

J&K DELIMITATION PROCESS

No Major Protests Against Panel Report: Govt

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday said there were no significant protests in Jammu and Kashmir against the report of the Delimitation Commission even though various political parties have expressed different views on the report.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said this in Rajya Sabha replying to a question whether there is widespread resentment regarding the report on the delimitation of assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir.



"The government of Jammu and Kashmir has intimated that there were no significant protest against the report of the Delimitation Commission. However, various political

parties have expressed different views on the report," he said, replying to a written question.

The National Conference, the PDP and several other political parties have slammed the report.

The NC said the report "defies any and all logic" and no political, social and administrative reason can justify the recommendations.

The PDP said "delimitation commission has become an extension of BJP; we reject this delimitation report as we don't trust it. This is nothing but only an attempt to disempower the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

8th & 10th Muharram Processions Unlikely

Processions Only Through Permitted Routes: Div Com



Observer News Service

Srinagar: A day after Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders and cadres held a strong rally in the heart of Srinagar city, a top administration official on Wednesday hinted at

continued ban on traditional Muharram processions in the civil lines of Srinagar city.

"Definitely, the decisions have been taken at an appropriate level. Muharram processions will be allowed at the already permitted routes."

Soldier Injured In Kulgam Gunfight, Militants Flee

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A soldier was injured during a predawn encounter with militants in Yaripora area of Kulgam district of South Kashmir, officials said on Wednesday.

An official said that government forces launched a search operation in Brayihard Kathpora village of Yaripora after receiving information about the presence of militants there.

"As the searches were on, militants who had taken shelter in a nearby area came out firing guns and lobbed a grenade," he said.

He said that the exchange of fire continued for a few minutes after which the guns fell silent.

The official, according to news agency KNO, said that government forces launched searches for hours.

'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign

Now, GMC Baramulla Seeks Funds From Staff, Students

Augib Javed

Srinagar: The controversy over the government's much hyped 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign refuses to die down as the Government Medical College (GMC), Baramulla on Wednesday issued a circular directing the employees to contribute "voluntarily" for the contribution of the campaign.

The Chief Accounts Officer, GMC Baramulla has issued a circular on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla seeking voluntary contribution of all officials/ non-officials for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

According to the circular, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the Gazetted employees have

been asked to submit an amount of Rs 100 each toward the accounts officer while as the non-gazetted employees has to submit Rs 50 each, self Help groups Rs 20, school students Rs 10, each and beneficiaries / trainees of various schemes Rs. 10/- each.

The order further reads that the "all HODs/ Section Heads are hereby asked to collect Rs 100/- and Rs 50/- in cash from Gazetted and Non-Gazetted employees respectively and submit the same in Accounts Section along with the list by or before 28.07.2022 (2 PM) for its further deposit at District Treasury Baramulla."

Principal, GMC, Baramulla Dr. Ruby confirmed to Kashmir Observer, that

Banihal Highway Partially Opens For Traffic

Press Trust Of India

Banihal: The strategic 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, which was shut due to mudslides and shooting stones in Ramban district early Wednesday, was opened for vehicular traffic partially, officials said.

Authorities allowed stranded vehicles, including an Amarnath Yatra convoy, to move towards Kashmir, they said.

Shooting stones struck the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, at Mehad in Ramban besides mudslides triggered by heavy rains, the officials said. The highway

J&K Logs 692 New Covid Cases, 2 Deaths

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The daily Coronavirus cases continue to show an upwards trend in Jammu and Kashmir as 692 more people on Wednesday tested positive for the virus while two more persons succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, Kashmir Valley reported 431 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while 261 cases were detected from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 46194.

Among the total cases, 17050 are from Jammu division and 291427 from Kashmir, they said.

6514 KPs Still Living In Kashmir Valley: Govt Tells RS

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Altogether 6,514 Kashmiri Pandits are still residing in Kashmir valley -- highest 2,639 in Kulgam district, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said on Wednesday.

Rai said in Rajya Sabha that no Kashmiri Pandit has left the valley in 2022.

The number of Kashmiri Pandits who are still residing in the valley as on July 20 is 6,514, he said, replying to a written question.

The minister said the highest number of Kashmiri Pandits are living in Kulgam district (2,639), followed by Budgam (1,204), Anantnag (808), Pulwama (579), Srinagar (455), Shopian (320), and Baramulla (294), among others.

As many as 12 Kashmiri



Pandits were killed by militants in Jammu and Kashmir during 2020, 2021 and 2022, he said.

Replying to another question, Rai said the government has a policy of zero tolerance against militancy and the security situation has improved significantly in the Union territory.

There has been a substantial decline in militant attacks --

Gurez Youth Writes Quran By Hand On A 500-Metre Scroll

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: In a laudable achievement, a 26-year-old man from remote Bandipora district here has hand-written the Holy Quran on a 500-metre-long paper scroll -- a calligraphic feat he completed in three months.

Mustafa-Ibn-Jameel, a resident of Tulail area of the frontier Gurez, in the north Kashmir district, had embarked on the project last year.

It took me two months to arrange for the special art paper for calligraphy. I got that from a factory in Delhi as it was not available in the open market. Then I also got a special calligraphy ink for it, Jameel said.

He said even though the project was concluded in June this year, the calligraphy part -- done in Naskh font



-- took three more months.

Border designing took about a month. I designed it with about 13 lakh dots. Then the whole roll was laminated, he said.

Jameel said the project was completed in Delhi with a cost of Rs 2.5 lakh. It was my heartfelt desire to write Quran, Jameel

said, adding, initially he took calligraphy to improve his handwriting.

Then, I started writing a few chapters of the Quran and felt so happy in doing so, that it occurred to me that I should use my God-given gift to do something unique, he said.

The Quran

Attention: Individuals and Entities
(whose books of account are not required to be audited)

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India's Millions Consume More Than The Country Can Sustain

360info

As the world uses natural resources faster than they can be replenished, India looks to a future of renewable energy.

Whether we're running a country or a household, we always need to spend within our budget. The Earth also has a budget the ecological budget, where income and expenditure take the form of natural resources. Like every budget, the Earth's is limited.

Today, humans are using the resources replenished by one year of the Earth's natural processes in only seven to eight months.

Earth Overshoot Day is the date by which all of the Earth's ecological resources and services for the year are consumed. This year, it falls on July 28. According to a report from advocacy group Global Footprint Network, Earth Overshoot Day was on December 25 in 1971 and has been creeping earlier each year.

Currently, humans are consuming 1.7 times the resources the Earth can replace in one year. By 2030, humans will require the resources produced on two Earths. In the Indian context, the country will require 2.5 times more natural resources to meet its demand by 2030.

Overexploitation of resources by a growing population has reversed the demand-and-supply relationship. Even if its birth rate continues to decline, India is projected to be home to around 1.51 billion people by 2030.

India has lower per-capita consumption of natural resources than many countries, but overshoot occurs due to its high population and limited resources. India has about 18 per cent of the world's population, while its land, forest and clean water make up a meagre 2.4, 2 and 4 per cent of the world's respective totals.

Represented as land area, the natural resources available to sustain people in India take up 0.5 hectares per person, while consumption is around 1.1 hectares per person.

According to the Global Footprint Network report, overfishing, indiscriminate deforestation and excessive carbon-diox-



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ide emissions are the main reasons for the Earth's overshoot. The Earth cleans the atmosphere by absorbing carbon dioxide. The report finds the natural resources needed to scrub carbon dioxide from the atmosphere make up about 60 per cent of the total ecological footprint. One hundred and fifty years ago, the human carbon footprint was negligible.

The world relies heavily on carbon dioxide-releasing fossil fuels to meet its energy demand. According to the BP Statistical

Review of World Energy, about 61.74 per cent of electricity demand in 2021 was from fossil sources. About 78.5 per cent of electricity in India comes from fossil fuels, followed by renewable sources (19 per cent) and nuclear sources (2.5 per cent). Coal has the largest share (44 per cent) of India's electricity supply.

India ranks third in global electricity generation and consumption. The energy sector in India is the largest greenhouse-gas emitter. According to the GE Gas Power

report, although greenhouse-gas emissions from the energy sector in India are more than the global average, they have declined mainly due to the shift in government policy towards renewable energy since the 2015 Paris Agreement.

With a total installed capacity of more than 160 gigawatts in March 2022, renewable-energy-generation capacity has increased about 400 per cent in the past nine years.

Electricity demand is expected to grow at

5 per cent each year over 2018-40, and India has rich potential for renewable-energy sources such as solar, hydro, wind and biomass. As a tropical country, India receives plentiful sunlight. According to the National Institute of Solar Energy, if the country installed solar on just 3 per cent of its degraded land areas, its solar-energy potential would increase to 750 gigawatts. The National Institute of Wind Energy has estimated that the country has about 700 gigawatts of wind-energy potential at 120 metres above the ground. About 230 million tonnes of surplus agricultural residues are produced every year in India, representing 28 gigawatts of electricity-generation potential.

The country also possesses more than 7,500 kilometres of coastline for tapping tidal, wave or offshore wind energy. In short, India has the renewable resources to meet its current and future energy demands.

By 2050, India can achieve a net-zero carbon footprint by reducing emissions from the energy sector and deploying renewable energy quickly and strategically. India is very much on track to achieve 175 gigawatts of installed solar-power capacity by 2022 and 500 gigawatts of non-fossil electricity by 2030.

The Government of India also has various initiatives such as the National Clean Air Programme, Bharat Stage-VI vehicle-emissions regulation, the National Action Plan on Climate Change and the UJALA scheme to promote energy-efficient light globes.

Overconsumption of the Earth's resources means anything consumed after July 28 is debt borrowed from the Earth's future. If it is not slowly repaid, exhaustion of the existing resources on Earth will put human existence in danger.

The Global Footprint Network report suggests that if we make Overshoot Day later by five days every year from now until 2050, the resources produced by the Earth will be enough for human consumption. This means natural-resource efficiency and energy conservation are essential. Only then can this Earth continue to support life for all.

Google Maps Launches Street View Across 10 Cities In India

Press Trust Of India

Google Maps has launched its street view service across 10 cities in India in partnership with two local companies, the firm said on Wednesday.

The government had previously not allowed showing of panoramic images of roads and other sites for security reasons.

In a statement, Google said Street View is being launched in partnership with Genesys International and Tech Mahindra. "Starting today, Street View will be available on Google Maps with fresh imagery licensed from local partners covering over 1,50,000 km across ten cities in India, including Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Nashik, Vadodara, Ahmednagar, and Amritsar," it said.

Google, Genesys International, and Tech Mahindra plan to expand this to more than 50 cities by the end of 2022.

This India launch marks the first time in the world that Street View is being brought to life completely by local partners.

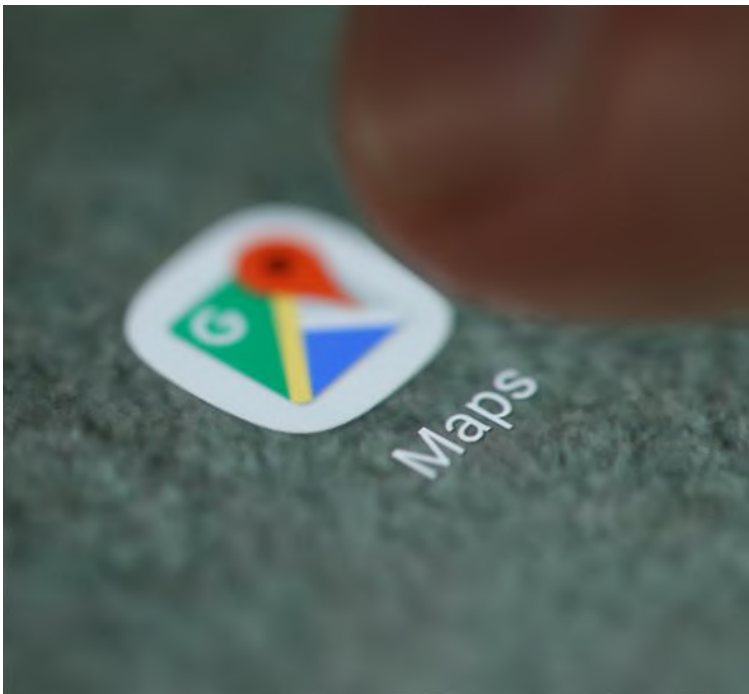
Also, Google Maps will now show speed limits data shared by the traffic authorities, starting with Bengaluru.

Google also announced its partnership with Bengaluru traffic police as part of its efforts towards delivering models that better optimise traffic light timings.

"This is helping the local traffic authority manage road congestion at key intersections, and will eventually scale across the

city," the statement said, adding, "Google will further expand this to Kolkata and Hyderabad in partnership with local traffic authorities." Speaking of the announcements, Miriam Karthika Daniel, VP - Google Maps Experiences,

graphing Indian cities, bringing to life our city's amazing tapestry of streets and landmarks and allowing us to comfortably visit our old neighbourhoods or plan our trips." Street View APIs will also be available to local developers



said the launch of Street View in India will be instrumental in delivering a more helpful user experience, from virtually visiting locations to getting a better sense of local businesses and establishments.

Sajid Malik, Managing Director of Genesys International Corporation Ltd, said, "We were the first Indian firm to perform street imaging of all major cities in India. Our fleet is still swiftly photo-

enabling them to deliver richer mapping experiences in their services.

Additionally, Google announced its collaboration with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to provide air quality information. This information can be accessed by tapping the 'Layers' button at the top right in their Maps app and selecting the 'Air Quality' option.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CITY DRAINAGE CIVIL DIVISION SMC

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
e_NIT NO._08_CDC_SMC_OF_2022_23

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e- tenders are invited on item rate basis from the Registered / Approved PWD Civil Contractors, whose enlistment cards are valid in terms of standing rules, for the Below mentioned works strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:-

S.No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work incld. Depttl. Materials (Amt.In lakhs).	Earnest Money (CDR)	Class Of Contract	Time for completion	Cost of Tender Document In the shape of e-challan	Head of Account
1.	Construction of drain including road cross near Help Foundation lane Gogo Bagh Tuls Bagh Jawahir Nagar D/S Jawahir Nagar.	12.13	24260/-	BC&D	35 days	800=00	Capex D/S Jawahir Nagar
2	Construction of drain at Masjid Ibrahim Housing Colony Channapora (D/S Rose lane Channapora)	9.86	19720/-	C&B	35 days	750=00	Capex D/S Rose Lane Channapora
3.	Construction of drain from House of Farooq Ahmad Dar to House of Mohammad Ibrahim at Mir Mohalla Dar Colony Barzulla (near Playground (D/s Barzulla)	7.27	14540/-	C&D	30 days	600=00	Capex D/S Barzulla

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given hereunder:-

01-	Date of Issue of tender Notice	25.07.2022
02-	Period of down loading of bidding documents/ Sale of tender document.	26.07.2022 from 10.00 AM to 16.07.2022
03-	Bid Submission Start date	26.07.2022 from 10.00 AM.
04-	Bid Submission End date.	02.08.2022 upto 4.00 PM
05-	Date and time of opening of Bids on line.	03.08.2022 at 11.00 AM. In the office of Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division SMC sgr.
06	List of soft copies to be uploaded.	Scanned copy of Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) with S.No. of NIT/work. Scanned copy of GST /Registration and PAN Card. Scanned copy of Enlistment card with its validity Scanned copy of Fresh CDR(Earnest Money)

- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date mentioned above.
- The bids uploaded on the Web Site upto due date and time will be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer, City Drainage Civil Division SMC Srinagar. in presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
- In case of Holiday/Office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The complete bidding process will be on line.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of necessary Treasury Challan Revenue/receipt in favour of Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division SMC Srinagar and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/Treasury challan receipt pledged to Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division SMC Srinagar
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. Important Condition :-
01. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged as laid down in the detailed e-NIT/Tender Document issued for the work which can be down loaded from www.jktenders.gov.in.
02. The cost of tender Document should be collected by introducing e-chalan or simply uploading a copy of necessary treasury challan /receipt may be credited to MH=0217 in favour of Executive Engineer, City Drainage Civil Division SMC sgr.
03. The successful bidder shall have to furnish the hard copies after opening of financial bid on line & also the CDR in original must be submitted by the successful (lowest) bidder after opening of financial bid & 5% performance security of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG by the successful bidder. The same shall be released after successful completion of the Defect liability period of the work. The EMD 2% of successful bidders shall lbe released after receipt of 5% performance Security.

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
City Drainage Civil Division Sgr.

DIPK-6752/22

No: CDC-SMC/1792-1815

Dated:25-07-2022

(Kashmir Observer, 28 July, 2005)

Ex-Israeli PM: Surgical Military Action Against Iran Won't Work



Former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak says surgical military action against Iran is no longer effective, acknowledging that Tehran is well capable of "harassing" Israel.

In an article published in Time magazine on Monday, Barak claimed that Iran could make a decision "this summer" to become a nuclear power.

"This summer, Iran will turn into a de-facto threshold nuclear state. Yes, it will still take them from 18 to 24 months to polish their skills treating metal uranium and packing it into a missile warhead. But these steps can be executed in a small lab or workshop and cannot be easily followed, never mind stopped."

He wondered why Washington and Tel Aviv did not launch "a kinetic attack capable of delaying the Iranian program by at least several years" after former US President Donald Trump nixed the 2015 deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018.

"Both Israel and (for sure) the US can operate over the skies of Iran against this or that site or installation and destroy it. But once Iran is a de-facto threshold nuclear state, this kind of attack simply cannot delay the Iranians from turning nuclear."

"In other words, unlike the surgical operations that were considered 12 years ago, or could have been considered 4 years ago—operations which could have substantially delayed the Iranian program (while risking a war with Iran)—the present possibilities bring all the risk of

war (especially for Israel) with only scant likelihood of delaying the Iranian nuclear program."

Barak also admitted that Iran, which he described as "a tough and bitter rival" is capable of "harassing Israel."

"However, when it comes to nuclear capability, bear in mind that creating a preliminary nuclear arsenal can take a decade or more. It becomes a potential existential threat to Israel only in the longer term."

In his article, Barak called for several actions to face what he claimed to be "the real new phase" of Iran's nuclear program.

"If a new agreement with Iran, even a dubious one, helps preserve the NPT, that would still serve useful purposes... Washington must establish a small club of relevant states, Israel among them, and make sure that high investments in intelligence minimize the risk of missing any crucial developments."

He also called for equipping Israel with the means "to enable it to carry out an independent attack."

Iran has repeatedly maintained that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only. Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has even issued a fatwa (religious decree) against the possession and use of weapons of mass destruction.

Kamal Kharrazi, the head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, has recently rejected allegations that Iran has intentions to make nuclear weapons, saying this is while the Islamic Republic "possesses the technical capabilities."

Job Quota For Agniveers Not To Affect 50% Supreme Court Ceiling: Centre

Agenceis

New Delhi: The 10 per cent reservation to be given to Agniveers in the recruitment to posts of constables in central armed police forces will be horizontal and not affect the 50 per cent ceiling kept by the Supreme Court, Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said this in a written reply to a question.

"An in-principle approval has been given for reservation of 10 per cent of vacancies for ex-Agniveers in the recruitment to the post of constable (general duty), rifleman in the Central Armed Police Forces and Assam Rifles. This reservation will be horizontal which will not affect the 50 per cent ceiling kept by the Supreme Court," he said.

Mr Rai said relaxation in the upper age limit and exemption from the physical efficiency test will also be given to the former Agniveers. The Centre on June 14 had unveiled the ambitious Agnipath scheme for recruitment of youths aged between

17-and-a-half years and 21 years in the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, largely on a four-year short-term contractual basis.

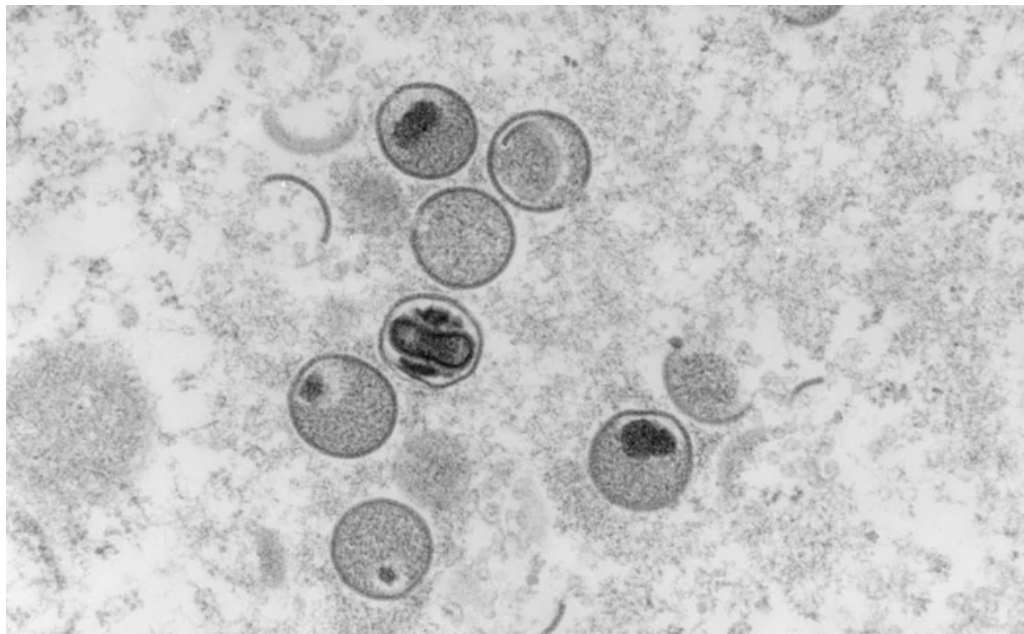
Those recruited under the scheme will be known as Agniveers. After the completion of the four-year tenure, 25 per cent of the recruits from each batch will be offered regular service.

There have been protests by job aspiring youths against the scheme. Subsequently, the Union Home Ministry had announced that 10 per cent vacancies for recruitment in the central armed police forces or the paramilitary forces will be reserved for the Agniveers.

Replying to another question, the minister said in January, 2016, it was decided to reserve 33 per cent posts at constable level for being filled by women in the CRPF and CISF to begin with and 14-15 per cent posts at constable level in border guarding — the BSF, SSB and ITBP.

The existing strength of women personnel in central armed police forces and Assam Rifles at present is 34,151 and the recruitment is an ongoing process, he said.

Over 18,000 Cases Of Monkeypox Worldwide, Majority In Europe, Says WHO



Agenceis

London: There have been more than 18,000 cases of monkeypox reported globally from 78 countries, with the majority in Europe, the World Health Organization said on Wednesday.

The WHO declared the outbreak a global health emergency on Saturday.

So far, 98 per cent of cases outside the countries in Africa where the virus is endemic have been reported in men who have sex with men, the WHO said.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged that group to consider reducing numbers of sexual partners and swapping contact details

with any new partners.

"This is an outbreak that can be stopped... the best way to do that is to reduce the risk of exposure," Tedros told a news conference from Geneva. "That means making safe choices for yourself and others."

Monkeypox is in the process of being renamed, to avoid the name being "weaponised" or in a racist way, WHO emergencies director Mike Ryan said.

The UN agency is recommending vaccination for high-risk groups, including men who have sex with men with multiple sexual partners and healthcare workers.

It cautioned that it takes several weeks after getting the second dose of vaccine to be fully protected, so people should take

other precautions until that point.

Around 10 per cent of patients have been hospitalized in the current outbreak and five have died, all of them in Africa, the WHO said.

Monkeypox has been a globally neglected public health problem in parts of Africa for decades, but cases began to be reported outside countries where it is endemic in May.

It generally causes mild to moderate symptoms, including fever, fatigue and painful skin lesions that resolve within a few weeks.

Tedros said there were about 16 million doses of approved vaccine available, but only in bulk, so it would take several months to get them into vials. The WHO is urging countries with stockpiles to share vaccine while supply is constrained, he added.

Blinken Non-Committal As Slain Palestinian Journalist's Family Seeks US Probe

Agenceis

The top US diplomat invited relatives of the veteran Al Jazeera reporter, who was killed on May 11 as she covered an Israeli Occupation raid in the occupied West Bank, for a meeting in Washington after they unsuccessfully tried to see President Joe Biden on his visit to the region earlier this month.

"We are continuing to call for accountability and for justice for Shireen," Lina Abu Akleh, the journalist's 27-year-old niece, told AFP outside the State Department after nearly an hour-long meeting with Blinken.

"If there is no accountability for Shireen's murder, then this in a way gives a green light for other governments to kill American citizens," she said.

Lina Abu Akleh, who was joined by the slain journalist's brother, said that Blinken acknowledged the family's concerns about a lack of transparency and promised "to establish a better channel of communication."

But she said he "did not commit to anything" on the family's calls for an independent US investigation into the death of the leading Palestinian journalist, who also held US citizenship.

The United States on July 4 released a statement saying Abu Akleh was likely shot by Israeli Occupation fire but that there was no evidence her killing was intentional and that the bullet was too damaged for a conclusive finding.

The family demanded a retrac-



tion of the statement, which was based in part on US reviews of the separate Israeli Occupation and Palestinian probes.

- 'Accountability' -

State Department spokesman Ned Price pointed to the July 4 statement when asked if Blinken supported a new US probe.

"We believe that by publishing the findings, it speaks to our commitment to pursuing an investigation that is credible, an investigation that's thorough and, importantly, an investigation that culminates in accountability," Price told reporters.

He said that the Israeli Occupation Defense Forces have "the ability to implement processes and procedures to avoid non-combatant casualties" and "to see to it that something like this cannot happen again."

Price said that Blinken voiced "our deepest condolences" to the family and hailed Abu Akleh for her "fearless pursuit of the truth" as a journalist.

The Israeli Occupation has angrily rejected suggestions it de-

liberately targeted a journalist. It initially said that Palestinian fire could have killed Abu Akleh, who was wearing a vest that clearly identified her as a reporter, before backtracking.

Blinken has publicly criticized the Israeli Occupation for using force at her funeral, when police grabbed Palestinian flags and palbearers struggled not to drop her casket.

The family is also meeting US lawmakers who have been pressing for the FBI or other US agencies to launch an investigation into her death.

"If we allow Shireen's killing to be swept under the rug, we send a message that the lives of US citizens abroad don't matter, that the lives of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation don't matter, and that the most courageous journalists in the world, those who cover the human impact of armed conflict and violence, are expendable," Shireen's brother Tony Abu Akleh said in a statement before the meetings.

Israeli Army Razes Homes Of Suspects In Settler's Killing

Agenceis

QARAWAT HASAN: Israeli forces on Tuesday demolished the homes of two Palestinians in the occupied West Bank accused of shooting dead a Jewish settler in April, an army statement said.

The army said it had destroyed the homes in Qarawat Bani Hasan, in the northern West Bank, belonging to Yusef Aasi and Yehya Miri, accused of perpetrating "a deadly shooting attack at the entrance to the city of Ariel, murdering the Israeli security guard Vyacheslav Golev".

Aasi and Miri were arrested a day after the April 29 attack and are being held by Israel.

They have not yet faced trial in Israeli military court, which exercises jurisdiction over offences committed by Palestinians in parts of the West Bank, a territory occupied by the Jewish state since 1967.

the demolitions, "hundreds of Palestinians instigated a number of violent riots. The rioters hurled rocks, Molotov cocktails and burning tyres at the soldiers. The forces responded with riot dispersal means." Golev was killed during a period of surging tensions in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including regular clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces at Jerusalem's flashpoint Al Aqsa mosque compound at the end of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan.

Human rights activists say Israel's policy of demolishing the homes of suspected attackers amounts to collective punishment, as it can render non-combatants, including children, homeless. But Israel says the practice is effective in deterring some Palestinians from carrying out attacks.

Roughly 475,000 Jewish set-



"The demolition took place after the petition from the terrorists' families was rejected by the Supreme Court," the army statement said.

The army added that during

tlers now live in the West Bank in communities widely regarded as illegal under international law. Ariel, where Golev was killed, is one of the largest settler communities.

3.66 Lakh Road Accidents Caused 1.32 Lakh Deaths In 2020: Nitin Gadkari

Agenceis

New Delhi: A total of 3,48,279 persons were injured in 3,66,138 road accidents across the country during the calendar year 2020, causing 1,31,714 deaths, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said that as many as 4,51,361 people were injured in road accidents in India during 2019, while the total number of accidents stood at 4,49,002.

According to the minister, the road ministry has formulated a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue of road safety based on education, engineering (both of roads and vehicles), enforcement and emergency care.



Replying to a separate question, Mr Gadkari said, construction works on National Highways were delayed to some extent due to the COVID-19 pan-

demia and the loss of time was estimated to be generally in the range of 3-9 months depending upon the project parameters.

The government has taken several steps under Atmanirbhar Bharat, like granting time extensions for 3 to 9 months, relaxation in contract provisions for ensuring cash flow, direct payment to sub-contractors and release of retention/security money to augment cash flow, waiver of penalty in case of delay in submission of performance security (for new contracts), to make up the loss and regain the lost speed in highways construction, he added.

Responding to another question, Mr Gadkari said 61 State Transport Undertakings (STUs), which are members of Association of State Road Transport

Undertakings (ASRTU), are operating 1,45,747 buses, out of which 51,043 buses have facility for boarding and debarking for persons with disabilities.

NEWS MAKERS

Thousands Of Cows Buried At Landfill After Deadly Heatwave In US

Agenceis

CHICAGO: Top US cattle feeding companies sent 1,000-pound carcasses to a Kansas landfill, where they were flattened by loader machines and mixed with trash, after a June heatwave killed thousands of cows, documents show. Other cattle were buried in unlined graves, a feeding company said.

Neither is a typical method for disposing of bodies. But so many cows died in the unusual heat and humidity that facilities that normally convert carcasses into pet food and fertilizer products were overwhelmed, prompting the state government and cattle feeders to take emergency measures.

The mass deaths and subsequent

scramble to deal with decaying bodies sparked a push for changes in the meat industry in Kansas, the third-largest US cattle state. Kansas is forecast to see more high temperatures that can stress and potentially kill cattle this summer, adding to the myriad problems caused by increasingly extreme weather linked to climate change.

Although state officials authorised companies to dispose of carcasses at the Seward County Landfill in Liberal, Kansas, they are now considering alternatives to decrease the risks for foul smells and other problems if more deaths occur, the landfill's director said.

The disposal methods and identities of companies that lost cattle have not previously been reported. They were contained in documents ob-

tained from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and confirmed by some companies involved.

At least 2,117 cattle died after humidity levels spiked, winds disappeared and temperatures topped 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38C) in southwestern Kansas during the weekend of June 11, state records show. It was early in the year for such heat and before some cattle had fully shed their winter coats. Seward County Landfill Director Brock Theiner estimated the dump alone took in roughly 1,850 to 2,000 dead cattle.

Landfill workers used loading equipment with steel wheels to flatten the cattle to about eight inches and mixed the bodies with garbage, a process that took nearly three weeks, Theiner said.

Russia Plans To Quit International Space Station 'After 2024'

Agenceis

MOSCOW: Russia has decided to quit the International Space Station "after 2024", the newly appointed chief of Moscow's space agency told President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday.

The announcement comes as tensions rage between the Kremlin and the West over Moscow's military intervention in Ukraine and several rounds of unprecedented sanctions against Russia. Russia and the United States have worked side by side on the ISS, which has been in orbit since 1998.

"Of course, we will fulfil all our obligations to our partners, but the decision to leave this station after 2024 has been made," Yuri Borisov, who was appointed Roscosmos chief in mid-July, told Putin.

"I think that by this time we will start putting together a Russian orbital station," Borisov added, calling it the space programme's main "priority".

"Good," Putin replied in comments released by the Kremlin.

Until now space exploration was one of the few areas where cooperation between Russia and the United States and its allies had not been wrecked by tensions over Ukraine and elsewhere. Borisov said the space industry was in a "difficult situation".

He said he would seek "to raise the bar, and first of all, to provide the Russian economy with the necessary space services", pointing to navigation, communication, and data transmission, among other things.

Soldier In Kanwar Yatra Killed Allegedly For Overtaking Other Kanwariyas

Agenceis

Haridwar: A 25-year-old army jawan, who was part of a group of kanwariyas from Uttar Pradesh was killed in Haridwar allegedly by another group from Haryana, police said on Wednesday, adding six persons were arrested. Kartik, a jawan from the Jat regiment of the Indian Army, succumbed to injuries on the way to a hospital, Haridwar Superintendent of Police (Rural) Pramendra Dobhal said.

Six persons were arrested in connection with the incident and booked under different sections of the IPC, he said. According to police, Kartik was attacked with batons and iron rods by the kanwariyas

from Haryana when the two groups riding motorcycles were racing with each other and he drove past them.

Angry with Kartik over this, the kanwariyas from Haryana thrashed him brutally, police said, adding that the army jawan was on leave. Kartik hailed from Sisauli village of Muzaffarnagar district and was returning from Haridwar after collecting Ganga water along with other members of his group when the incident occurred on Tuesday, SP Dobhal said.

Police identified the arrested persons as Sundar (38), Rahul (20), Sachin (25), Akash (21), Pankaj (22) and Rinku (24). All of them are from Chulhara village in Haryana's Panipat district, the SP (rural) said.

TAD Issues Selection List Under Top 50 Coaching Scheme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Tribal Affairs Department (TAD), J&K on Wednesday issued the selection list of Top 50 coaching scheme for tribal students preparing for NEET/JEE examinations.

Earlier this month, the department had invited applications from desirous students for availing this scheme which aims to provide coaching to meritorious and deserving tribal students preparing for NEET/JEE courses. The scheme is being implemented through the Education wing of the Tribal Research Institute.

Secretary, TAD, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary while speaking on this initiative said that under this scheme, 153 students were shortlisted by the department from hundreds of applications received through portal. He added that after proper scrutiny and evaluation, 50 tribal students have been selected who shall be imparted coaching through reputed Coaching institutes.

The Secretary highlighted that the coaching process shall commence in the month of August and the students selected for admission in professional Courses like MBBS, BVSC & AH, BDS, BAMS, BE etc. shall be provided an annual scholarship of Rs 70,000 to 75,000 totalling around Rs 4 Lakh for various professional courses.

Notably, the cut-off point in today's selection list was declared as 89.4 % with 20 girl students figuring in the list of total 50 students.

Pertinently, TAD has launched various initiatives for tribal education including enhancement of scholarship by more than 100%, special scholarship scheme for tribal children of seasonal Centres, Smart Schools in tribal areas, four times hike in tuition fee, hike in diet and uniform charges by around 100%, operationalisation of hostels throughout the year, Construction of new hostels, Residential schools, awards to meritorious students, IT related initiatives for hostel students, among others.

Samoon Reviews Status Of Admissions In Govt Polytechnics

Asks Principals Of GPs For 100 Percent Enrolment



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon on Wednesday chaired a meeting of officers to review the status of admission in the Government Polytechnic colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

Director Skill Development, Secretary Board of technical Education (BOTE), officers from J&K Board of School Education, Principals of all Government Polytechnics, representatives of AICTE and Private Polytechnics attended the meeting in person and through video conferencing.

The Principal Secretary held a threadbare discussion with all the concerned officers with respect to the admission process at all Polytechnics.

The meeting was informed that BOTE invited applications for the admissions in the three

year Diploma programme and as on date 3060 applications have been received by the board.

It was told that the date of receiving applications was started in the first week of May and the process is still going on with a timeline to receive applications extended three times.

It was also given out that the admission process is at its final stage and the final applications would be sent to respective colleges for further process of enrolment of the applicants.

Dr Samoon asked the Principals of Government Polytechnics to ensure 100 per cent enrolment for the academic session.

He also asked the Principals to give wide publicity to ongoing admissions so as to encourage maximum admission of students in these Polytechnics.

He also directed the Principals to retain hired buildings for hostel facilities for far off students.

Bestsound Center Opens In Pulwama With Hearing Help Private Limited

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Signia, a leader in the hearing aid industry on Wednesday announced the launch of its BestSound Center (A Hearing and Speech Clinic), in Pulwama in association with Hearing Help Private Limited where consumers can experience new technology hearing aids and take an informed decision to enhance their hearing journey.

The BestSound Center is set to showcase the finest from Si-vantos' premium hearing care brand, Signia. It is one of the largest networks of hearing care professionals with clinics spread across the country and aims at providing quality services to people.

Hearing Help Private Limited opened one more Signia exclusive diagnostic clinic in Gole Market Karannagar Srinagar where world class diagnostic facilities like BERA, OAE, Tympanometry is available.

As per WHO estimates in India, there are approximately 63 million people, who are suffer-

ing from significant hearing impairment; this places the estimated prevalence at 6.3% in the Indian population.

Mr. John Zargar, MD of Hearing Help Private Limited adds, "In India, hearing impairment or loss is often neglected which leads to delay in diagnosis. Due to the stigma associated with hearing loss, there is a strong social, physical and psychological impact on an individual. As an extension of our offerings, we are glad to spread our wings in the country. This expansion is in line with our focus on taking hearing aids beyond devices to help people hear better and maximize every moment of their lives." We provide people with all range of hearing aids like invisible, chargeable and super power with phone connectivity so that

people can use hearing aids like Bluetooth devices. We have our branches in Jammu, Anantnag, Pulwama, at 3 places in Srinagar and Sopore Baramulla with intentions to open more clinics in other districts soon.

KP Employee Not Eligible For Transfer Outside Kashmir: MHA



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government on Wednesday said that a Kashmiri Pandit employee, recruited under special drive, was not eligible for transfer outside the Valley "under any circumstances."

In a written reply to a query if the government was considering transfer of Kashmiri Pandit

Employees' to safe havens outside the valley, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai said that in terms of Jammu and Kashmir Kashmiri Migrants (Special Drive) Recruitment Rules, 2009 notified on 30 December 2009, the appointees shall have to work within Kashmir Valley and "shall not be eligible for transfer outside the Valley under any circumstances."

"However, they have been posted at safer zones in various District/Tehsil/Headquarters within the Kashmir Division," he said while responding to a query by Vivek K. Tankha.

Besides, Rai said, the Government has taken several measures to ensure safety of minorities in the Valley. "These include a robust security and intelligence grid, day & night area domination, patrolling and proactive operations against (militants), round the clock checking at Nakas, deployment of security forces at strategic points to thwart any (militant) attack," he said in the reply.

Rai said that nine government employees (excluding security forces) including one Kashmiri Pandit have lost their lives in militancy-related incidents in J&K.

"The Government has a policy of zero tolerance against (militancy) and the security situation has improved significantly in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). There has been substantial decline in (militant) attacks from 417 in 2018 to 229 in 2021," he said, adding, "Since the repeal of Article 370, 09 Government employees (excluding security forces) including 01 Kashmiri Pandit have lost their lives in (militancy)-related incidents in J&K."

He was responding to a question by the parliamentarian regarding the number of employees, including Kashmiri Pandits, of the State and the Central Governments in J&K and Ladakh who lost their lives in militancy-related incidents since the abrogation of Article 370 on 5th August, 2019. (GNS)

J&K Cong Holds Protests Against Harassment' Of Party Leaders

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Wednesday held protests against the alleged vindictive action and harassment of the party's top leadership by the central government.

Led by J-K Congress working president and former minister Raman Bhalla, a large number of party leaders and activists took out an anti-government rally in the Bahu Fort area of the city and raised slogans against the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Centre.

They also torched effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said the BJP-led central government is harassing top Congress leaders by implicating them in "false" cases.

They called Rahul Gandhi for five days, now they have called Sonia Gandhi for the third time. The ED has created terror in the country, he said.

The ED on Wednesday questioned Congress president Sonia Gandhi for over three hours on the third day of her deposition in the National Herald newspaper-linked money laundering case, officials said.

Party leader Rahul Gandhi was earlier questioned by the federal agency in the case.

Bhalla said by resorting to harassment in the garb of money laundering cases, the central government is stirring a hornet's nest for which the BJP and its leaders will have to pay a heavy price.

He accused the government of using its agencies as tools against the opposition leaders.

"It is an irony that without registration of an FIR or presence of money transaction records or evidence, the enforcement directorate is making every effort to book the reputed senior leaders of the Congress.

In such situation and circumstances, how it can be a money laundering case," Bhalla said.

He said laws should not be weaponised to target and humiliate.

The Modi sarkar has unleashed a relentless campaign of vendetta against its political opponents and critics through the mischievous misuse of investigative agencies, he added.

In Kathua district, Congress activists held protests and sat on a dharna for a few hours. Some BJP supporters entered into a verbal dual with the protesting Congress activists, but police intervened and brought the situation under control.

Similarly, Congress activists took out a protest rally at Banihal in Ramban district against Sonia Gandhi's appearance before the ED.

The protest was led by former MLA Viqar Rasool.

Police stopped the protestors on Banihal hospital road and did not allow them to move towards the national highway.

Congress leaders also condemned the detention of Rahul Gandhi and other party leaders by the Delhi Police on Tuesday.

Kashmiri Journalist Stopped From Flying To Sri Lanka

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Immigration authorities at the airport here stopped yet another Kashmiri journalist from travelling abroad, citing restrictions imposed by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, officials said on Wednesday.

Akash Hassan, who hails from Anantnag district of South Kashmir, was on his way to Sri Lanka on Tuesday evening when his boarding pass was cancelled and he was offloaded from the aircraft.

Hassan is the second Kashmiri journalist barred from travelling abroad this month. On July 2, Pulitzer-winning Kashmiri photojournalist Sanna Irshad Mattoo was stopped when she was on her way to Paris to attend a book launch event and participate in a photography exhibition.

Hassan informed on his unverified Twitter handle that immigration officials at the Indira Gandhi International Airport had barred him from boarding his flight to Colombo. "I was headed to report on the current crises in the country," Hassan, who writes for the UK-based The Guardian newspaper, said.

He said immigration officials took his passport, boarding pass and made him sit in a room for nearly four hours before an airline official informed him that his luggage had been offloaded on directions from the department.

"I was questioned by two officials about my background, travel purpose," Hassan said, adding after nearly five hours, he was handed his passport and boarding pass with a red rejection stamp that read "cancelled without prejudice".

Hassan, whose father is a teacher, completed his post-graduation from Turkey.

People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti said stopping Hassan from travelling abroad came at a time when Chief Justice of India N V Ramana stated that independent journalism was the backbone of democracy.

"It's no secret that GOI wants to crush the very backbone and fourth pillar of our democracy because of its intolerance to the truth," she said in a tweet.

Officials in the Jammu and Kashmir Police confirmed that Hassan had been placed on a no-fly list.

Earlier, some Kashmir journalists, activists and academicians were stopped at the airport too.

Former Legislators, PRI Representatives Call On LG



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Former legislators, political leaders, delegations of PRI representatives and Press Club Jammu on Wednesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan here.

Former Legislator, Devender Singh Rana met the Lt Governor and projected the issues pertaining to Dogri Satellite Channel, employment opportunities for educated youth, regularization of casual employees and daily wagers, pending payments of artists of Academy for Art, Culture and Languages, exemption of Toll at Ban Toll Plaza for locals residing within 20 kms etc.

Sham Lal Sharma, former minister also called on the Lt Governor and apprised him about channelization of River Chenab on the pattern of River Jhelum, early completion of bridge over Indri Patan, Degree College in Sub-Division Chowki Choura, speedy construction of Mini Secretariat at Akhnour.

Similarly, former legislator Ranbir Singh Pathania, accompanied by DDC members from district Udhampur expressed gratitude to LG-led UT administration for initiating revolutionary administrative reforms.

He drew attention of the Lt Governor towards the issues of Udhampur district pertaining to the constitution of Udhampur Development Authority, master plan for Surinsar Mansar Development Authority, building complex for Government Medical College, Udhampur, road connectivity etc.

A delegation of PRI representatives including DDC members

and BDC Chairpersons led by former legislator Pawan Gupta apprised the Lt Governor about important issues pertaining to Udhampur district, including water supply in town area, solid waste management, establishment of transport yard and warehouse, payment of works under MGNREGA.

Later, a delegation of Press Club Jammu led by its president Sanjeev Pargal met the Lt Governor and projected various issues related to journalists fraternity, parking facility at Press Club, free passage of media persons at toll plazas on the pattern of other states, implementation of DAVP rates in the UT of J&K etc.

Meanwhile, acclaimed Dogri Singer, Sonali Dogra along with Akash Dogra and Kabul Bukhari also called on the Lt Governor and informed about the activities being undertaken by Natya Roots Productions to bring awareness and inculcate love for art & culture.

A poster of Folk Studio, a programme of Natya Roots Productions for promoting folk music in the region was also unveiled.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the members of the delegations observed that the UT Government is committed to the equitable development of all the regions and sections of the society.

He assured them that their genuine issues and demands would be taken up for examination and early redressal.

The Lt Governor further urged the public representatives to continue their sustained endeavours for promoting the welfare of people.

Army Commander Asks Troops To Remain Steadfast To Secure Frontiers

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Northern Army commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi has said the troops should remain steadfast to secure the frontiers in any condition against an unpredictable enemy as he paid homage to soldiers killed in the Kargil war.

The general officer commanding-in-chief (GoC-In-C) of the Udhampur-based Northern Command said the sacrifices of the Kargil war bravehearts should instill a sense of pride, devotion to duty and patriotism among the armed forces personnel.

The troops deployed in the Northern Command shall live up to the spirit of Kargil (war) heroes. They shall always remain steadfast to secure the frontiers even in adverse weather and treacherous terrain against an unpredictable enemy," Lt Gen Dwivedi said on the occasion of the Kargil Vijay Diwas on Tuesday.

The spirit of our fallen bravehearts shall always inspire us, he said.

When you go home, tell them

of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today! the army commander said.

The day is not only special for the Indian Army but for the entire nation as it is the anniversary of one of the most rare battles won in treacherous terrain, inclement weather and fought from the most tactically disadvantageous positions, a Northern Command spokesperson said.

He said the unmatched valour and devotion to the national flag and the nation was displayed by the Indian Army during Operation Vijay.

On July 26, 1999, the Indian Army announced the successful culmination of 'Operation Vijay', declaring victory after a nearly three-month-long battle with Pakistani troops on the icy heights of Kargil in Ladakh.

The day is observed as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the war.

The day has been embossed in gold by the blood of those who never came back, the spokesperson said.

J&K On A Mission To Become Largest Clean Energy-Producing UT: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K is on a mission to become one of the largest clean energy-producing UT in the country with an objective to reduce dependency on conventional sources of energy and enable J&K in attaining self-sufficiency in its energy needs, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

He said that J&K Government recognizes that renewable energy can also significantly increase J&K's and the Nation's energy security.

To achieve this milestone, the work is going on to implement the Government of India's Grid-connected

Rooftop Solar Scheme, Phase-II for the residential sector in Jammu to ensure that the electricity needs of the city are fully met from solar energy.

Under the project, 200 MW grid-tied rooftop solar power plants will be installed on 50,000 residential buildings in Jammu city by the Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) under its "Solar City Mission" at an estimated cost of Rs 1040 crore. The project will be completed by March, 2024 and will have a lifetime of 25 years.

The Rooftop Solar Programme will provide subsidized installation of solar power panels on residential houses at

the cost of Rs. 58,739, Rs. 53,995, Rs. 52,594, and Rs. 51,309 for Category-A (Up to 1 kW), Category-B (> 1 kW to 2 kW), Category-C (> 2 kW up to 3 kW), and Category-D (> 3 kW up to 10 kW), respectively.

The Central Sector Scheme provides a central subsidy component of 40% of the project cost and a state subsidy component of 25% of the project cost for the installation of solar power panels, below 3 kW capacity, beyond which the central subsidy component remains at 20%. The subsidy is provided to the beneficiaries through the DBT mode.

An official said that these rooftop

solar power plants will be connected to the grid on a net metering basis. The investments made by the beneficiaries will be recovered at a rate of 25% annually on account of the saving of energy, with a payback period of approximately 4 years.

With the implementation of the project, J&K will benefit from the generation of approximately 280 million units of energy annually, with a corresponding reduction in carbon emissions of approximately 5.44 million tons, besides reaping gains from savings on account of inter-state transmission losses to the tune of 224 million units, he added.

The generation of solar energy through the Rooftop Solar Programme will also help the energy-deficit UT of J&K in supplementing its energy needs, while assisting the DISCOMs in achieving the Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) targets of 10.5% as fixed by the Government of India.

The project will also provide employment opportunities to local youth. Based on employment estimates, it is calculated that the 1 MW rooftop solar PV project generates a total of 40 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs over the 25 years expected lifetime of the project, which includes highly skilled personnel for business development,

design, sales, procurement, and project management; one-time jobs for construction and installation of the rooftop PV system; and unskilled resources required annually for cleaning activity of the plant.

The scheme mandates implementing agency, viz. JAKEDA to provide regular quality supervision and certification of the quality of material to be installed; periodic monitoring of physical progress and third-party quality checks from MNRE approved test centres; provide free maintenance for a period of 5 years post installation; install bi-directional net-meters; and ensure project completion within the

given timelines.

J&K has a good potential for solar energy and the renewable energy capacity would help to bridge a part of its power requirement. Under the new budget in PM KUSUM Scheme, 375 Solar Water Pumps will be installed in 2022-23 providing electricity benefit to 47159 souls, direct agriculture benefit to 18750 souls, and indirect agriculture benefit to 160000 souls.

Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 500-kilowatt solar power plant at Village Pali of Samba which will make it India's first "carbon-neutral Panchayat.

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K O V I E W

Uncertain Normalcy

Jammu and Kashmir has seen nine-fold increase in police encounters in 2021-22, highest in the country, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai told Lok Sabha on Tuesday. This was followed by Assam where such cases rose by over four times against the previous year. According to the data tabled in Lok Sabha, there were just five police encounters in Jammu and Kashmir in 2020-21 but in 2021-22, the number has increased to 45.

If anything, this reveals the renewed surge in violence in the union territory, most of it concentrated in the Valley. Militants have escalated their attacks on minorities and outsiders as the figures tabled in Lok Sabha reveal. What is more, there is now evidence of more foreign militants infiltrating in Kashmir and that too with an array of arms left behind in Afghanistan by the US.

Several attacks in recent weeks have made the situation very challenging for the security forces. The surge in violence has come despite the fact that the number of militants has dwindled under 200 over the last year, the first time this has happened since 2015 when the slain Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani reinvigorated the then flagging militancy. Ever since the withdrawal of J&K autonomy in August 2019, around 500 militants have been killed in the UT, most of them local youth. Though this has reduced the number of militants, the violence has continued unchanged. And over the last year, the violence has increased as militants have chosen to attack soft targets - civilians, panchayat workers, J&K police personnel visiting home, outsiders and minorities - instead of engaging security personnel. Security forces, as a result, now not only have to combat militancy but also protect a large section of population including many from among their own ranks.

The resurgence in violence hasn't, however, dented the larger drift of normalcy in the Valley yet. While the violence has become more conspicuous in recent months, it is still on the margins in so far as its impact on the daily life. Tourism is at an all time high after many years. Between January and May 15 of 2022, the tourist arrivals in the Valley have jumped to 700,000 - over four times the 125,000 seen in the same period during pandemic-hit last year - according to the data from the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department and the Union Tourism Ministry. Here's hoping that the situation further improves in the coming months and tourism continues to grow.

O T H E R O P I N I O N

Point Made: On Droupadi Murmu as President

A change of guard in Rashtrapati Bhavan is a solemn moment. The departing president, Ram Nath Kovind, spoke with becoming solemnity in his farewell address about the founders of this modern nation that exemplified liberty, equality and fraternity. Without this 'trinity', the purpose of democracy would be defeated. The address, however, with the recitation of great names from Rabindranath Tagore to Subhas Chandra Bose and allusion to Jawaharlal Nehru as well as Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, could seem more of an enactment of solemnity than meaningful inspiration. Mr Kovind's identity as Dalit had been flaunted by the Narendra Modi government to prove its egalitarian credentials and draw the scheduled castes close. Yet under Mr Kovind's watch, crimes against Dalits and indigenous peoples grew instead of dropping as other crimes did, especially in the pandemic years. In 2020, a scheduled caste person was subject to a crime every 10 minutes. Since 2018, 1.3 lakh cases of crimes against Dalits were registered. Even that was not easy. Upper castes and the administration make it difficult for Dalits to complain, and cases may take years to reach the courts. Meanwhile, in 2019, crimes against scheduled tribes rose by 26.5 per cent. Equality seems elusive.

The new president, Droupadi Murmu, is from an indigenous community. In her speech, Ms Murmu presented her rise from a poor family to the position of First Citizen as proof of the strength of India's democracy. The solemnity of these moments was undermined not just by the triumphal commentary of BJP leaders celebrating the Modi government's egalitarian credentials in having brought a Dalit and then, in the 75th year of Independence, the member of an indigenous group, to the presidential chair, but also by the oppression and cruelty that afflict the country. Liberty did not mean anything for Stan Swami, and means little for protesters against citizenship laws, critics and dissenters, who are in prison. Fraternity is hardly the experience of those facing the unchecked bullying and violence of majoritarian vigilantes. The cultivation of hate, the distortion of education and of independent institutions, or the destruction of social harmony may be achievements, but not those envisioned by the leaders whom the former and present presidents mentioned. Rather, this may be the watershed Mr Modi dreams of. Unless, of course, the people think differently.

Telegraph India

Sri Lanka's Next Test



PRIYANKA KRISHNAMOORTHY

“But does this solidarity reflect a mere marriage of convenience? Just two and a half years ago, many of the current anti-government protesters endorsed the Rajapaksas’ brand of majoritarian politics. Today, they complain that Parliament is full of cheats and liars. Yet it is they who voted for the charlatans in free and fair elections

In a win for democracy, mass protests in Sri Lanka recently led to the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. A strongman who won popularity for overseeing the end of Sri Lanka's civil war in 2009 (while his older brother, Mahinda, was president), Gotabaya was elected in November 2019 and promised to safeguard national security and deliver prosperity. He failed miserably.

Despite allegations of corruption, war crimes, and attacks on journalists, the Rajapaksa government had a powerful mandate, which was reinforced nine months later when the brothers' party, Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (the Sri Lanka People's Front), won a two-thirds majority in Parliament. Yet during his short tenure, the Rajapaksas drove the country into bankruptcy, food insecurity, and spiraling inflation.

Gotabaya announced his candidacy just days after the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings, promising a strong response to terrorism. In the months that followed, newspapers' and radio stations' frenzied coverage heightened people's fear of Muslims (who comprise 10% of the population), and attacks on them increased. Gotabaya capitalized on this environment, portraying himself as a defender of the Sinhala-Buddhist majority who would transform Sri Lanka into a Singapore of the Indian Ocean. The clergy, media, military, political elites, and local business tycoons all adopted the same rhetoric, tying their fortunes to his.

The Buddhist clergy, for example, continuously reaffirmed their trust in Gotabaya throughout his presidency. In return, he established a Buddhist Advisory Council of notable monks to help guide his policy decisions. Even in January of this year, as families began rationing food, and as the central bank sold its remaining gold reserves to pay back an international bond, the Buddhist establishment spoke up for Gotabaya, arguing that he was still the only leader who could save the country.

By March, hospitals were reporting shortages of essential medicines, and two elderly men died while queuing for gasoline. Unable to pay for fuel to produce electricity, the government instituted rolling blackouts that culminated in 13-hour power cuts at the height of a suffocating heat

wave. That was the final straw. Protesters stormed the streets and demanded the Rajapaksas' resignations.

The political class responded by playing musical chairs within the Cabinet of Ministers, while demonstrators occupied the area surrounding the Presidential Secretariat. The space that Rajapaksa had set aside as an "agitation area" – a move heavily criticized for limiting people's freedom of assembly – was renamed "GotaGoGama".

Gotabaya announced his candidacy just days after the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings, promising a strong response to terrorism. In the months that followed, newspapers' and radio stations' frenzied coverage heightened people's fear of Muslims (who comprise 10% of the population), and attacks on them increased.

("Gota Go Village"). The GGG became the home of the Aragalaya (struggle) against the government, which has now raided the site and arrested protest leaders.

The Aragalaya has been unusual in that it welcomed Sri Lankans from all ethnic backgrounds. In April, protesters outside the Presidential Secretariat included activists from the Muslim community – a direct rejection of the chauvinist sentiment Gotabaya had stoked. Demonstrators also cooked a mixture of water and rice (kanji) to commemorate Tamil civilians who died during the last stages of the war, when indiscriminate shelling made it impossible for them to secure other food.

The Aragalaya thus became a place where people lived out the alternative to the Rajapaksa brand of politics. The protesters celebrated unity amid diversity, demonstrating that hope comes not from leaders but from the power of people.

But does this solidarity reflect a mere marriage of convenience? Just two and a half years ago, many of the current anti-government protesters endorsed the Rajapaksas' brand of majoritarian politics. Today, they complain that Parliament is full of cheats and liars. Yet it is they who voted for the charlatans in free and fair elections.

The Rajapaksas were given a mandate despite their well-known record of corruption, authoritarianism, and violence. The protests began not when the family stole public funds or trampled on minority rights, but when Sinhalese were called "extremists and terrorists" just for demanding food.

The institutions that under-

wrote Gotabaya's power have now lost credibility. Businesses and others who aligned with the Rajapaksas are being shamed on social media, and any elite Buddhist clergy who dare to show up at protests are lambasted. The military and the police, once praised for their service, are now seen as vehicles of state repression, and major media organizations have been condemned for whipping up anti-minority sentiment.

The question now is what will

fill the vacuum. Sri Lankans have a rare opportunity to build a new identity based on this struggle for dignity. After being tear-gassed and battered by the police, Sinhalese protesters have caught a glimpse of the violence and mistreatment that Tamils have suffered. After watching their businesses collapse from lack of electricity, they now have a sense of what Muslims feel when their businesses are torched by angry mobs. And after feeling the effects of sharply rising inflation, all households now recognize that plantation workers cannot live on \$3 per day.

In each case, the Sinhala-Buddhist majority has been given a window onto the decades of deprivation suffered by minorities. Sinhala Buddhists are connecting with their inner Tamils and Muslims. But only by building on this shared trauma can Sri Lankans transform resentment against the Rajapaksas into a new social contract. By renegotiating our communal bonds and relationships, we can construct a new collective identity. That means rejecting majoritarianism and corruption, and embracing our shared struggle for a free and prosperous future.

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

The author is a former research analyst for Sri Lanka's Ministry of Finance



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

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Improper Disposal of Face Masks

With great respect and faith in the columns of your newspaper, I want to voice my concern regarding the improper disposal of face masks. Face masks are widely being used for safety against Covid-19 and to prevent virus transmission, but these masks are being discarded at inappropriate locations by a large segment of the population.

Face masks are being worn by a growing number of individuals to be safe from the disease, but disposing them away anywhere is not acceptable as it can cause many health related as well as environmental issues. People dump these masks carelessly in places like roadsides, pavements, gardens, etc. The elastic bands on these can pose a death threat for the

animals who mindlessly chew them. Also, these are a hub of germs and microbes and can spread infections and diseases. Moreover this practice leads to land pollution, further contributing to an unclean environment. Proper disposal of face masks is crucial for prevention of spread of diseases.

I would like to request the residents, through the columns of your

prestigious publication, to stop carelessly discarding of their used masks. The government agencies should sensitize people regarding this issue, fines should be imposed upon people who are found disposing off masks mindlessly and unethically.

Yasmin Rashid

'Is There a Good News?'

Endless Agony of Kashmir's Childless Women

Muntaha Mehraj Hafiz

Through the narrow-serpentine lanes of North Kashmir's Kralpora area, a group of young men appear shouldering a coffin of a 32-year-old woman. The funeral is followed by women mourners gathered to protest against the death of Nahida: "Hamei insaaf chaiye" (We want justice).

On June 5, 2022, Nahida was found dead at her in-laws house. Inside her room, she was found frozen—her hands turned towards the back; face hanging in despair, mouth agape, her hair flowing loose.

The rope had left a callous impression on her long pale neck – deep and dark, like the harrowing details of her married life.

A decade ago, Nahida was married to Arshad Khan. Despite the difference in their social status, both liked each other and decided to tie nuptial knot. Arshad's family—educated and elite—accepted the bride who was beautiful, kind and the first female to complete M.A, B.Ed., from her entire village.

But soon after her marriage, her in-laws started to trouble her. She would deflect the sneers and keep herself busy in her household chores. But as time passed by, a demand for a child increased.

"My daughter was tortured since the first month of her marriage," says Rafiq, in a regretful tone wiping the stream of tears with her Dupatta. "She endured all of that silently, without sharing her woes with anyone."

Six years passed and as Nahida became more vulnerable to atrocities she decided to join a local private school to keep herself away from the troubles of her marital life.

"She would share all her earnings with her husband," says Rifat, Nahida's elder sister. "She would cook, clean and do all her duties expecting this would make her husband and in-laws happy. But nothing worked."

The village often heard hues and cries in the middle of the night from their home as her husband beat her nastily. However, as the situation worsened, Nahida reported to Women's Commission in Srinagar in a hope of proper reconciliation with her husband. However, after several deliberations the abuse returned.

Established in 1999 to investigate and deal with issues relating to crime against women in Jammu and Kashmir, the Women Commission was disbanded after the abrogation of Article 370—leaving women like Nahida abandoned and agonised.

"She always told us that her husband was short-tempered and abusive, but we counselled her that he will improve someday until one day he beat her like an animal fracturing her right arm and left her in bruises," Rifat continues detailing her sibling's distressed married life.

"He would beat her so much that she had to undergo leech therapy on her face to relieve off the blood clot."

According to psychologists, the urge to harm another person is called Harm OCD – a common subtype of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder that causes intrusive thoughts, images or urges to harm oneself or others.

Any personality disorder, the mental healthcare specialists suggest, is a symptom of a disease left untreated since years and in many cases delineated to the time when the abuser was in the womb of his/her mother.

"In most of the domestic violence cases that come to us, we find either there has been a devastating history of violence in male's family or in the family of the female," says Dr. Waseem Kakroo, a noted clinical psychologist of Kashmir. "It's a repetitive cycle of abuse: from parents it often translates into the children."

People often say, Dr. Kakroo continues, "Get your son married, he will be fine. Is he a machine that you will have to switch him on and off? You're dealing with a human being. If you find your children having temperamental issues and an inability to handle disagreements, get them counselled and treated before marrying them off. Save them from a torment of life time."

Nahida's family insisted her to return and take divorce from Arshad. But fearing that her "broken betrothal" will affect the health of her parents, as one of her sisters was recently divorced, she decided to stay. "I don't want to return," she would often say. "What would Abba do? Be chas nakhe wesmich (I've been married off)."

The fear of society was so much that she suffered all alone, says Nahida's close friend: "She needed help and a proper counselling to come

out of self-guilt and mental trauma triggered by infertility and subsequent torment by her in-laws."

Childless women often suffer silently. As per reports by National Family Health Survey (NFHC), more than 79.4 per cent of women admitted that they did not raise their voices against the cruelty of their husband in fear of their peers and social groups.

In fact, for a year or so, Nahida lived alone with her in-laws and took all her responsibility and cooked in a separate room. Her husband seldom returned home and she had no idea about his whereabouts. He would only visit her when she would receive her salary.

In the cycle of the entire trauma, Nahida was devastated when she found that Arshad lived nearby in rented quarters. Six months ago, he had married another woman from a Sikh community – a divorcee with a son.

The pain was overwhelming and the betrayal unforgivable.

Before Nahida was found dead, she had had a disagreement with her husband who had returned the night earlier. Gasping for breath, her mother recalls, "She was here with us for last four months but then she returned to her in-laws house saying 'That's my home forever'."

Nahida was strong, the heartbroken mother says. "She didn't commit suicide. She had bruises on her cheeks. All of them should be hanged like my daughter was hanged."

She weeps inconsolably and looks at the sky as if looking at God, singing an elegy, 'Be kemis wane panin musebat'. (Who should I tell about my misfortunes?)

Behind Nahida's torment was her inability to conceive a child. Her infertile state not only made her target of taunts but also made her life troubling. But she wasn't the only one living the fraught fate.

Infertility or low-fertility is a global issue known to disturb and disbalance the social and marital life of a couple.

In many developing countries this has been matter of concern as how infertile women are more exposed to an increased risk of domestic violence compared to fertile women, eventually having serious implications on their mental, physical and emotional wellbeing, as stated in a report published by World Health Organization.

"Women with 2 to 3 year history of infertility," the report notes, "have significantly higher depression scores compared to women with infertility duration of less than 1 year."

According to the latest survey by NFHS, the fertility rates have declined from 2.2 to 2.0 in India, while around 79 per cent of women revealed they were victims of domestic violence.

Another finding of the report is how Jammu and Kashmir's fertility rate has declined from 2.0 to 1.4, which is alarming.

IN FEAR OF ISOLATION

Shahida calmly runs her calloused fingers through a diary to find the best match for her husband. The diary notes the list of widows and overaged women in Baramulla, the north-western district of Kashmir.

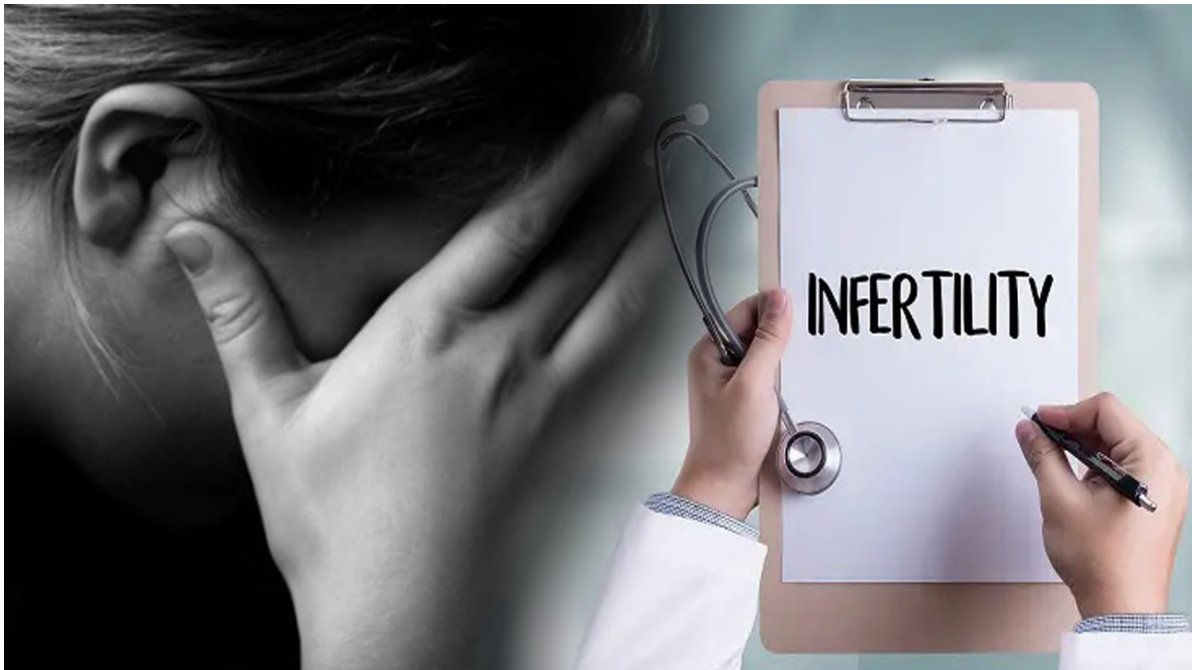
Her gaze is grim and her emotion intact, as she silently murmurs to the matchmaker: "Agar shur te aases keh chune parwayi" (It wouldn't matter if she has a child), "magar mye seeth gasi asel peth rozin (but she should live courteously with me)", gulping in her fear of separation from her husband.

Shahida, 36, completed her MSc in 2011 from Kashmir University and was soon recruited as a teacher at a government school in her district. In 2013, she was married to a family that had a good name and reputation in her hometown. Now after a decade of her marriage she has lost herself in a quagmire of physical and emotional trauma inflicted upon her by mother-in-law and sister-in-law.

"The first two years of my marriage were beautiful and everyone pampered me. I considered myself to be the luckiest woman on the earth. What else does a girl need except for love and respect?" says Shahida in a matter-of-fact tone.

By the third year of her marriage, the scenario changed. Her in-laws started to ask her unusual questions about her fertility. "All of a sudden," Shahida continues, "my in-laws became suspicious of me being infertile, and they started tormenting me."

At that point in time all her reports were promising—at least to some extent—but as stress intensified, there was a sudden fluctuation in her hormones which led to a



“Childless women often suffer silently. As per reports by National Family Health Survey (NFHC), more than 79.4 per cent of women admitted that they did not raise their voices against the cruelty of their husband in fear of their peers and social groups

delay in her menstrual cycles. The symptoms were not evident enough to aware her that something was wrong with her body until Shahida suffered Premature Ovarian Failure at the age of 35.

Premature Ovarian Failure (POF) – also known as primary ovarian insufficiency – is a loss of normal function of the ovaries before the age of 40. Studies have demonstrated that psychological stress, such as chronic anxiety, sadness, and fear can lead to POF by changing the functioning of the hypothalamic-pituitary-target-gland axis causing the emergence of the hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian axis disorder.

"This news came across as a shock to me when doctor told me that my Anti-Mullerian Hormone levels had dropped considerably, and I can no longer conceive," says Shahida.

The diagnosis shattered her to the point that she was put on anti-depressants for almost three months. This has been a matter of concern among gynaecologists who've depicted premature menopause to have reached an alarming proportion in Kashmir.

Dr. Rumana Masudi – Obstetrician and Gynaecologist – says: "The cause of POF goes undetermined in majority of cases; however lifestyle choices, thyroid, auto-immune diseases, poor nutrition, genital tuberculosis and high levels of stress are some of the reasons."

She's downcast as she says that patients come to clinics when it's too late. "Pre-pregnancy counselling and evaluation is thus a must for the couple for early detection and prevention of infertility," she says.

Despite knowing that she cannot conceive, Shahida consulted doctors in a hope of having a child until last month. But as all the treatments exhausted she decided to find a match for her husband.

However, through all this, Shahida would never forget how her in-laws treated her in her tough time and made her feel that violence was a part of her life and she deserves to be humiliated, and maltreated. She never questioned anyone and ended up being a victim of spiral of silence.

In her account of violence, her sister-in-law abused and exploited her for not having a child. The startling revelation is how this torture came from a woman who was educated like her and of her age.

"My sister-in-law assigned me work from dawn to dusk," says Shahida. "I did all the household chores, fed her five children, cleaned and cooked. I was a servant to the family of 12 members."

As she speaks it's evident how the society has normalized abuse by terming it "Sabr".

Sabr in Islam is often translated as patience and includes aspects of restraint, self-discipline, firmness, perseverance and determination—conveying a positive connotation. However in Kashmiri society, many reckon, this virtue has been misinterpreted and misused particularly for suppressing womenfolk.

"It's unfortunate how women are asked to overlook the mental and physical violence perpetrated upon them," says Yaqeen al Haq Sikander, a Kashmiri-origin psychotherapist based in Istanbul.

"Sabr is an ibadah [act of worship] but that's when a calamity falls –

something that's out of the control of a human being. Suffering abuse is not a part of that. Islam acknowledges individuality and people will be asked on the day of judgement about how they dealt with oppression."

After an outrageous fight between Shahida and her sister-in-law, her husband decided to shift to the first floor of the house.

"We separated so that we could live a happy life but they still try to harass me in one way or another," Shahida details her distress.

Now she feels distraught and left out specifically after the day when her sister-in-law hurled a heart-piercing taunt at her, 'Cze chakh haant, Cze pazi marun' (You're infertile and you should die!)

"They want me to suffer and feel alone so I either run away from the house or commit suicide, but I'm not a coward," she speaks with a resilient tone.

Despite being buoyant about her life, Shahida is upset that her husband barely took a stand for her basic human rights. She turns her gaze out of the window, squinting her eyes and says, "He could've confronted his family with dignity and tell them that what they were doing was wrong but all he expects from me is to do "Sabr!"

THE SOCIAL ANXIETY

The long-standing stereotypes, societal pressure and expectations have made women vulnerable to mental health issues in Kashmir. As fertility dips, emotional abuse continues to ascend.

Rabiya, a 29-year-old woman from Srinagar, faced a miscarriage four months ago. It was a 2-month old foetus, however she's yet to overcome the loss and finds herself in an

“Sabr in Islam is often translated as patience and includes aspects of restraint, self-discipline, firmness, perseverance and determination—conveying a positive connotation. However in Kashmiri society, many reckon, this virtue has been misinterpreted and misused particularly for suppressing womenfolk

unrelieved psychological and emotional distress.

"For them it was a lump of meat, but for me it was my child," says Rabiya in an agonizing tone, filled with pain and anger. "I can never forget the loss!"

Nobody pacified me, instead everyone expected me to be fine in a couple of days as if nothing had happened, she continues, referring to her extended relatives who she calls

for infertility.

The other concern revealed by Dr. Rumana is—how in haste women end up going to untrained doctors and specialists who put them on treatments that should have been otherwise suggested to them after two years of marriage thereby exposing them to long term side-effects.

"After all my tests were satisfactory," continues Lyka, "my doctor advised my husband to do a hormone analysis but he's adamant to do one. My husband is not ready to understand that problem could be with anyone of us. And the only decent way is to work on it and get it resolved."

But her husband refused to go for male hormone profile by telling her: how dare she question his masculinity? And after a nasty verbal spat sent Lyka to her paternal home for two months.

"The difference of opinion deteriorated our relationship," Lyka says. "Sometimes the brawl gets so intense that our relatives have to reconcile us after months of separation."

In such cases, psychologists suggest couples especially women to get trained in handling such situations.

"We counsel women and work on their emotional intelligence so that they can counsel their husbands at home, without them having to visit a psychologist," says Waseem Kakroo. "But it's unfortunate how in our society relatives are asked to settle the matters between a husband and wife when it's a job of a professional who can counsel them."

Lyka regrets as she reveals how different medication has harmed her health to the point where she's planning for an In-Vitro Fertilization or IVF treatment. But going for an IVF or any other infertility treatment is also a taboo in Kashmir.

"My mother-in-law grumbled that what people would tell me," says Lyka. "But tell me who will conceive in a stressful environment like that where I am always compared to my husband's cousins who have children?"

After disapproving IVF, Lyka's mother-in-law suggested her to seek help from faith-healers. The distressed woman then obtained an address of a faith-healer from her colleague. The spiritual guide vows to help infertile couples and after the successful delivery of the baby asks for a lump-sum amount of Rs.1 Lakh.

Many couples in Kashmir opt to go to faith-healers in order to heal themselves through prayers and counselling in the light of Qur'an and Sunnah. The choice for this alternative is primarily faith and expenditure. While faith keeps the couple firm enough to struggle further, the couple is comfortable to spend less money when compared to expenditure on medical doctors. In some cases, patients strike a balance between a medical doctor and a spiritual healer.

There are cases where the unresponsive behaviours of doctors have been a matter of concern for patients. Many women either complaint about the use of berating statements against them or doctors not giving them enough time to explain their symptoms.

"It was horrible when I had to remind my doctor of a medication that I was supposed to continue for another month," says Urtiba, a 28-year-old woman from Srinagar. "My doctor gives an average of 30 seconds to each patient. Sometimes I've to implore her: Please listen to me!"

Urtiba has a horrible history of treatment. Since last 3 years she had been continuously getting Ovulation Induction treatment that has left her ovaries hyper-stimulated. It has had harmful effects on her health. A recent hormone profile shows decline in her egg reserve, and ultrasound has detected that she's suffering from PCOS (Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome).

PCOS is a long-term, highly prevalent, complex endocrine disorder characterized by a multitude of metabolic and reproductive disorders.

As per NFHS, 60 per cent of married Kashmiri women report PCOS or more reproductive health problems which is higher than the national average of 40 per cent affecting the birth of a child.

"After prolonged treatments I've gained weight, and become hypersensitive," says Urtiba. "I've become intolerant to things. Sometimes when someone asks me: Is there a good news? I lose my cool and tell them to mind their own business. As I say this, my eyes fill with tears. My heart throbs out of anxiety, and I stay upset for the days to come."

Mystery Solved: Why Mammals Tend To Dominate Almost Every Global Ecosystem

The Conversation

This process is known as endothermy, or warm-bloodedness, and it may be one of the reasons why mammals tend to dominate almost every global ecosystem.

Warm-blooded animals are more active during both days and nights than their cold-blooded counterparts and they reproduce faster.

But until now, it hasn't been known exactly when endothermy originated in mammalian ancestry.

A new study by Julien Benoit, University of the Witwatersrand, Kenneth D Angielczyk, University of Chicago, Ricardo Miguel Nóbrega Araújo, University of Lisbon, and Romain David, Natural History Museum, changes that.

A combination of scientists' intuition, fossils from South Africa's Karoo region and cutting-edge technology has provided the answer- endothermy developed in mammalian ancestors about 233 million years ago during the Late Triassic period.

The origin of mammalian endothermy has been one of the great unsolved mysteries of palaeontology.

Many different approaches have been used to try to pinpoint the answer but they have often given vague or conflicting results. Their method shows real promise because it has been validated using a very large number of modern species.

It suggests that endothermy evolved at a time when many other features of the mammalian body plan were also falling

into place.

Warm-bloodedness is the key to what makes mammals what they are today.

Endothermy was likely the starting point where mammalness evolved: the acquisition of an insulating fur coat; the evolution of a larger brain, supplied with warmer blood; a faster reproduction rate; and a more active life are all defining mammalian traits that evolved because of warm-bloodedness.

Until now, most scientists had speculated that the transition to endothermy was a gradual, slow process over tens of millions of years beginning near the Permo-Triassic boundary, although some suggested it happened closer to the origin of mammals, about 200 million years ago.

In contrast, their results suggest that it appeared in mammalian ancestors some 33 million years prior to the origin of mammals.

The new date is consistent with recent findings that many of the traits usually associated with “mammalness”, such as whiskers and fur, also evolved earlier than previously expected.

And according to their results, endothermy evolved very quickly in geological terms, in less than a million years. They suggest that the process may have been triggered by novel mammal-like metabolic pathways and the origin of fur.

Scientists' intuition

Their research began with Araújo and David's intuition about the inner ear. It is more than the organ of hearing; it also houses the organ of balance, the semicircu-



lar canals.

The three semicircular canals of the inner ear are oriented in the three dimensions of space.

They're filled with a fluid that flows in the canals as the head moves and activates receptors to tell the brain the exact three-dimensional position of the head and body.

The viscosity, or runniness, of this fluid (called the endolymph) is critical to the balance organ's ability to efficiently detect head rotation and aid balance.

In the same way as a piece of butter turns from solid to liquid in a warm pan, or honey becomes thicker when it is cold, the

viscosity of the endolymph changes with body temperature.

That means the endolymph's viscosity would normally be altered by the evolution of a higher body temperature. But the body has to adapt because changing viscosity would prevent the semicircular canals from working properly.

In mammals, the canals adapt to higher body temperature by changing their geometry.

The researchers realised that this change in the semicircular canals' shape would be easy to trace through geological time using fossils.

Pinpointing the species in which the change of geometry occurred would, they reasoned, provide an accurate guide to when endothermy evolved.

They needed fossils to test their hypothesis – and that's where South Africa's wealth of fossils from the Karoo region came in.

Reconstruction and study

The arid Karoo region preserves a treasure trove of fossils, many of them belonging to mammalian ancestors.

These fossils offer an unbroken record of the evolution of life over a period of almost 100 million years. They document the transformation from reptilian-like animals (therapsids) to mammals in exquisite detail.

Using cutting edge CT-scanning techniques and 3D modelling, they were able to reconstruct the inner ear of dozens of mammalian ancestors from the South African Karoo and elsewhere in the world.

From there, they could point out exactly which species had an inner ear anatomy consistent with a warmer body temperature, and which ones did not.

An exciting time

This is an exciting time for this field. Until now, to reconstruct the evolution of endothermy, scientists only had access to skeletal features that questionably correlated with warm-bloodedness.

Every attempt was a long shot to get any accurate results. The inner ear, as this research shows, changes this. They believe it may be the key to unlocking more knowledge about mammalian ancestors in future.

iPhone 14 Likely Facing QC Issues Over Rear Camera Lens: Report

IANS

As Apple is prepping up to launch its next-generation iPhones, a new report said that the tech giant's upcoming smartphone iPhone 14 is allegedly facing quality control issues over rear camera lens cracking.

Analyst Ming-Chi Kuo said the tech giant is facing quality issues with the rear iPhone 14 camera lens.

“One more quality issue. My latest survey indicates one of Genius’s iPhone 14 rear lenses likely suffered from coating-crack

quality issues. Apple had transferred about 10 million lens orders to Largan from Genius to avoid affecting iPhone 14 shipments,” the analyst wrote on Twitter.

However, Kuo mentioned that the impact on iPhone 14 shipments can almost be ignored because Taiwan-based Largan can fill the supply gap well.

“The lens coating-crack problem should be addressed within 1-2 months based on experience. But if Genius can’t handle the issue, Largan will continue to receive more orders,” he added.

Kuo recently said that some iPhone 14

components, such as display panels, are facing supply chain issues, but the analyst believed the issues will have a limited impact on the upcoming mass production of iPhone 14 models, which are expected to be announced in September.

The lineup is expected to include the 6.1-inch iPhone 14, 6.7-inch iPhone 14 Max, 6.1-inch iPhone 14 Pro, and 6.7-inch iPhone 14 Pro Max. However, the tech giant might discontinue the 5.4-inch iPhone mini this year.

A recent report said that the upcoming iPhone 14 is likely to be \$100 costlier than iPhone 13.

Depression In Young Men Can Be Beaten With A Healthy Diet

ANI

Young men with a poor diet saw a significant improvement in their symptoms of depression when they switched to a healthy Mediterranean diet, a new study shows.

Depression is a common mental health condition that affects approximately 1 million Australians each year. It is a significant risk factor for suicide, the leading cause of death in young adults.

The 12-week randomised control trial, conducted by researchers from the University of Technology Sydney, was recently published in the peer-reviewed American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Lead researcher Jessica Bayes, a PhD candidate in the UTS Faculty of Health, said the study was the first randomised clinical trial to assess the impact of a Mediterranean diet on the symptoms of depression in young men (aged 18-25).

“We were surprised by how willing the young men were to take on a new diet,” Bayes said. “Those assigned to the Mediterranean diet were able to significantly change their original diets, under the guidance of a nutritionist, over a short time frame.”

“It suggests that medical doctors and psychologists should consider referring depressed young men to a nutritionist or dietitian as an important component of treating clinical depression,” she said.

The study contributes to the emerging field of nutritional psychiatry, which aims to



It suggests that medical doctors and psychologists should consider referring depressed young men to a nutritionist or dietitian as an important component of treating clinical depression

explore the effect that specific nutrients, foods and dietary patterns can have on mental health. The diet used in the study was rich in colourful vegetables, legumes and wholegrains, oily fish, olive oil and raw, unsalted nuts.

“The primary focus was on increasing diet quality with fresh wholefoods while reducing the intake of ‘fast’ foods, sugar and processed red meat,” Bayes said.

“There are lots of reasons

why scientifically we think food affects mood. For example, around 90 per cent of serotonin, a chemical that helps us feel happy, is made in our gut by our gut microbes. There is emerging evidence that these microbes can communicate to the brain via the vagus nerve, in what is called the gut-brain axis.

“To have beneficial microbes, we need to feed them fibre, which is found in legumes, fruits and vegetables,” she said.

Roughly 30 per cent of depressed patients fail to adequately respond to standard treatments for major depressive disorder such as cognitive behaviour therapy and antidepressant medications.

Nearly all our participants stayed with the program, and many were keen to continue the diet once the study ended, which shows how effective, tolerable and worthwhile they found the intervention.”

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer,
Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Electric Contractors registered with Govt. of J&K/ other union territories and CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time of Completion	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Electric Renovation of 2No. Of Labs at CORD, Naseem Bagh, University of Kashmir.	1.36Lacs	Rs.100/-	2,720/-	01-Month	25-07-2022 to 02-08-2022 (6.00 PM)	03-08-2022 (11.30 AM)	"AAY"
2.	Replacing of MCCB's of Main Panel installed for Department of Botany and Zoology at Main Campus.	0.78Lacs	Rs.100/-	1,560/-	20-Days	25-07-2022 to 02-08-2022 (6.00 PM)	03-08-2022 (11.30 AM)	"AAY"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.

NIT No: - F(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/23/22
DATED: 25/07/22.

Executive Engineer
DIPK-NB-2739/22

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER WORKS DIVISION SRINAGAR

GIST OF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
E-N.I.T. NO:- 24/WWD OF 2022-23 DT:-23.07.2022

Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K (U.T), invites tenders by **e-tendering mode** from approved & eligible **BEE, CEE & DEE Class** registered Contractors of Union Territory of J&K.

Position of A.A.A. 'Accorded'

S. No	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (in lacs)	Cost of EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Head of Account	T.O.C	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of 25000 gallons Sump at Bagwanpora Bahral Tube Well Station.	12.75	25500/-	700	4215 – Capex	60 days	BEE, CEE & DEE
2	Annual Stage Contract of Divisional Store of Water Works Division Srinagar at Makdoom Sahib for the year 2022-23.	0.50	1000/-	100	M&R	Upto March 2023	DEE
3	Change of alignment of 300mm dia M.S. pipeline from Floculator to Filter Bid No. 1 at 1.125 MGD Water Treatment Plant Mehjoor Nagar.	0.48	960/-	50	4215 – Capex	10 days	DEE
4	Laying and fitting of 25mm dia G.I. pipeline for improvements of water supply at Green Lane Botashah Mohalla.	0.36	720/-	50	4215 – Capex	10 days	DEE
5	Providing of water supply to Al-Noor Colony Avenue Yayil Rawalpura.	0.29	580/-	50	4215 – Capex	10 days	DEE
6	Laying and fitting of 25mm dia G.I. pipeline for restoration / improvements of water supply at Lone Mohalla Old Chanapora interior.	0.27	540/-	50	4215 – Capex	10 days	DEE
7	Improvements of water supply to Parra Mohalla Star Lane Ahmad Nagar by way of laying and fitting of 25/20mm dia G.I. pipeline	0.25	500/-	50	4215 – Capex	10 days	DEE
8	Improvements of water supply to Acha Bagh Lane No. 5 Mallabagh by way of laying and fitting of 25mm dia G.I. pipeline.	0.25	500/-	50	4215 – Capex	10 days	DEE
9	Laying and fitting of 20mm dia G.I. pipeline for improvements of water supply to Sehnyar Jamallata.	0.05	100/-	50	4215 – Capex	07 days	DEE

Note: For further details, bidders are requested to refer to E-NIT No: - **WWD / 24 of 2022-23 Dt: 23-07-2022**. Instructions published on website: <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> The dates showing 'bid submission date/closing date etc. are given below:

1	Date of publishing	25-07-2022
2	Document downloading date	25-07-2022 / 1600 hrs
3	Bid submission start date	25-07-2022 / 1630 hrs
4	Bid submission closing date	03-08-2022 / 1600 hrs
5	Date and time for opening bids	04-08-2022 / 1400 hrs
6	Place of opening of bids	Office of The Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar

No: **WWD/ 2563-77**
Dated: **23-07-2022**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Water Works Division Srinagar.

DIPK-6763/22

Strong Dollar: Ten Reasons Why It Matters To You

Reuters

FRANKFURT: All things to all people, the US dollar leaves its imprint in every corner of the global economy: It is the currency in which vital raw materials are bought and sold, and it is the safe haven to which investors turn in times of trouble.

The greenback is now at a 20-year high against other world currencies, thanks in part to expectations that the Federal Reserve will increase its interest rates faster than most.

Here are 10 reasons why you should be paying attention:

American abroad: A strong dollar is great if you are a US tourist. Hotels, meals or a designer bag all are cheaper by comparison, whether in London, the French Riviera or Cancun. It goes without saying that the reverse is true for the traveller going to the United States unless they bought their Disneyland tickets or Las Vegas junket a good while ago, it is going to cost more.

The joys of parity: This is a welcome added boon for Americans travelling to one of the 19 countries that use the euro and a small consolation for European tourists in the United States. No more mental arithmetic is required to convert between dollars and euros you can call it pretty much one for one now.

Made in America: For shoppers around the world in search of top US brands, the strong dollar means they could end up paying a premium for them unless local distributors try to cushion the currency impact.

Just in the past days, US companies such as Mattel Inc maker of the Barbie doll and Hot Wheels cars said it was seeing a hit from the dollars move upwards, even if consumers as a whole looked ready to take on higher prices.

Emerging trouble: For Argentines, the rise of the dollar against the peso has meant a



doubling of local prices in just one year and a spiralling economic crisis. Governments and businesses in a lot of emerging economies finance themselves by issuing bonds in US dollars.

The amount they owe has now surged in value when measured in their local currency. Tapping the market for more credit has also become more expensive because US rates have risen.

Raw materials: Countries like Turkey and Egypt that import a lot of their raw materials have been hit by a double whammy. Most commodities from oil to wheat are priced in US dollars, meaning they are paying more in their local currency for every barrel or bushel they buy. This comes as the price of many of those materials is already at a multi-year high due to the war in Ukraine, extreme weather and the after-shock of the Covid pandemic.

HOME SUPPORT: A strong dollar is good news for people in poorer countries such as Mexico and Guatemala who depend on money sent by relatives who work in the United States. The Covid-19 fallout dealt a sharp blow to these remittances in 2020 but they've seen a steady recovery since.

INFLATION: Even for richer countries such as Germany a strong dollar can spell trouble because it helps fuel already record-high inflation through more expensive imports. Local central banks have generally responded by raising interest rates, which makes credit dearer and slows economic growth.

DGCA Orders Spicejet To Operate 50% Of Approved Flights For 8 Weeks



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Aviation regulator DGCA, on Wednesday, ordered Spicejet to operate maximum 50 per cent of its flights, which were approved for summer schedule, for a period of eight weeks.

On July 6, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued a show-cause notice to Spicejet following at least eight incidents of technical malfunc-

tion in its aircraft since June 19.

"In view of the findings of various spot checks, inspections and the reply to the show cause notice submitted by Spicejet, for continued sustenance of safe and reliable transport service, the number of departures of Spicejet are hereby restricted to 50 per cent of the number of departures approved under summer schedule 2022 for a period of 8 weeks," the aviation regulator's order on Wednesday said.

Govt Extends Rs 1.64 Lakh Cr Lifeline To BSNL

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday approved a Rs 1.64 lakh crore revival package for BSNL, comprising of converting dues into equity, financial support and allocation of spectrum in a bid to turn around the loss-making telecom PSU.

Also, Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL) – the firm that created a fibre network called BharatNet – will be merged with BSNL to boost its infrastructure and support telephony services, Telecom and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told a news conference here.

"We are committed to strengthening BSNL," he said. Telecom is a strategic sector where the government is committed to supporting BSNL.

"The first boost to it came from the 2019 revival package that made BSNL a stable entity and post that, it has made operating profits. With today's revival package of Rs 1,64,156 crore, BSNL will become a viable entity," he said.

The revival measures focus on fresh capital for upgrading services, allocating spectrum, de-stressing its balance sheet and augmenting its fibre network by BBNL with BSNL, he said, adding the package has a cash component of Rs 43,964 crore and a non-cash component of Rs 1.2 lakh crore spread over four years.

"Previous package of Rs 74,000 crore in 2019 gave a good lifeline to BSNL. As a direct result, that began generating operating profit (Rs 1,000 crore). Now to make it a viable company, the financial restructuring has to be done," he said. "Today's decision will help make BSNL sustainable."

With BSNL rapidly losing market share to private rivals, the state firm would have gone into a deep sink if government



support was not provided to upgrade technology and services to match the competition.

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister approved an allocation of 900/1800 MHz band spectrum worth Rs 44,993 crore to support 4G services to BSNL, which has skipped participation in recent auctions of airwaves.

This allocation, he said, will allow BSNL to compete in the market and provide high-speed data.

For technology upgrades, the government will fund a capex of Rs 22,471 crore over the next four years to "boost development and deployment of indigenous Fourth Generation or 4G stack," Vaishnaw said.

Also, the government will provide Rs 13,789 crore to BSNL as viability gap funding for commercially unviable rural wireline operations done during 2014-15 to 2019-20.

To de-stress its balance sheet, Rs 33,404 crore of statutory dues will be converted into equity and the government will give a sovereign guarantee to the company to raise long-term bonds of Rs 40,399 crore to repay its current high-cost debt.

Also, BSNL will re-issue a preference share of Rs 7,500 crore to the government.

The authorised capital of BSNL will be increased from Rs 40,000 crore to Rs 1.5 lakh crore in lieu of dues, provision of ca-

pex and allotment of spectrum.

"With these measures, BSNL will be able to improve the quality of existing services, roll out 4G services and become financially viable. It is expected that with the implementation of this revival plan, BSNL will turn around and earn profit in FY 2026-27," the minister said.

The Union Cabinet also approved a project for saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country at a total cost of Rs 26,316 crore.

The project will provide 4G mobile services in 24,680 uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas, he said.

The minister said BSNL's 8.6 lakh km optical fibre will be extended by merging BBNL (which has the BharatNet project under it and an optical fibre network of 5.8 lakh km). With this, BSNL will have 14 lakh km of the optical network.

"The revival package will enable BSNL to improve services and generate a net profit in 3-4 years. Its 5G services launch will happen in next 1.5-2 years," Vaishnaw said. "In 1-1.5 years its 4G telecom services will reach people."

On the merger of MTNL and BSNL, he said the plan is still there but "it needs complex financial restructuring".

"More work is left so it will take it step-by-step," he said.

JKRLM Organises One Month Training Course On Tilla Embroidery For SHG Members

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: In order to generate employment among women and make them self-reliant, one-month Tilla Embroidery course was organised for the Self help group (SHG) members of Umeed at Block BK pora District Budgam.

The month long training programme was organised by the Mission in collaboration with Khadi & village industries Commission (KVIC) pampore.

Around 25 SHG members were enrolled in this training programme and the members were given training for latest Tilla Designs, embroidery.

The training programme was inaugurated by Shri Arun Kumar Principal KVIC Pampore through video conferencing.

In his inaugural address, principal KVIC pampore Arun Kumar

said that these women have immense talent and the need of the hour is to provide them the platform to showcase the same.

"Through these programmes we will be successful in reaching out to the community, especially the underprivileged section of the society, and that these programmes benefit the unemployed women in order to become self reliant and self dependent, he added

On the occasion while giving details about the Programme, Block Programme Manager, BK PORA Madina Bukhari briefed that the Mission has started to train 25 members in the initial phase in those traditional trades which are dying and needs revival.

Tilla is a traditional craft of Kashmir which is used to adorn pherans and shawls but over the years, the embroidery is done on sarees, shalwar ka-

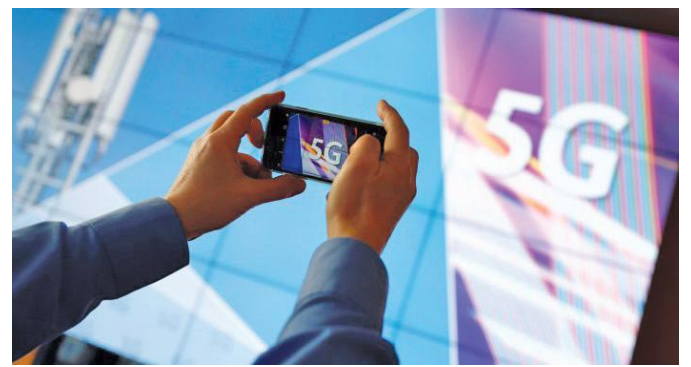
meez, and other garments as well. The initiative will enhance the abilities of SHG members with basic Tilla skills to a higher level of embroidery along with basic Tilla design in order to increase market employability.

Addressing the participants, Block programme Manager BK pora Madina Bukhari emphasized that women can utilize their free time and can generate additional income through this profession sitting at home.

The objective of conducting such training course is to empower the women population especially from the deprived backgrounds with effective professional skills leading to appropriate livelihood opportunities, she added

She also urged all the participants to make full use of this opportunity and also assured full cooperation from the Mission.

5G Spectrum Auction Extends To 3rd Day; Receives Bids Worth Rs 1.49 Lakh Crore On Day 2



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's auction of the 5G spectrum, capable of offering lag-free connectivity and ultra-high speed internet, has garnered Rs 1.49 lakh crore worth of bids so far as the sale stretched to the third day.

Firms run by tycoons Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal and Gautam Adani as well as Vodafone Idea had put in bids worth Rs 1.45 lakh crore on the opening day on Tuesday and incremental demand for airwaves came in five rounds held on Wednesday.

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the second day of the auction has ended and it will continue on Thursday.

"I am happy to see good competition in auction, good competition for all bands have come in," he said. "Bids worth Rs 1,49,454 crore have been received so far at the end of 9th round."

Analysts said Ambani's Reliance Jio may be the most aggressive of those in the race.

The minister said all bands of

the spectrum are seeing demand.

Though details of the bids are not announced as yet, ICICI Securities said its analysis shows that Jio has likely bid for the highest spectrum worth Rs 80,100 crore, and likely opted for 10MHz spectrum in the premium 700 MHz band.

Bharti Airtel may have bid for spectrum worth Rs 45,000 crore, spending 20 per cent more than expected, possibly in 1800 MHz and 2100 MHz bands.

Vodafone Idea Ltd has likely bid for Rs 18,400 crore for spectrum, while Adani Data Networks should have picked 26 GHz spectrum pan-India, it said.

"It appears Adani has bought 26GHz spectrum in 20 circles (except in Delhi and Kolkata), and its total spectrum purchase could be 3350MHz for Rs 900 crore. Our estimate is provisional as data does not reflect the entire purchase by Adani. We believe, it should have purchased 200 MHz spectrum in all circles except Gujarat, where it would have bought 400MHz," ICICI Securities noted.

JKTPO Organizes Webinar On 'Building Startup Pitch Deck For Fund Raising'

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) in association with best-in-class incubatorT-Hub Telangana organized a webinar for J&K based Startups to prepare StartUp Pitch Deck & make J&K StartUp founders ready for delivering presentations for fund raise opportunities.

The objective of this webinar was to educate & train startup founders about preparing pitch decks, effective presentation skills and good storytelling to impress & convince Investors to raise funds for their StartUp ideas.

Managing Director, JKTPO, Dr Devansh Yadav spoke about J&K StartUp ecosystem and 13 Incubators & their programs for StartUps. He talked about providing right kind of environment and creating local job opportunities for J&K youth to stop migration. He also mentioned about JKTPO upcoming event dedicated to J&K StartUps and bringing Investors from across the nation to attend & interact with local StartUps. He shared his views about importance of collaboration between JKTPO and T-Hub Telangana in order to foster StartUp culture & ecosystem in J&K.

The Guest Speaker, Ms. Vinutha Lalapalli, who is a Chartered Accountant by qualification with over a decade of StartUp ecosystem experience and currently heads StartUp investments and ecosystem at GMR Innove explained in depth about Fund raising process, Types of Funding, Quantum of money to be raised for StartUps, Things to do before & during StartUp idea pitching. She also discussed about different elements of a StartUp Pitch Deck and their importance. She also took and answered questions of participants during the webinar.

Participants got opportunity to learn & interact with senior domain expert from T-hub. This webinar helped StartUp Founders with pitch deck methodology, presentation skills and important points to discuss & highlight during fund raise opportunities.

StartUps like Fast Beetle, Thinksta, RideIT, Jammu Basket, Big Beetal and others attended this webinar and got their queries resolved.

JKTPO in collaboration with Department of Higher Education, Govt. of J&K is planning to organize Innovation Summit 2022 in the month of September 2022. Interested StartUps can register at www.jktpo.in for more updates.

HK Group Inaugurates HK Hyundai Dealership In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: HK Group (HRCC, HK Cements, HK Automobiles) Wednesday inaugurated the HK Hyundai dealership in Srinagar (Authorized dealer of Hyundai Motor India Limited), at Athwajan Bypass Srinagar (J&K) India.

"HK Hyundai is among the largest dealership in J&K by means of infrastructure, technology and manpower. HK Hyundai will provide a 3S facility to Hyundai customers as we are also member of Hyundai Signature club and can provide all variants/models of cars to our customers including Hyundai luxury car segments. We assure customers will get a number of additional benefits which they have never experienced before like Pick and drop facility for female customers, repair of accidental / service vehicles with high priority approx. within 2 days. HK Hyundai will keep its operations open 24x7 to avail services like road side assistance & mobile service vans," said Umar Yaqoob Mir, Director HK Hyundai.

All board of directors of HK Group – Haji Mohammad Sultan Mir (Managing Director), Mohammad Yaqoob Mir (Director),

Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Mir (Director), Zahoor Ahmad Mir (Director), Feroz Ahmad Mir (Director), and Umar Yaqoob Mir (Director), were present in the inauguration ceremony.

Managing Director of J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash Inaugurated the dealership & during the ceremony various other renowned dignities showed the presence including Pandurang K. Pole (Divisional Commission, Kashmir), Sajid Yehya Naqash (RTO Kashmir) and Dr. Naveed Shah (pulmonologist). Various Media Groups, Business Personals, Bankers & Dealers joined the event and were impressed with the new inauguration of Hyundai dealership.

Shabir Baba, General Manager (Sales) said "Hyundai India, always focuses on Design, Technology, Functionality and Space which always elevates customer experience and trust on Hyundai. Being a signature dealership in Kashmir, we will always focus on customer requirements, satisfaction and timely process."

"We will provide customers with instant finance assistance, insurance and benefits of H-Promise where customers can exchange their pre used vehicles.

Bookings are already open for all variants/models of Hyundai cars at our dealership," said Irshad Bhat, Manager Sales

"Customers can have virtual on-screen experience about car upgrades, comparisons, classifications at our dealership, as we are enabled with latest technology 360-degree 3D configurator & kiosks. I would like to invite every Hyundai customer of Kashmir to join us, experience the difference and give your valuable feedback," said Khalid Mustafa, Manager IT & Operations.

During the launch, Tahmid Qureshi, General Manager (Services) said "Our primary motive is to save time consumption during services, so we have enabled HK Hyundai with all new upgraded equipment (with latest technology) which will benefit customers with quick services. We have enabled our workshop with online cameras, customers can check live working on his/her vehicle, for more transparency and satisfaction."

For any queries, please feel free to reach us on 0194-2466667 / +91-8899200121 or visit: HK Hyundai Srinagar, at Athwajan Bypass Srinagar. email: contactus@hkhyundai.co.in



PMLA: Supply Of ECIR Not Mandatory; Disclosing Grounds Of Arrest Enough, Says SC

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the supply of a copy of the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) in every case to the person concerned is "not mandatory" and it is enough if the Enforcement Directorate (ED) discloses the grounds of arrest while arresting an accused.

The apex court said that an ECIR cannot be equated with the First Information Report (FIR) under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) in view of the special mechanism envisaged by the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

While upholding the validity of certain provisions of the 2002 Act, the top court observed that PMLA being special legislation and considering the complexity of the inquiry or investigation both for the purposes of initiating civil action as well as prosecution, non-supply of ECIR in a given case cannot be faulted.

A bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar noted that ECIR may contain details of the material in possession of the authority and recording satisfaction of reason to believe that the person is guilty of a money laundering offence.

The bench observed that if it is revealed before the inquiry or investigation is required to proceed against the property being proceeds of crime, including to the person involved in the process, may have a "deleterious impact" on the final outcome of the inquiry or investigation.

"So long as the person has been informed about grounds of his arrest that is sufficient compliance of mandate of Article 22(1) of the Constitution," the bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar, said in its 545-page judgement.

Article 22 (1) of the Constitution says that no person, who is arrested, shall be detained in custody without being informed of the grounds for such arrest, and nor shall he be denied the right to consult and to be defended by a lawyer of his choice.

The top court delivered its verdict on a batch of petitions concerning the interpretation of certain provisions of the PMLA.

It upheld the ED's powers relating to arrest, attachment of property involved in money laundering, and search and seizure under the PMLA.

The bench said ECIR is an internal document of ED and the fact that FIR in respect of scheduled offence has not been recorded does not come in the way of the authorities referred to in section 48 of the Act to commence inquiry/

investigation for initiating 'civil action' of 'provisional attachment' of the property being proceeds of crime.

"Supply of a copy of ECIR in every case to the person concerned is not mandatory, it is enough if ED at the time of arrest, discloses the grounds of such arrest," the bench said.

It said when the arrested person is produced before the special court, it is open to the court to look into the relevant records presented by the authorised representative of ED for answering the issue of the need for his or her continued detention in connection with the offence of money laundering.

The bench also dealt with the submissions made about the opacity surrounding the usage of the ED Manual.

"Even when ED manual is not to be published being an internal departmental document issued for the guidance of the authorities (ED officials), the department ought to explore the desirability of placing information on its website which may broadly outline the scope of the authority . and measures to be adopted by them as also the options/remedies available to the person concerned before the authority and before the special court," it said.

The bench noted that considering the mechanism of inquiry/investigation for proceeding against the property, being proceeds of crime, under this Act by way of civil action (attachment and confiscation), there is no need to formally register an ECIR unlike registration of an FIR by the jurisdictional police in respect of cognizable offence under the ordinary law.

"There is a force in the stand taken by the ED that ECIR is an internal document created by the department before initiating penal action or prosecution against the person involved with process or activity connected with proceeds of crime," it said.

The bench noted that section 19(1) of the 2002 Act postulates that after arrest, as soon as may be, the person should be informed about the grounds for such arrest and this stipulation is compliant with the mandate of Article 22(1) of the Constitution.

It said from the submissions that were made across the Bar, it is noticed that in some cases, ED has furnished a copy of ECIR to the person before the filing of the complaint.

"That does not mean that in every case same procedure must be followed. It is enough, if ED at the time of arrest, contemporaneously discloses the grounds of such arrest to such person," it said.

HC Grants Police Time To Respond To Md Zubair's Plea In Objectionable Tweet Case

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted time to Delhi Police to respond to Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair's plea against his arrest and search and seizure exercise in a case related to an alleged objectionable tweet he had posted in 2018 against a Hindu deity.

Lawyer Vrinda Grover, appearing for the petitioner, informed the high court that the trial court had granted bail to him earlier this month but urged the bench to grant him relief as sought in the petition.

Counsel for Delhi Police sought four weeks from Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav to file a reply.

"Let the matter come up after four weeks for consideration," the judge said.

The matter will be heard next on September 15.

On July 1, the court had issued notice on Zubair's petition and granted two weeks to the investigating agency to file its response to the plea which challenges the legality and propriety of the trial court's June 28 order granting the fact checking website's founder's custody to police for four days.

Zubair was arrested by the Delhi Police on June 27 for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through one of his tweets.

Grover had argued before the court that the police remand order passed after the petitioner's arrest was mechanical and without application of mind



and that no offence was made out against him.

"It is plunging dagger in my right to privacy. I (Zubair) am a journalist and my laptop is in their custody," she said.

Grover had urged the court to issue notice on the petition to "decide the legality" of the remand and make the search and seizure subject to the outcome of the case.

As an interim relief, Grover had sought that till the petition is decided by the high court, the police shall not venture into Zubair's laptop as the tweet was made through a mobile phone and not the computer.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Delhi Police, had raised objections with respect to maintainability of the petition and said that the FIR is only an "initiation of proceedings" and the investigating agency may find material to show that there is no offence or that there is a serious offence

which is not part of the FIR.

Earlier in June, a case was registered against Zubair under sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, language, etc.) and 295A (deliberate and malicious act intended to outrage religious feelings) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Police had said the case was registered on the complaint of a Twitter user who accused him of hurting religious sentiments.

Police, while seeking an extension of Zubair's custody by five days, had alleged before the trial court that the accused was following a trend where he used religious tweets in an effort to get famous and that there was a deliberate effort to create social disharmony and hurt religious feelings.

The investigating agency also said the accused joined the probe but did not cooperate and various material from his phone were deleted. PTI ADS

National Herald Case: ED Questions Sonia Gandhi For Over 3 Hours, No Fresh Summons Issued

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday questioned Congress president Sonia Gandhi for over three hours on the third day of her deposition in the National Herald newspaper linked money laundering case.

She was given no fresh summons amid indications that her questioning has concluded.

With Wednesday's questioning, Gandhi has been questioned for more than 11 hours over three days and faced around 100 questions, officials said.

Her first round of questioning took place on July 21.

Gandhi reached the federal agency's office in central Delhi at 11 am accompanied by her daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and son Rahul Gandhi.

The session began around

11.15 am. The team of investigators included the main probe officer and a person who took down statements dictated by the Congress chief.

Sonia Gandhi left the ED office around 2 pm along with Vadra, who stayed with her at the 'Pravartan Bhawan' (ED headquarters) in order to provide any assistance or medical care to her mother.

The questioning pertains to the charge of alleged financial irregularities in the Congress-promoted Young Indian Private Limited, which owns the National Herald newspaper.

The Congress chief is understood to have stuck to the party's position that no personal assets were made in the Associate Journals Limited (AJL)-Young Indian deal and that the routine affairs were handled by other office bearers, including late Moti Lal Vora.

Congress leaders Pawan Bansal and Mallikarjun Kharge have been questioned by the ED in the past.

The sessions took place with Covid-appropriate protocols in place and are being recorded in a audio-video mode, the officials said.

The Congress has slammed the agency's action against its top leadership and termed it as "political vendetta" and "harassment".

The Delhi Police, like the last two times, deployed a huge force, including CRPF and RAF personnel, and barricaded the over one kilometre stretch between Gandhi's residence on Janpath and the ED office. Traffic restrictions were also imposed in the area.

Rahul Gandhi was also questioned by the ED in this case last month in sessions that clocked over 50 hours over five days.

The move to question the

Piramal Foundation Commemorates 15 Years

Agenceis

Mumbai: Piramal Foundation today commemorated 'Foundation Day' to mark completion of 15 years of its establishment. It has dedicated the last 15 years to spearheading innovations in education, health, water & the social sector ecosystem. Driven by the spirit of Sewa Bhaav, it has implemented initiatives to reach the most underserved people across India and has impacted 113 million lives.

The Foundation announced its re-imagined portfolio of 6 Big Bets employing a Project to Platform Approach to take innovations to scale and a Partnerships Approach to enhance capacity for systemic transformation. Through this, the Big Bets aim to solve the most intractable problems that are roadblocks to India achieving her potential.

The 6 Big Bets through which Piramal Foundation aims to accelerate change in India:

Anamaya, The Tribal Health Collaborative aims to end preventable deaths in tribal communities by enabling over 100 mn tribal people with the lowest Human Development Index bridge access to health by strengthening communities and public delivery systems alike. Partnerships include Ministry of Tribal Affairs, National TB Elimination Program, USAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Centre for Policy Research and Ekjut Foundation.

Aspirational Districts Collaborative aims to uplift the lives of 100 million people living in abject poverty in 112 Aspirational Districts by 2030 through hyper-local collaboration and last mile convergence. Key Partners are NITI Aayog, District Governments of 112 Aspirational Districts, Edelgive Foundation, Tata Communications Limited and Deloitte.

Digital Bharat Collaborative

aims to transform the health-care system by building a Robust Digital Public Health Delivery Platform. National Aids Control Organisation, 5 State Governments, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, CISCO, Genpact, Wipro are key partners.

Piramal University builds future-ready and 'Sewa-Bhaav' oriented public system leaders who drive innovation and learning. It also strengthens institutional processes, practices & governance averting delays, inaccuracies and wasteful expenditure of government time. Strategic partnerships are with 7 State governments, Harvard University, Emory University, Boston Consulting Group, UNICEF, Google, Genpact, Porticus, Sofina and Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

The Piramal Academy of Sewa leverages the power of youth and builds future leaders engaged in nation building through a full time immersive, experiential fellowship with self-transformation at the core. Partnerships have been forged with leading academic institutions across the country, Edelgive Foundation, Children's Investment Fund Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Piramal Centre for Children with Special Needs addresses wide structural gaps and absence of adequate, quality care for children with special needs by building a lighthouse of excellence with state-of-the-art design and amenities, world class curriculum, specialised applications and tools to accelerate learning, skill building for employability for persons with disabilities. Collaborations have been forged with experts on PwDs (persons with disabilities) Curriculum development, and government.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

No Major Protests

Jammu Kashmir".

As against the previous number of 37 and 46 assembly seats for Jammu region and Kashmir region, respectively, the Delimitation Commission has notified 43 seats for Jammu region and 47 seats for Kashmir region.

Rai said the commission conducted a delimitation exercise of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir based on the census data of 2011 and the criteria prescribed under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

The commission has also considered the representations for geographical areas having inadequate communication and lack of public conveniences due to their excessive remoteness or inhospitable conditions on the international border.

Replying to a separate question, the minister said statehood to Jammu and Kashmir will be granted at an appropriate time and the decision to conduct assembly elections there is the prerogative of the Election Commission.

"Yes Sir. Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir would be granted at an appropriate time," Rai said, replying to a question on whether Union Home Minister Amit Shah had stated in Parliament that the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir would be restored, if so, by when, and if not, the reasons.

On August 5, 2019, while taking the initiative to abrogate Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcating the erstwhile state into two Union territories, Shah had said in the Parliament that statehood to Jammu and Kashmir would be restored when the situation there becomes normal.

Rai said the Delimitation Commission has notified orders on March 14, 2022 and May 5, 2022 on delimitation of parliamentary and legislative assembly constituencies of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The decision to conduct elections is the prerogative of the Election Commission of India," he said.

8th & 10th

permitted routes. All arrangements have been made in this regard. We have also requested the community leaders to lead processions on the permitted routes only," Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, PK Pole told reporters at Imam Bargah Budgam on Wednesday.

He was replying to a question over the continued ban on traditional Muharram processions of in the Kashmir Valley.

The two major processions of 8th and 10th Muharram were banned in 1989 by the then Governor administration fearing the processions may turn into anti-India demonstrations. Ever since, only small mourning processions are allowed in interiors of Srinagar city in Shia dominated areas.

Ashura that marks the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussain (AS) and his kin and faithful companions in the deserts of Karbala 1400 years ago is commemorated across the globe including in Kashmir with religious fervour from centuries.

Meanwhile, an official spokesperson said that besides Budgam, Pole conducted extensive tour to Imambaras at Magam and Zadibal to take spot appraisal of arrangements put in place for forthcoming Muharram ul Haram.

The Div Com, he said, directed the concerned Officer for ensuring proper services and all the required arrangements for hassle-free conduct of religious activities during the forthcoming holy month of Muharram ul Haram.

"He also directed the concerned for filling of potholes and repairing roads in their respective areas so mourners can take out processions without facing any inconvenience," he said, adding that the Div Com also stressed to chalk out traffic management plans to facilitate mourners and commuters during processions.

Regarding street lights, the spokesperson said that the Div Com directed the concerned to get the defunct street lights repaired forthwith and ensure functioning of flood lights on the high masts.

Pole, he said, also issued instructions for cleaning of drains to remove chokes to avoid water logging on the streets and roads.

"Further, he directed for ensuring availability of electricity and drinking water to the people besides essential items like ration, LPG, sugar etc particularly during auspicious days of Muharam," the spokesperson said.

"Directions were also given for conducting sanitation drives and grass cutting at the Imambaras and vicinity besides, establishing health camps at the venues to provide immediate medical aid to the mourners," he added.

The spokesperson further said that in order to develop a straight and wide road leading to Zadibal Imambaras, Div Com asked ADC, Srinagar to prepare a rehabilitation plan of the families living along the street leading to Imambaras.

Soldier Injured

to trace the militants, but they couldn't find anyone and the operation was finally called off.

He also said that an army soldier received injuries during the initial exchange of firing.

Now, GMC Baramulla

the order has been issued by the GMC administration.

"..But it is not compulsory, rather voluntary. Whoever wants to contribute, can submit the fund to the accounts officer, GMC," Dr. Ruby said.

Earlier, a similar circular was issued by the education department in Budgam asking the students to pay Rs 20 towards the government's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

The circular was issued by Chadoora Zonal education officer (ZEO) to all schools in the area on July 16, directing the heads of these institutions to collect the money from every student and staff member for the campaign launched as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

On Sunday, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti posted a video on Twitter in which employees of an urban body in Anantnag were

purportedly making announcements on a public address system asking the shopkeepers to contribute Rs 20 each for the flag in order to "avoid trouble".

Following the controversy, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole told Kashmir Observer that the "Har Ghar Tiranga" is totally a voluntary initiative and there is no compulsion and insistence.

On July 22, the chief education officer, Anantnag also issued a circular for schools in the district, asking students and teachers to pay the Rs 20 fee. The circular was withdrawn after being shared widely on social media.

On June 30, the government nominated nodal officers in respective districts for the implementation of "Har Ghar Tiranga" initiative in the Valley.

Banihal Highway

was cleared of debris at Mehad and traffic was allowed towards Kashmir, they said.

The Traffic Police issued an advisory stating that Mughal road, connecting Poonch district of the Jammu region with Kashmir's Shopian district, was blocked between Dubjan and Peer Ki Gali due to landslides.

It also said, "People are advised not to travel on Jammu -Srinagar highway without confirmation."

The Amarnath Yatra convoy, which was on its way from Jammu to Kashmir, was halted at Chanderkoot yatra niwas due to the highway blockade, the officials said.

J&K Logs 692

Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases, they said, Srinagar reported 230 cases, Jammu 167, Baramulla 99, Ganderbal 27, Budgam 23, Anantnag 22, Rajouri 21, Bandipora 15, Samba 14, Kishtwar, Ramban and Doda 13 each, Udhampur and Kupwara 10 each, Poonch 7, Kulgam 4, Kathua 3 and Pulwama 1.

There were two deaths due to the pathogen in the last 24 hours—one each from Jammu and Kashmir divisions respectively, they said.

Gandhis was initiated after the ED late last year registered a fresh case under the criminal provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

This was after a trial court here took cognisance of an income tax department probe against Young Indian based on a private criminal complaint by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy in 2013.

Sonia and Rahul Gandhi are among the promoters and majority shareholders in Young Indian. Like her son, the Congress president too has 38 per cent shareholding.

Swamy had accused the Gandhis and others of conspiring to cheat and misappropriate funds, with Young Indian paying only Rs 50 lakh to obtain the right to recover Rs 90.25 crore that AJL owed to the Congress.

In February last year, the Delhi

High Court issued a notice to the Gandhis seeking their response on Swamy's plea.

The Congress has maintained there has been no wrongdoing and Young Indian is a "not-for-profit" company established under section 25 of the Companies Act and hence there can be no question of money laundering.

It is understood that Rahul Gandhi, during his deposition before the ED, stuck to the position that there was no personal acquisition of assets by himself or his family.

According to the ED, assets worth about Rs 800 crore are "owned" by the AJL and the federal agency wants to know from the Gandhis how a not-for-profit company like Young Indian was undertaking commercial activities of renting out its land and building assets.

So far 4765 people have succumbed to the virus—2338 in Jammu and 2427 in Kashmir.

Besides, they said, 432 Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—223 from Jammu division and 209 from Kashmir Valley. There are now 4074 active cases— 1923 in Jammu and 2151 in Kashmir.

The officials said there was no new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today. So far 51 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials said. They also informed that 11570 doses of covid-19 vaccine were administered during the time in J&K.

6514 KPs Still

from 417 in 2018 to 229 in 2021, he said.

Since the repeal of Article 370 in August 2019, nine government employees (excluding security forces) have lost their lives in militancy-related incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, Rai said.

Gurez Youth

has 450 pages and each page is 14.5 inches wide, he said.

Jameel said his family was always appreciative of his passion and kept supporting him throughout the project.

He said he wants to pursue his art further and is working on some other projects which he did not want to share yet.

Jameel's art has won him recognition from the Chennai-based Lincoln Book of Records -- an independent NGO initiated to admire and to promote hidden talents of the people across the globe.

I feel so happy to have taken this task and to have completed it. I have put on paper my love for the Quran and calligraphy. You can gauge my passion from the fact that I used to spend about 18 hours a day on it, he said.

He expressed hope that his feat can inspire youths from Kashmir to take up calligraphy - an art which has over the years been on the wane in the valley.

24-Year-Old Dies While Playing Cricket In Budgam



Agencies

BUDGAM: In a tragic incident, a 24-year-old youth died while playing cricket in Khansahib area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Wednesday.

An official told the news agency KNO that a youth identified as Raja Nisar, son of Ghulam Ahmad Rafter of Chadoora Budgam, who was a lone brother in three

sisters fell unconscious when he was playing cricket with his friends at Kudoora cricket ground in Arigam Khansahib.

He said that soon after the incident, he was rushed to sub-district hospital Khansahib, where he was declared dead on arrival.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and have started inquest proceedings in this regard.

A-Division League: Spartans Win



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the ongoing Annual League Football Tournament, one match of A-Division was played at Synthetic Turf TRC, Srinagar on Wednesday.

The match between Spartans FC and Al-Khamas Pandrathan FC turned into a one-sided affair as the Spartans completely dominated the proceedings.

The match started with an all-round offensive football with both teams attacking each other's half. The Pandrathan FC boys played with confidence in the beginning but could not withstand the pressure exerted by the Spartans team. The match finished with Spartans FC defeating Pandrathan FC 5-0.

The tournament is organised by JKFA in collaboration with JKSC.

IDPL Carrom C'ship Concludes At Shopian



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Inter-District Provincial Level Carrom Championship 2022 for Boys under all age group categories concluded on Wednesday at Shopian under the guidance and leadership of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Shopian, Syed Noor Ul Haq.

The U-14 Carrom Championship title was clinched by District Kulgam, 2nd position was grabbed by District Budgam and the 3rd position by District Anantnag.

In U-17 Carrom competition District Baramulla emerged as a Winner and got 1st Position followed by District Kulgam with 2nd position and the 3rd position by District Srinagar.

Similarly, in U-19 Carrom competition District Anantnag emerged as winner thereby achieving the 1st position, 2nd position was obtained by District Kulgam and the 3rd one by District Budgam.

At the concluding function trophies were presented to all the concerned champion districts by the DYSSO Shopian.

All Eyes On India Ahead Of 44th Chess Olympiad

Agencies

MAMALLAPURAM: Chess Olympiad fever peaks here with Indian teams appearing primed for glory in the 44th edition of the prestigious event that starts from Thursday.

With powerhouses Russia and China missing, India will be fielding three teams each in the Open and women's sections respectively.

Though the five-time world champion and legendary Viswanathan Anand has chosen not to play and donned the mentor's hat this time, the Indian teams, nonetheless, wear a formidable look.

The Indian 'A' team, seeded second behind the star-studded USA is likely to be among the main challengers for the top



prize along with Norway led by Carlsen and Azerbaijan.

The youthful India 'B' squad coached by R B Ramesh, is seeded 11th and can be counted among the dark horses. The upcoming edition, which has attracted a record 188 teams in the Open section and 162 in the women's, would also see six from India in the fray. (PTI)



TEAM INDIA IN A HUDDLE before the 3rd ODI against West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago on Wednesday evening. India had reached 115-1 after 24 overs when rain stopped play. The blue side has already taken an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three match ODI series.

Photo by BCCI

Dhawan, Iyer Rise In ICC ODI Rankings

Babar Azam tops ODI and T20 batter list



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Senior India batter Shikhar Dhawan on Wednesday moved up a place to joint 13th spot in the latest ICC ODI rankings on the back of his match-winning knock against the West Indies in the first ODI.

Dhawan, who is captaining India in the ODI series in the West Indies, made 97 in the first match at Port of Spain, in Trinidad.

Another India batter Shreyas Iyer, who struck back-to-back half centuries in the first two ODIs against the West Indies, to climb 20 places to joint 54th

spot among batters.

Iyer had struck 54 and 63 in the first and the second ODI against West Indies.

Pacer Mohammad Siraj broke into the top 100, as he rose to 97th spot, after taking 2/57 in the first ODI against the West Indies.

Meanwhile, in the ICC Test rankings, Pakistan opener Abdullah Shafique, who was declared man of the match for his second innings knock of 160 against Sri Lanka and has amassed 720 runs in his first six Tests, gained 23 slots to reach 16th position with a Pakistan record of 671 rating points.

The previous best by a Pakistan batter after six Tests was Saeed Ahmed's 614 rating points. Only two batters have ever had more points after six Tests - Sunil Gavaskar (692) and Donald Bradman (687).

Pakistan captain Babar Azam's scores of 119 and 55 against Sri Lanka saw him overtake Australia's Steve Smith to reach a career high third ranking with a career best rating of 874 points.

Babar is presently top-ranked in both ODIs and T20Is and remains the only batter in the top 10 of all the three lists.

ICC Plays Down Threat To Cricket's One-Day Format



Agencies

The governing International Cricket Council (ICC) played down threats to the game's 50-overs format on Wednesday and said a "healthy" number of one-day internationals will be played in the 2023-27 cycle.

The proliferation of lucrative domestic T20 leagues have cramped up cricket's already-strained calendar and England all-rounder Ben Stokes attributed his shock ODI retirement to an "unsustainable" schedule.

Earlier this month South Africa abandoned their ODI tour of Australia as it clashed with

the launch of their domestic T20 league rising their chances of qualifying directly for next year's World Cup in India.

ICC chief executive Geoff Allardice said structuring of the game's three formats was discussed at the governing body's annual general meeting in Birmingham where the Future Tours Programme (FTP) 2023-27 was finalised.

"I think at this stage there is some discussion, not specifically about ODIs, but about the mix of formats within the calendar," Allardice told a video conference.

"Countries have been, in their FTPs, are still scheduling a

healthy number of ODIs as well. "So in the FTP, I don't think you'll see any significant change to the number of ODIs or the proportion of ODIs as being planned."

Australia Test batsman Usman Khawaja has said one-day cricket was "dying a slow death", while former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram called the format a "drag".

Allardice conceded some members put "particular attention on their domestic leagues" but insisted their commitment to international and bilateral cricket was "as strong as it's ever been".

Dominance By IPL Franchises In Global T20 Leagues Dangerous: Gilchrist



Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Wicketkeeping legend Adam Gilchrist has questioned the growing dominance of Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises in world cricket and said the current trend of "monopolisation" by them is dangerous.

Gilchrist's comments have come in the backdrop of reports stating that Australian batter David Warner might opt out of the upcoming Big Bash League (BBL) this season and sign up for a more lucrative United Arab Emirates T20 league.

Interestingly, three IPL franchises—Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders and Delhi Capitals—have all invested in teams in the UAE T20 league.

"They can't force David War-

ner to play in BBL, I understand that, but to let him then go off – or another player, let's not single out Warner because there will be other players on the radar – it's all part of this global dominance that these IPL franchises are starting to create given they own a number of teams in Caribbean Premier League," Gilchrist told SEN's Wateley radio show.

"It's getting a little bit dangerous the grip that it's having to monopolise that ownership and the ownership of the players and their talents and where they can and can't play," he added.

The three-time World Cup winner Australian suggested his country's cricket board to take cognisance of the matter as more cricketers could take Warner's path sooner than later.

Galle Test: Sri Lanka Set Pakistan Big Target



Agencies

GALLE: Sri Lanka set Pakistan a record target of 508 and then restricted them to 89-1 to keep alive their hopes of a series-leveling victory in the second Test on Wednesday.

The hosts declared their second innings on 360-8 but were robbed of precious time as only six overs could be played in the final session before bad light stopped play.

Opener Imam-ul-Haq was batting on 46 at stumps with Pakistan 419 runs behind the improbable target.

The onus would be on Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, batting on 26, to help his team bat out the final three sessions for a draw

that would also secure a 1-0 series victory for the tourists.

West Indies own the record for the highest successful fourth innings chase in Tests having overwhelmed a target of 418 in a 2003 Test in Antigua.

Earlier, Dhananjaya de Silva smashed 109, his ninth Test hundred, to help Sri Lanka consolidate their position at the Galle International Stadium.

Shafique and Imam began well for Pakistan before Prabath Jayasuriya snapped the 42-run opening stand.

Shafique charged out against the spinner but could not connect well sending the ball to mid-off where Dunieth Wellalage ran sideways while eyes on the ball to take a tumbling catch.

Neymar To Stand Trial In Spain For Barcelona Transfer



Agencies

BARCELONA: Brazil forward Neymar will stand trial in Spain a month before the World Cup for alleged irregularities involving his transfer to Barcelona in 2013.

Neymar's parents, former Barcelona president Sandro Rosell and both the club and Brazilian team Santos are also set to go on trial after a complaint brought by Brazilian investment group DIS regarding the amount of the player's transfer.

The trial is scheduled to start on Oct. 17, nearly a month before the World Cup opens on Nov. 21 in Qatar.

Neymar and his father, who is also his agent, face corruption charges and a prison sentence of up to two years, which would not likely carry any prison time. They also face a fine of 10 million euros (\$10.1 million). Rosell faces five years in prison for

fraud and corruption charges, plus a fine of 10 million euros (\$10.1 million).

DIS was entitled to 40% of Neymar's transfer but said it received a smaller compensation because part of the transfer fee was concealed. Prosecutors said those involved tried to hide the real amount of the transfer in order to pay a lower commission to the investment group.

Neymar and the others have denied wrongdoing. Neymar and his father previously appeared in court in Madrid a few years ago because of the accusations.

Santos officially received 171 million euros (now \$173 million) for Neymar's transfer to Barcelona, but prosecutors said the total amount paid by the Spanish club was 25.1 million euros (now \$25.4 million), meaning DIS would be entitled to an additional 3.2 million euros (\$3.3 million).

Two Nigerians Held For Duping Kashmiri Man Of Rs 36 Lakh

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Cyber Police arrested two Nigerian nationals from Delhi for allegedly duping a Kashmiri man of over Rs 36 lakh, police said on Wednesday.

Police received a complaint from a resident of Baramulla district alleging that while surfing Facebook, he came in contact with a user named T. Jessica who impersonated as a purchase manager of a renowned pharmaceutical company, a police spokesman said.

The Facebook user, a woman, enticed the complainant through messages that she has been promoted as a secretary in the said company and eventually asked him to start a business of kandu nut/palm seeds/sea nuts.

The complainant was convinced/motivated by the accused by using fake offers, orders, high returns and emails etc to purchase the said product, the spokesman said.

Asking the man to purchase the product, the Facebook user forwarded the contact details of a seller named Jyoti T Kandu. After that a business conversation started between the complainant and Kandu for selling and buying of the nuts, he said.

The spokesman said the complainant was assured by the fraudster that the said nuts were valued very high in the pharmaceutical market owing to their medicinal benefits.

The complainant without knowing the plot behind the fraud invested a hefty amount of Rs 36.35 lakh by transferring the said amount in different bank accounts of the fraudsters and purchased 50 packets of kandu nuts, he said.

The spokesman said on receiving the consignment of 50 packets of kandu nuts, the complainant received a call wherein the caller introduced himself as someone from Mumbai Customs office and told him to deposit more money in order to be

able to sell the nuts to pharmaceutical companies.

This created doubt in the mind of the complainant and he then tried to contact the provided contact details in order to verify the facts. However, he did not get any response and felt cheated/duped by the Facebook user, the spokesman said.

The complainant then approached the cyber police station, Kashmir Zone, Srinagar, and lodged a complaint, he said.

Accordingly, a case was registered and investigation was set into motion. It was found that the fraud has been done by the fraudsters under a highly technically built setup, the spokesman said.

The digital footprints of the accused persons, involved in the commission of offence, were tracked by analysis of bank accounts that have been used for siphoning money of the complainant. Besides, CCTV footages and analysis of suspect phone numbers by employing high-end technical investigative skills was also carried out, he said.

Subsequently, the spokesman said, two Nigerians were found involved in the offences and were tracked at Vashist Park Sagarpur, New Delhi.

After strenuous efforts and with the assistance of Delhi Police, a cyber police team was successful in nabbing the duo. They were identified as Isoma Steven and Collins, residents of Delta Agbor in Nigeria, and at present living at Vashist Park in Delhi, he said.

The rented accommodation was raided and thoroughly searched. During searches incriminating material including 14 cell phones of different make and models, a laptop, 14 SIM cards, a Wi-Fi router, a Wi-Fi dongle, six debit/credit cards and 45 packs of kandu nuts/palm nuts were recovered from their possession, the spokesman said.

Investigation into the case is going on in full swing and more recoveries and arrests are expected, he said.

AMARNATH YATRA

'Reportedly' 42 Pilgrims Died Due To Natural Causes In J&K: MHA



Agencies

Srinagar: "Reportedly" 42 pilgrims have died due to natural causes till July 19 during the ongoing Amarnath yatra, the government informed the parliament on Tuesday.

Responding to a question in the ongoing monsoon session of the parliament regarding how many persons died and are missing during the pilgrimage of Amarnath yatra since last three years, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai: "As per information provided by Government of Jammu and Kashmir, 15 persons lost their lives due to flash flood

but no person has been reported missing during Amarnath Yatra 2022. Moreover, reportedly 42 pilgrims have died due to natural causes till 19.07.2022."

In the years 2020 and 2021, he said, Shri Amarnath Yatra was not organized owing to Covid-19 pandemic.

"Government has taken several steps to protect lives of pilgrims such as, mandatory requirement of compulsory health certificate, installation of Oxygen booths, setting up of hospitals at various locations along yatra route, monitoring/well being of Yatris through Radio Frequency-based Identification (RFID), installation of Automatic

Weather Stations, issue of health and weather advisories from time to time," he said in the written reply.

Moreover, he said, various Government agencies like NDRF, SDRF, Army, CAPFs and J&K government Officials have been mobilized for search operations, rescue and relief of pilgrims in case of any eventuality or untoward incident. "In such a scenario, the yatris are immediately evacuated to safer places/camps and provided accommodation and food while the injured yatris are moved to nearest medical facilities," he said in reply to a query by Sanjay Raut, Rajya Sabha Member from Shiv Sena party. (GNS)

GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN SEVERAL STEPS TO protect lives of pilgrims such as, mandatory requirement of compulsory health certificate, installation of Oxygen booths, setting up of hospitals at various locations along yatra route, monitoring/well being of Yatris through Radio Frequency-based Identification (RFID), installation of Automatic Weather Stations, issue of health and weather advisories from time to time."

PERFORMANCE OF J&K MPs

Dr. Farooq, Akbar Lone Rarely Participate In Debates, Ask Less Questions

Agencies

Srinagar: National Conference MPs Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Muhammad Akbar Lone have asked fewer questions and rarely participated in debates and discussions in the Lok Sabha after they were elected to the House in 2019.

PRS Legislative Research Data revealed that Dr. Farooq Abdullah, who represents Srinagar Lok Sabha segment, has asked only 11 questions and participated in nine debates. Abdullah, who was detained after August 5, 2019 and released in March 2020, has registered 49 percent attendance in the House.

Similarly, National Conference MP Muhammad Akbar Lone, who was vocal in the assembly of erstwhile state of J&K as speaker and opposition member, has only asked five questions and participated and six debates.

Lone has attended 62 % sittings of the House. The performance of both NC MPs vis-à-vis

asking questions and participation in debates is below national as well as state average.

The national average of asking questions is 135 while the State average is 59.

Similarly, the national average of participation in debates is 35.1 and the state average is 33.8.

The performance of their party colleague and counterpart from Anantnag, Justice (retd.) Hasnain Masoodi, is better.

After his election to the House in 2019, Masoodi has participated in 82 debates, which is above national average and state average.

In the past three years, he has asked 29 questions, which is lower than national average and state average. Masoodi's attendance is better than his incumbent colleagues from J&K. He has attended 86 percent of the House.

BJP MP Jugal Kishore Sharma's performance vis-à-vis asking questions is better than all MPs from J&K. (KNO)

2 Media Persons Detained Under PSA In J&K In 2022: Govt Tells RS

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Two persons associated with media organisations were detained under the Public Safety Act in Jammu and Kashmir this year, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said on Wednesday.

Rai was replying to a question in Rajya Sabha on whether Jammu and Kashmir has seen an increase in detention of journalists and local media organisations and a rise in the number of internet shutdowns by authorities since the revocation of Articles 370 and 35-A in August 2019.

"During the current year, two individuals associated with media organisations have been detained under Public Safety Act as reported by the government of

Jammu and Kashmir," he said in a written reply.

The minister said after the constitutional changes on August 5, 2019, internet services were temporarily suspended in Jammu and Kashmir for the maintenance of law and order and to ensure the safety and security of public.

However, he said, the internet services were restored in a graded manner.

Currently, there is no restriction on internet services in Jammu and Kashmir.

As a law enforcing agency, police is duty bound to take action under law against any person (without any discrimination of profession or otherwise) who is found involved in such activities prejudicial to the security and sovereignty of the country.

CRPF Offices Dies Of Suspected Cardiac Arrest

Agencies

Srinagar: An Assistant Commandant of Central Reserve Police Force died of a suspected cardiac arrest in south Kashmir's Shopian district, official sources said.

They told a local news agency GNS that the paramilitary trooper was at Sindo Shirmal, when he complained of severe chest pain this afternoon. He was removed to a Srinagar hospital, where he died later on. A police official has in the meantime confirmed about the death of the paramilitary officer.

Judicial Officer Elevated As Additional Judge Of J&K HC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Droupadi Murmu Wednesday approved her first judicial appointment as President, signing the warrant of appointment of Rajesh Sekhri as an additional judge in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

Murmu took over as the 15th President of India on July 25.

Sources in the government said this was the first warrant of appointment of a judge President Murmu signed.

"In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 224 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Rajesh Sekhri, to be an Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, for a period of two years, with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," said a notification signed by an additional secretary in the department of justice here.

Sekhri was so far serving as a judicial officer.

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