top of the table with 128 rating points, while England are second with 121.

However, there may be a change in the charts in the coming weeks as sixth-placed South Africa, currently only seven rating points behind Pakistan, could rise to fourth if they can

sweep their upcoming three-match series against England.

India could stretch their lead even further with a good show in their three-match series against West Indies, starting this week.

Pakistan's next ODI assignment is in Rotterdam against the Netherlands next month, with Babar Azam's team scheduled to play three 50-over matches during a five-day period.

England Star Ben Stokes Announces Shock ODI Retirement

Agencies

LONDON: England's talismanic all-rounder Ben Stokes announced his shock retirement from One-Day Internationals on Monday citing the "unsustainable" rigour of playing all three formats of the game.

Tuesday's match against South Africa at his home ground in Durham will be Stokes's 105th and final ODI, the 31-year-old said in a statement issued by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

"Three formats are just unsustainable for me now," said Stokes, who will continue to play Twenty20 Internationals.

"Not only do I feel that my body is letting me down because of the schedule and what is expected of us, but I also feel that I am taking the place of another player who can give (captain) Jos (Buttler) and the rest of the team their all."

Stokes, who took over as the Test captain in April, was player-of-the-match when England beat New Zealand in the final to win their maiden 50-overs World Cup at Lord's in 2019.



One of the most exciting players of his era, Stokes has battled a spate of injuries in recent times and took a break from the game last year to focus on his mental well-being.

"I will give everything I have to test cricket, and now, with this decision, I feel I can also give my total commitment to

the T20 format," he said. Stokes made his ODI debut against Ireland in Dublin in 2011.

He has played 104 ODIs scoring 2919 runs, including three hundreds, at an average of 39.44 with a 95-plus strike rate.

With the ball, he has claimed 74 wickets and is one of the sharpest fielders in the side.

Ibrahimovic Set To Play Past 41 After Extending Milan Contract



Agencies

MILAN: Evergreen AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic will stay at the Serie A champions beyond his 41st birthday after agreeing a one-year contract extension, the club said on Monday.

Details of the contract were not released, but a source close to the deal said the Swede has accepted a reduced salary given

he will be unable to play until 2023 after undergoing surgery on his left knee in May.

"AC Milan is pleased to announce the renewal of Zlatan Ibrahimovic's contract until June 30, 2023," Milan said in a short statement. "The Swedish forward will continue to wear the number 11 shirt."

Ibrahimovic, Sweden's all-time top scorer with 62 goals,

returned to his former club Milan in January 2020 after leaving Major League Soccer team LA Galaxy.

Although his second stint at the Italian side has been riddled with injuries, Ibrahimovic has made 74 appearances and scored 36 goals in all competitions since his return, helping Milan win their first Serie A title in 11 years last term.

Sri Lanka Take 300-Run Lead In 1st Test Against Pakistan



Agencies

GALLE: Red-hot Dinesh Chandimal struck his second successive half-century to take Sri Lanka's lead past 300 and thwart the Pakistan attack on day three of the opening Test on Monday.

The hosts were 329 for nine when bad light stopped play for the day in Galle.

Chandimal, on 86, and Prabath Jayasuriya, on four, were batting at close of play with Sri Lanka leading by 333 in their second innings.

Mohammad Nawaz claimed his maiden five-wicket haul and combined with fellow spinner Yasir Shah, who took three, to rattle the opposition middle-order in the second session.

Earlier Kusal Mendis made 76 and opener Oshada Fernan-

do scored 64 and put on a key third-wicket stand of 91 to fight back after an early wicket in the morning session.

Nawaz, who is making a Test comeback after nearly six years and playing his fourth five-day match, kept chipping away and got key wickets including Angelo Mathews and Niroshan Dickwella.

He got nightwatchman Kasun Rajitha on the third ball of the day to set things rolling for Pakistan, but the Sri Lankan batsmen kept coming back on a pitch that is expected to offer more turn to the spinners come day four.

In a keenly contested match of tail-end fights, Pakistan had also hit back to post 218, riding on skipper Babar Azam's 119 as he batted with his own lower order on day two.

Paulo Dybala Set To Join AS Roma On Free Transfer



Agencies

ROME: Argentina international forward Paulo Dybala has agreed a deal in principle to sign for Serie A side AS Roma on a free transfer following his departure from Juventus, a source close to the club told Reuters on Monday.

Dybala, who was linked with a transfer to Inter Milan after his deal with Juventus expired, will sign a three-year contract with Roma worth 6 million euros (\$6.09 million), Italian news agency ANSA said.

The 28-year-old won five league titles and four Coppa Italia trophies with Juventus after joining the Turin-based club from Palermo in 2015, scoring 115 goals in 293 appearances across all competitions.

Dybala will become Roma's fourth signing of the transfer window after the arrivals of midfielder Nemanja Matic, goalkeeper Mile Svilar and defender Zeki Celik.

Roma finished sixth in Serie A last season and won the Europa Conference League under Jose Mourinho.

Iran Reinstates National Team Coach Fired 6 Days Ago



Agencies

TEHRAN: Just six days after dismissing Dragan Skocic as head coach, an Iranian Football Federation (IFF) spokesman announced Sunday that the Croatian will lead Iran into November's World Cup after all.

In the latest episode of a chaotic build-up to Group B games against England, the United States and Wales, Ehsan Osuli said after a meeting of the IFF board of directors that there had been a change of heart.

"The outcome of the meeting is that Dragan Skocic is the head coach of Iran's national team and will continue to be so," Osuli said. "He has a contract until the

end of the 2023 Asian Cup." The federation voted to fire Skocic, who took the job in early 2020, on July 11 after a friendly defeat to Algeria in June and reports of divisions in the team.

Local coaches such as Ali Daei, Javad Nekounam, Amir Ghalenoi and Afshin Ghotbi had been shortlisted to lead Iran past the group stage in its sixth World Cup appearance.

With Skocic now remaining in the job, the federation has appealed for unity.

"We ask that the national team players, the media, ex-players and everyone unite for the common goal to elevate the name of Iran," Osuli added.