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J&K's Jobless Rate Jumps To 20.2% In July, Second Highest In India

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: While India's overall unemployment rate fell to its lowest in six months in July, J&K's jobless rate increased to 20.2 percent, second highest in India, as per monthly frequency data by the economic think tank Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's (CMIE).

The unemployment rate jumped to 20.2 percent in July, as compared to 17.2 percent in June, data released by the CMIE on Monday revealed. The July jobless rate is the second highest since January when it was

15.2 percent.

As per the data available, the unemployment rate (UR) in March had hit a new record with 25 percent unemployment in the first quarter of 2022. The UR had astronomically risen since last year and has touched its worst value in 2022, when compared to the past five years.

Pertinently, the unemployment rate seems to be going towards poverty in J&K despite Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman's repeated assurances of a falling unemployment rate in J&K.

The CMIE, a private economic



THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE JUMPED TO 20.2 PERCENT IN JULY, as compared to 17.2 percent in June, data released by the CMIE on Monday revealed. The July jobless rate is the second highest since January when it was 15.2 percent.

think-tank in India, in its latest monthly report for the month of March 2022 had estimated the

unemployment rate for J&K at 25 percent, which as per CMIE data, was the highest since 2016

when the unemployment rate was recorded at its worst— 29.9 percent.

Amid the unrest of 2016, J&K's unemployment rate stood at 25.3 percent in September, 26.3 percent in October and 29.9 percent in November.

As per CMIE, since the start of this year, there has been an increase of 11.8 percent in the unemployment rate. In the month of January, the data notes, J&K's UR stood at 15 percent. Though in the month of February it dipped down to 13.2 percent but in March the rate took an ugly turn and jumped to a grueling 25 percent.

Pertinently, a superficial look at March's data [More on P6](#)

I-Day Security Situation Reviewed

Agencies

Jammu: J&K's Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh on Tuesday held a meeting with officials of security agencies including army, BSF and paramilitary forces, and the civil administration to discuss the security arrangements in Jammu in the run-up to August 15 celebrations, officials said.

"During the meeting, a detailed briefing of was given by SSP Jammu/SSP Security through Power Point presentation regarding proposed deployment by district police and security wing at and around venues and in Jammu district for smooth and peaceful conduct of the Independence Day celebrations," police said.

"Thereafter, a detailed briefing was given by all officers present in the meeting on overall security assessment and emerging threat perception."

A police statement said ADGP Jammu Zone, in his address, highlighted the latest trends in terror activities and urged each agency to work towards mitigating the threat. He stressed on anti-drone measures, border deployment grid, launching of offensive operation in Rajouri and Kishtwar, besides preventive measures in other districts.

Setting up joint 'nakas' (check-posts) at vulnerable locations and at inter district boundaries was also stressed upon.

"While maintaining high level of alertness and while preparing for August 15, he stressed that we should also ensure peaceful culmination of Amarnath Yatra. He also stressed on implementing the [More on P6](#)

Registration Of Documents

Govt Warns Officers Of Action Over Delay



Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has warned officers over delay in registration of documents and directed them to ensure it mandatorily on the appointed date and time.

The Revenue department has directed the sub-registrars to ensure registration of documents of citizens mandatorily on the appointed date and time to avoid any inconvenience and hardships to them and also to bring in more efficiency and transparency in document registration.

The Government has warned them that any violation of the directive would entail disciplinary action against them.

"Any document not fit for registration should be reverted or refused as per the merits of

the case, strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Registration Act, 1908 and other relevant laws," reads a circular issued by Revenue secretary, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri.

According to the circular, the delay in registration of documents defeating the objective of online document registration.

"It has been brought to the notice of the Government that certain sub-registrars do not conduct registration of documents uploaded by the citizens on the appointed date and time, leading to delay in registration, thereby defeating the objective of online document registration through the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) and also casting doubts on the conduct of staff assisting in [More on P6](#)

Covid Cases Shoot Up Again, 741 Test Positive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: After witnessing a sharp decline on Monday, the daily Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday breached 700-mark once again while one more person succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported on Monday 515 fresh cases of novel coronavirus against 275 detected a day earlier. Jammu division, they said, registered 226 new cases of Covid-19, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of the pandemic in J&K to 465904.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar [More on P6](#)

Government's Main Focus Is To Empower PRIs: LG

'Today J&K Leads The Nation On Various Health, Development Indicators'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asserting that a transparent, responsible and accountable governance system has been established in Jammu Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that grassroots democracy has been empowered by the implementation of 73rd and 74th amendment of the constitution, and transfer of funds, functions, and functionalities to the PRIs



and Urban Local Bodies.

Sinha made these remarks while interacting with a 55-member delegation of PRI

representatives from Kashmir Division, at the Raj Bhavan here, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

Interacting with the members of the delegation, the LG, he said, observed that the main focus of the Government is to empower the PRIs with 3Fs- funds, functions and functionaries.

According to the spokesperson, the LG said that Jan bhagidari is the key pillar of people-centric [More on P6](#)

Advices Devotees To Visit Amarnath Shrine Before Aug 5

Observer News Service

'Crown Of Incredible India' LG Sinha, CEO OYO Discuss J&K Homestays

India's Leading Travel Tech Platform To Build 200 Home Stays In UT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday complimented the efforts of India's leading travel tech platform OYO group, which is building 200 homestays in Jammu and Kashmir under project "Crown of Incredible India" in collaboration with the Union Territory government.

Sinha, according to the official spokesperson, complimented the efforts of OYO group during an interaction with the company's CEO Ankit Gupta at Raj Bhavan here on Tuesday. Gupta, he said, was accompanied by Siddhartha Dasgupta, President, Corporate Affairs, OYO.

The CEO, according to the spokesperson, apprised the LG about the progress made towards building 200 homestays to create rural livelihoods in J&K under project "Crown of Incredible India" in collaboration

with J&K Government.

Gupta, he said, also briefed the LG on the programme to train homestay owners across J&K on earning opportunities by enhancing guest experience and efficiently operating their property, besides creating awareness on homestays using social media and marketing platforms.

According to the spokesperson, it was informed that 75 homestays are ready to be inaugurated before August 15, celebrating 75 years of Independence.

"The Lt Governor complimented the efforts of OYO group in developing quality accommodation and other facilities for the domestic and international tourists to experience the rich culture and traditions," he said.

The spokesperson further said that the UT government under Mission Youth had decided to provide support to 500 youth for establishing homestays through an incentive of Rs 50,000 each.

"The coming up of home-stays will boost rural tourism and offer employment opportunities to the youth," he added. [More on P6](#)

RC Employees To Serve In Native Areas

The government on Tuesday asked employees appointed under RBA/ALC categories to give an undertaking regarding serving statutorily mandated seven years in the remote areas. In an issued here, the government underlined that in terms of Sub-Section (2) and (3) of Section 3 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 and Rules, it is mandatory for a government employee who has been appointed as an RBA/ALC candidate to serve for a minimum of seven (07) years in such areas. "A large number of employees, [More on P6](#)

6 ANY DOCUMENT NOT FIT FOR REGISTRATION SHOULD BE REVERTED or refused as per the merits of the case, strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Registration Act, 1908 and other relevant laws."

S H O R T T A K E S

BSF Fires At Pak Drone

The BSF opened fire at a flying object near the International Border (IB) in Kanachak sector of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior official said on Tuesday. The unidentified flying object with a blinking light was detected at 9.35 pm on Monday as it tried to intrude into the Indian territory from across the border, he said. The Border Security Force (BSF) troops opened fire and the blinking light was not observed thereafter, he added. A search operation [More on P6](#)

Landslide Blocks Mughal Road

Vehicular traffic on the historic Mughal Road in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir was suspended on Tuesday after it was hit by a massive landslide, officials said. The road, which connects Poonch and Rajouri districts in Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian, is an alternative road to the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The Mughal Road was blocked due to landslide triggered by heavy rains in [More on P6](#)

Army Commander Reviews LoC Situation

General Officer Commanding, 16 Corps, Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh on Tuesday visited forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and reviewed the security situation, officials said. Lt Gen Singh visited troops of Ace of Spades Gunners deployed on LoC in Mendhar sector, the officials said. He reviewed [More on P6](#)

Grenade Blast In Ramban

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday said that a grenade blast occurred near Ind Police post in Ramban district of Jammu division. A grenade blast occurred near Ind police post under Gool PS, Ramban dist. A letter was found claiming it to be done by Jammu Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF), ADGP Jammu said. "SOG & Army teams are conducting a search operation. Case registered, probe underway," the top cop added. (PTI)




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Covid-19 Infection May Accelerate Brain Ageing: Study

Press Trust of India

HOUSTON: COVID-19 infections may predispose individuals to developing irreversible neurological conditions, according to a study.

The finding, published in the journal Ageing Research Reviews, also shows that COVID-19 may increase the likelihood of strokes and the chance of developing persistent lesions that can lead to brain bleeding. The team, led by Joy Mitra and Muralidhar L. Hegde, from the Houston Methodist Research Institute, US, noted that a great deal of research has shown that the impacts of COVID-19 go far beyond the actual time of infection.

COVID-19 is known to invade and infect the brain, among other major organs, the researchers said.

The coronavirus infection can cause long-term and irreversible neurodegenerative diseases, particularly in the elderly and other vulnerable populations, they said.

Several brain imaging studies on COVID-19 victims and survivors have confirmed the formation of microbleed lesions in deeper brain regions related to our cognitive and memory functions.

Researchers have critically evaluated the possible chronic neuropathological outcomes in aging and comorbid populations if timely therapeutic intervention is not implemented. Microbleeds are emerging neuropathological signatures frequently identified in people suffering from chronic stress, depressive disorders, diabetes and age-associated comorbidities.

How Some Children Prospered In Pandemic Online Learning

The Conversation

For parents, children and teachers, one of the most striking memories of the pandemic will be the sudden transition to online learning.

Many educators, parents and children struggled with online education when schools were closed, and were relieved when classroom instruction resumed.

While media often seemed to report on negative aspects of online schooling, this was not a universal experience.

In my education research with international colleagues about socially innovative interventions to foster and advance young children's inclusion and agency in society during the pandemic, we worked with teachers as they implemented research insights about teaching practices that support listening to children's voices.

In our study, we saw that through the pandemic, for some children, the online environment was an extension of how teaching prac-

tices like dedicated dialogue circles presented ways children's opinions and thoughts could be shared.

For these children, enforced online schooling overall was a positive experience and not a struggle.

In Canada, our research took place during almost the entirety of the pandemic in diverse and economically challenged Eastern Canadian schools.

SOME STUDENTS PREFERRED ONLINE LEARNING
Classrooms can be intimidating social spaces, and when they suddenly became virtual, some students found the digital space better suited their needs.

Xavier was a newly arrived Canadian who had just entered Grade 4 when the lockdown began in the spring of 2020.

We learned that the online classroom gave him catch-up time, within a welcoming space, in which he could build English language skills.

Developing friendships, relationships and furthering educational goals all came easier to him when the confusion of a new language



was eased, and he was able to learn at his own pace.

The adaptability of the digital space was important. The stability, quietness and the possibility for students to go at their own pace and some benefits of this all became more transparent with the pivot to online classrooms.

A BREAK FROM LANGUAGE BARRIERS

Online learning gave some children autonomy, and a break from the business of curriculum for children to work independently on projects.

In one home-based project shared online,

Xavier constructed an entire city out of cardboard boxes left over from his recent move to Canada. He was delighted to share this with his classmates, free from the language barrier that made his in-school days a struggle.

When asked why it was easier to talk to each other on camera, a new Canadian student, Abdul, who sometimes struggled with English, said because no one could interrupt me.

Some new Canadian parents were able to learn English together in the virtual classroom. One teacher has an email from a parent to thank her for the wonderful picture books and reading time she shared daily.

FAMILIES REUNITED

For the many out-of-province workers who reside in Alberta but call Newfoundland and Labrador home other days of the year, online schooling brought family reunification.

One student, Roxy, talked about how less stressful life was while in Alberta with both her mother and father: Mom went to work in Newfoundland online and I went to school, she said. She was also able to assist an aunt with

a newly arrived baby while residing in Alberta.

PARENTS PLAYED LARGER ROLE

We found in our study that parents also played a larger role in daily education, both learning from and assisting in teaching their children.

Children like Liv, whose mother helped her perform a song during her classroom's show and share, integrated their parents and home lives into the virtual learning. Although some children struggled to find quiet spaces, even these scenarios had positive effects as parents, (reluctant or not), entered into discussions about their children's school lives.

One mother, Tammy, pointed out that her children's online classes gave her a unique window into a part of her children's lives that she had previously known little about.

She said: it was amazing to see how the teacher interacted with the children My daughter was much more animated than she is at home, she shared a lot more. She's not always eager to go to school, but she could not wait to log onto the google class.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tel: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

EXTENSION NOTICE

It is notified for information of all the concerned that the last date for submission of online application forms for admissions to various Programmes notified vide Admission Notification No. 01 of 2022 Dated: 29-06-2022 has been extended upto **08-08-2022**. Candidates can apply online for the aforesaid academic programmes on the University Website www.iust.ac.in.

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

All other Terms & Conditions including eligibility criteria for admission to the advertised programmes shall remain same. For any further query/information, the candidates may contact the following:
EPABX: 01933-247954/247955 **Phone:** 9858306455 / 9906400789 **Email ID:** admissions@iust.ac.in
No: IUST/DAA-Acad/22/1241 **Sd/-**
Dated: 01-08-2022 **DIPK-NB-2902-22** **Deputy Registrar, Academics**

GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SRINAGAR TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICE
Tel/Fax, 01942455179, email: trafficepolicecitysrinagar@gmail.com

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

The Holy Month of Muharram-ul-Harram has commenced from 31st of July-2022 & religious Majalis & Taziya processions are taken out during the month. The traffic movement at certain places/locations gets effected on particular days at specific time also.

In order to have smooth movement of traffic and for convenience of general public/motorists, the following diversion plan is hereby devised:

- 3rd August-2022 (4th Muharram) = Procession on Rainawari -Hazratbal road**
 - Vehicles coming from Lalchowk towards Hazratbal will be diverted at Khanyar via Dastgeer Sahab & Chatipadshahi via Nowhatta/Hawal-Lalbazar for onward journey to Hazratbal/Soura.
 - Similarly, vehicles coming from Hazratbal side towards Lalchowk will be diverted at Hazratbal towards Lalbazar via Saderbal.
 - This diversion will remain in force from 04:30 PM to 07:30 P.M.**
- 3rd August-2022 (4th Muharram) : Procession in Zaidabal area**
 - Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab -Hawal
 - This diversion will remain in force from 05:00 PM to 08:00 P.M.**
- 4th August-2022 (05th Muharram): Procession on Rainawari-Hazratbal road**
 - Vehicles coming from Lalchowk towards Hazratbal will be diverted at Khanyar via Dastgeer Sahab & Chatipadshahi via Nowhatta/Hawal-Lalbazar for onward journey to Hazratbal/Soura.
 - Similarly, vehicles coming from Hazratbal side towards Lalchowk will be diverted at Hazratbal towards Lalbazar via Saderbal.
 - This diversion will remain in force from 05:30 P.M to 08:00 P.M.**
- 4th August-2022 (05th Muharram: Procession in Zaidabal area**
 - Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road]
 - Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab -Hawal
 - This diversion will remain in force from 02:00 PM to 08:00 P.M.**
- 5th August-2022 (06th Muharram): Procession in Zaidabal area**
 - Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab -Hawal
 - This diversion will remain in force from 03:00 PM to 07:00 P.M.**
- 06th of August-2022 (07th Muharram): Profession on Rainawari-Hazratbal road**
 - Vehicles coming from Lalchowk towards Hazratbal will be diverted at Khanyar via Dastgeer Sahab & Zindshah Masjid via Nowhatta/Hawal-Lalbazar for onward journey to Hazratbal/Soura.
 - Similarly, vehicles coming from Hazratbal side towards Lalchowk will be diverted at Hazratbal towards Lalbazar via Saderbal.
 - This diversion will remain in force from 01.30 P.M to 04:00 P.M.**
- 07th of August-2022 (08th Muharram): Procession in Zaidibal area**
 - Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab -Hawal.
 - This diversion will remain in force from 02:30 P.M to 04:00 P.M.**
- 08 of August-2022 (09th Muharram): Procession in Zaidibal area**
 - Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab -Hawal.
 - This diversion will remain in force from 02:30 P.M to 06:00 P.M.**
- 08th of August-2022 (09th Muharram) : Procession on Rainawari-Hazratbal road**
 - Vehicles coming from Lalchowk towards Hazratbal will be diverted at Khanyar via Dastgeer Sahab & Chatipadshahi via Nowhatta/Hawal-Lalbazar for onward journey to Hazratbal/Soura.
 - Similarly, vehicles coming from Hazratbal side towards Lalchowk will be diverted at Hazratbal towards Lalbazar via Saderbal.
 - This diversion will remain in force from 04:30 PM to 07:00 P.M.**
- 09th of August-2022 (10th Muharram): Procession in Zaidibal area**
 - Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab -Hawal
 - This diversion will remain in force from 04:00 A.M to 06:00 P.M.**
- 11th of Aueust-2022 (11th Muharram) Procession on Rainawari-Hazratbal Road**
 - Vehicles coming from Lalchowk towards Hazratbal will be diverted at Khanyar via Dastgeer Sahab & Chatipadshahi via Nowhatta/Hawal-Lalbazar for onward journey to Hazratbal/Soura.
 - Similarly, vehicles coming from Hazratbal side towards Lalchowk will be diverted at Hazratbal towards Lalbazar via Saderbal
 - This diversion will remain in force from 02:30 PM to 07:00 P.M.**
- 10th of August-2022 (11th Muharram): Procession in Zaidibal area**
 - Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab -Hawal.
 - This diversion will remain in force from 04:30 P.M to 07:00 P.M.**
- 24th of August-2022 f25* Mnharrram): Procession in Zaidibal area**
 - Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab -Hawal.
 - This diversion will remain in force from 06:30 P.M to 08:00 P.M.**

Any other diversion required, shall be notified separately.

(Muzaffar Ahmad Shah) JKPS
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Traffic City Srinagar

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GAMMA UNIT K-06 KUPWARA
FOREST PROTECTION FORCE

e-NIT NO: - 02 OF 2022-23 DATED: - 30-07-2022
Retender of e-NIT NO: - 01 OF 2022-23 DATED: - 18-07-2022

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following work: -

S.No	Name of Work	Location	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) Rs	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (Rs)	Time of Completion
1	Up gradation of 2 Barracks/Hall to the Standard of Meeting Hall and Dining Hall along with Provision of Required Furniture at K-06 Kupwara (Phase I)	K-06 Kupwara	4.34 lacs	2% of Estimated Cost of Work	"D"	RS 200/=	45 DAYS

The position of codal formalities in respect of above work(s) is as under:

Position of Funds	Budgeted
Position of AA	Accorded 23/JDK-FPF of 2022 Dated:- 07-07-2022
Position of TS	Accorded 23/JDK-FPF of 2022 Dated:- 07-07-2022

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website:-www.jktenders.gov.in.

Publishing Date:	30-07-2022
Download Start Date:	30-07-2022 from 06:30 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	30-07-2022 from 06:30 PM
Bid submission End Date:	09-08-2022 Up to 04:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	10-08-2022 at 11:30 AM at Delta Headquarter Forest Protection Force, Near JVC, Bemina, Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after technical evaluation is completed. Date will be notified separately.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forestin the shape of CDR/FDRpledged in favour of Dy. Director, Gamma Unit K-06 FPF Kupwara.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in
- To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e., Fees, EMD, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current year 2022-23, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document)

Note: Scan all the Documents on 100dpi with black & white option

- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all Taxes and it should be saved within same name as it contains.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three Percent may also be demanded.
- Penalty for delay in completion: In case of delay in completion of work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty up to maximum of 10% of the contract shall be requisite as deemed suitable by the Competent Authority.
- The CDR shall be released after completion of DLP.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

NO:- FPF/DD/K06/WORKS/2022/359-64
Dated:-30-07-2022

Sd/-
Deputy Director,
Gamma Unit K-06
Forest Protection Force,
Kupwara.

DIPK-7167-22

Draped In Black Banners, City Braces For Muharram Rituals

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: With the arrival of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar, Srinagar city has been draped in black banners and hoardings to mourn Imam Hussain (A.S), grandson of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Roads and streets in areas dominated by the members of the Shia community are draped with black flags and banners in remembrance of martyrs of Karbala.

Zuhaib Hussain, a painter calligrapher from Zadibal says he has been passionate about calligraphy from his childhood, but he started to work as a calligrapher after the covid-19 pandemic.

"The calligraphic works on banners start months before the arrival of the month of Muharram. We write poetry in the praise of Imam Hussain (A.S) and messages which are socially relevant" he said.

Imbargah's, which are congregation halls for Shia commemoration ceremonies, are also covered with black sheets and banners.

Ilyas Rizvi, an oral historian and a craft researcher has been documenting Muharram in Kashmir for

a decade. He says writing verses in praise of Imam Hussain (A.S) on banners is an important art form in the community.

"This art form in the form of Muharram banners has evolved over the period of time. Specialized artists curate calligraphic designs on the banners".

"Some decades back only black banners were hoisted, nowadays red and green banners are also hoisted" Ilyas said.

Ilyas says induction of colorful banners is not the only thing that has changed over the years. "Earlier, banners were mostly written in Urdu but nowadays they are written in English and Persian as well".

However, in the past few years there have been instances when youth have been electrocuted while hoisting banners.

Pertinently, a 30-year-old youth identified as Wajahat Hussain Dar son of Qasim Ali Dar, a resident of Shamswari, Khanqah Mohalla was electrocuted while hoisting Muharram banners at Baba Damb locality on Friday.

The incident took place when a group of youth were hoisting Muharram banners.



ACB Arrests Tehsildar, Clerk For Accepting Bribe

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Anti-corruption Bureau on Tuesday arrested Tehsildar Pantha Chowk and his employee in Srinagar for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs. 12,0000.

Official sources said that ACB raided the vehicle of Tehsildar Pantha-Chowk bearing number JK01AL- 8277 and caught him red-handed while accepting bribe along with his employee.

The bribe money of Rs. 120000 was recovered on spot and both the officials identified as Majid Ahmad Tehsildar Pantha-Chowk and Waseem Ahmad who is posted at Tehsil office at Pantha-Chowk in Srinagar were arrested. Waseem was earlier posted in Ganderbal with the same officer.

"The officer was arrested on the spot at Tulsibag Pahse 2 by the ACB team" ACB in a statement said.

"The bribe money was also recovered from their possession in presence of independent witnesses, an official confirmed and said that further investigations into the matter are going on".

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DC Inspects Parking Sites Along Boulevard Road

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to frame out an action plan to expand car parking facilities along Dal Lake-Boulevard Road Axis, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday undertook a walking tour from Buchwara Dal lake to Zabarwan Park via Nehru Park to have onsite inspection of different existing and proposed car parking sites.

At Auqaf Parking opposite Ghat No. 03 of Dal Lake, the DC took a detailed round of the site and asked the concerned Department to add nearby space with existing parking to double its capacity so that more cars can be accommodated at the parking space to facilitate locals and tourists visiting the area.

The DC also inspected Custodian parking near Ghat No. 07, SMC parking opposite Nehru Park and SDA paid parking to have onspot assessment of the parking facilities.



He asked all the concerned Departments to take immediate measures for the extension and upgradation of their respective car parkings so that maximum vehicles can be parked to facilitate vehicle owners, besides ensuring better regulation of traffic movement in the area.

The DC also stressed on development of approach roads and face lifting of the existing car parkings.

With regard to unregulated car parking rates, the DC asked for a joint meeting of all the concerned Departments to fix the rates for vehicle parking on a uniform basis.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by SP Traffic, Chief Planning Officer, Tehsildar Khan- yar, besides other Officers from R&B, Revenue, Police, Traffic, Waqf Board and other Departments.

Admin Launches Drive Against Erring FBOs In City

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, a team of Food Safety Department on Tuesday conducted a special drive along Dalgate and Boulevard Road to check the hygiene and quality of food available for locals and tourists at different Food Business Units especially in Hotels, Restaurants, Dhabas, Hawkers, Tea Stalls and Roadside Vendors. He asked them to take tough measures against the erring Food Business Operators (FBOs) for not maintaining the standards laid under Food Safety and Standards Act.

The DC also asked all Food Business Operators in the District to adopt good hygienic practices within their premises otherwise action under law shall be initiated against them. He has directed the Enforcement Officers to keep strict watch on the quality of food items in all City markets and take stern action against erring traders.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar, Hilal Ahmad during which the processing and preparation zone of Delhi Di Rasoi was sealed, while two complaints were registered for presentation before the competent Court.

In addition, the inspection team issued improvement notices to several restaurant owners. The Food Business Operators in the area were also directed to

maintain high standards of hygiene in the premises otherwise stern action under relevant provisions of FSS Act shall be initiated against them.

Meanwhile, DC Srinagar, has asked the team to continue the intensified drive in other parts of the District to ensure quality and hygienic food items are available at all Food Business Units especially in Hotels, Restaurants, Dhabas, Hawkers, Tea Stalls and Roadside Vendors. He asked them to take tough measures against the erring Food Business Operators (FBOs) for not maintaining the standards laid under Food Safety and Standards Act.

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Man Killed, Another Critical In Road Accident

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A man was killed while another one was injured in a road accident that took place on Jehangir Chowk-Rambagh flyover in Srinagar district on Tuesday evening, officials said here.

An official said that Jehangir Ahmad Ganie and Mudasir Ahmad Ganie both residents of Parniwa Budgam were critically injured in a road accident

on Jehangir Chowk-Rambagh flyover this evening.

He said that both the injured were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment, however, Jehangir Ahmad Ganie succumbed to his injuries at Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla.

He added that Mudasir was being treated at SMHS hospital, where his condition is said to be critical.

Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident.

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR

04 - Muharram

1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	4:08
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:30
Magrib	7:34
ISHA	9:06

This Day In History

- 1940 - Lithuanian SSR is accepted into USSR
- 1941 - German troops conquer Rostavl USSR
- 1944 - Allied troops under Lt-Gen Joseph Stilwell take Myitkyina, Burma
- 1960 - Niger gains independence from France
- 1967 - 45,000 US soldiers sent to Vietnam
- 1970 - Hurricane "Celia" becomes most expensive Gulf storm in history
- 1972 - British premier Edward Heath proclaims emergency crisis due to dock strike
- 1972 - U.S. Senate ratifies the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.
- 1973 - Flash fire kills 51 at amusement park (Isle of Man, UK)
- 1975 - 500 drown when 2 river boats collide & sink in China's West River
- 1975 - Louisiana Superdome is dedicated
- 1981 - 13,000 Air Traffic Controllers (PATCO) begin their strike; US President Ronald Reagan offers ultimatum to workers: 'if they do not report for work within 48 hours, they have forfeited their jobs and will be terminated'
- 1984 - Bomb attack on Madras India airport, 32 killed
- 1985 - Train crash at Flaujac, France: 35 killed
- 1987 - Discovery in Orbital Processing Facility is powered up for STS-26
- 1990 - Radio Kuwait resigns air, due to Iraqi invasion
- 1990 - US announces commitment of Naval forces to Gulf regions
- 1994 - 1st Jordanian plane to fly over Israeli airspace (King Hussein pilot)
- 2001 - US President George W. Bush signs into law the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) Extension Act of 2001
- 2004 - The pedestal of the Statue of Liberty reopens after being closed since the September 11, 2001 attacks.
- 2005 - President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya of Mauritania is overthrown in a military coup while attending the funeral of King Fahd in Saudi Arabia.
- 2012 - United Nations General Assembly reproaches The United Nations Security Council over its lack of action in Syria
- 2013 - 9 children are killed by a suicide bombing in Jalalabad, Afghanistan
- 2013 - 80 people are killed in a wave of insurgency across Iraq

From KO Archives

Leave Constitution, Talk Humanitarian: PM

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - The prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, today asked all the militant groups in Jammu and Kashmir to come forward for talks with the Centre. While rejecting the possibility of Pakistan's involvement in the peace process initiated with the Hizbul Mujahideen, he, however, made a significant departure from the oft-imposed rider of holding talks within the frame work of Indian constitution.

"Our doors are open. I appeal to all militant groups and organisations, which believe in peace, to join the centre's efforts for peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue," Vajpayee told media persons here after leading a delegation of major political parties at Pahalgam.

Asked whether Pakistan would be invited to form part of the peace process, Vajpayee said, there is no question of Pakistan's involvement." Holding Islamabad responsible for the killings, he said the absence of unequivocal condemnation by Pakistan makes it all the more a suspect Pakistan must come clean as its silence on the massacres would further affect the bilateral dialogue process.

Asked whether the talks would be strictly within the framework of the constitution, Vajpayee said, "Leave the constitution. Talks should be held on humanitarian considerations that violence is stopped and no more blood is shed."

To a question whether lapses in security led to the killings, he said the government would order an internal inquiry to find out the reasons behind the orgy of violence. Vajpayee was accompanied by union ministers George Fernandes and Mamata Banerjee, Congress President Sonia Gandhi and her party colleague Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mulayam Singh Yadav (Samajwadi Party), Somnath Chatterjee (CPI-M), K Yerran Naidu (TDP) and Kanshi Ram (BSP). Vajpayee, who was accompanied by Jammu and Kashmir governor G.C. Saxena and chief minister Farooq Abdullah, termed as ridiculous allegation by Pakistan about the involvement of Indian security forces in the killing and rejected the possibility of instituting a judicial inquiry on the issue. The involvement of Pakistan-based Lashker-e-Taiba have been proved beyond doubt other than Hizb-ul-Mujahideen being unhappy over the peace process initiated by the centre.

Maintaining that Islamabad must unequivocally condemn the massacres, Vajpayee made it clear that violence and peace talks cannot go together. Nothing can be achieved through killings. He said if General Musharraf continued to maintain silence, then the future of resumption of bilateral parleys would become even more difficult. To a question on the issue of autonomy, Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, who was present the Vajpayee's press conference, said we are talking with the centre on the issue. (Kashmir Observer, August 03, 2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Monkeypox outbreak

India recorded its first death by monkeypox when a Kerala man, recently back from the UAE, died on Saturday. He had tested positive for monkeypox. The first case of the disease, a potentially serious viral illness, was reported from Kollam district of south Kerala on July 14. The disease manifests itself with fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes and may lead to severe medical complications. After Covid-19 pandemic, this is the second disease which is threatening to spread on a global scale. The total tally in India now has reached six with Delhi recording its second case. However, on a positive note, Delhi's first monkeypox patient has recovered and has now been discharged. The union government has also constituted a task force to review the ongoing public health preparedness in the country. The Indian Council of Medical Research network of laboratories has also been operationalized, and arrangements have been made for monkeypox disease diagnostics.

The disease is also spreading across the world, in the US too. Three states of the US - California, New York and Illinois - have declared emergency over the disease. The US with 5811 cases has been one of the countries most affected by the disease. More than 16,000 cases have now been reported from 75 countries. The World Health Organization has already declared monkeypox outbreak a global health emergency. The classification is the highest alert that the WHO can issue. It follows a worldwide upsurge in cases.

Monkeypox is contagious and is spread through close contact with someone who has symptoms. It is also spread by touching the infectious rash or body fluids, or the plates or cups that the patient has used. This calls for Standard Operating Procedure to be followed by people. And this won't happen easily. It was the breach in following the SOP that triggered successive Covid-19 waves. Millions of lives were lost in the process.

Monkeypox, however, is not as contagious and fatal as Covid but it is a deadly infection nevertheless. Thankfully, there has so far been no monkeypox case in Jammu and Kashmir. But the government needs to gear up for a possible outbreak of the disease. Kashmir is a tourist area and currently we are witnessing a bumper tourist season. So, there is every likelihood that the Valley will not remain immune to the disease for long. This requires the government to be vigilant. It also needs to run an advertisement campaign to make people aware of the disease. This could go a long way to persuade people to take precautions on

OTHER OPINION

Language as barrier

The call by Home Minister Amit Shah last week for engineering, law and medicine to be taught in Indian languages is a well-intentioned one. His stand is in sync with one of the focal points of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, i.e., the promotion of Indian languages in higher education. The NEP provides for more higher educational institutions and programmes in higher education to use the mother tongue or local language as a medium of instruction, besides offering programmes bilingually. The rationale behind Mr. Shah's call is that 95% of students, who receive primary education in their mother tongue, should not be left out in their pursuit of higher studies. In recent years, substantive measures have been taken to make engineering courses available in Indian languages, if the statement by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in the Lok Sabha in December 2021 is an indication. Effective 2021-22, the AICTE granted approval to 19 engineering colleges in 10 States for having engineering courses in six Indian languages. The Council has also developed an "AICTE Translation Automation AI Tool" that translates English online courses in 11 Indian languages. SWAYAM, an open online courses platform of the Central government, has been offering some popular courses in Indian languages too. The import of this is that the goal of covering all sections as far as higher education is concerned should become a reality. But, at the same time, one should not gloss over the exercise not having yielded results. In Tamil Nadu, for instance, the bid to impart engineering education through the Tamil medium has not created any impact despite the principal political players using language as a political tool. In the field of law - before the subject is taught in the Indian languages - the Central government should try to impress upon the judiciary to allow the use of Indian languages in court proceedings.

- The Hindu

BJP's Total Dominance

At the moment, even the combined opposition does not appear to be in a position to challenge the saffron party, much less defeat it



A SHOPKEEPER POSES with political parties' campaign materials ahead of Lok Sabha elections 2019, in Jabalpur | Photo: PTI

RIYAZ WANI

“
The fact is that India's larger secular opposition is still in tatters and fighting over scraps. Gandhi may be a better challenger now, but there is no major pan-India leader in sight to take on the BJP

If we look at the current political scene in India, it is overwhelmingly dominated by the BJP. No matter how well or poorly the party does in terms of governance, it only grows stronger with each passing day. And despite being in power for a second successive term, the party faces little anti-incumbency. What is more, as we look forward to the general elections in 2024, even the combined opposition doesn't appear to be in a position to offer a decent political challenge to the saffron party, let alone beat it.

What makes the BJP tick and override criticisms, non-performance and occasional public backlash? On the face of it, Hindutva, the party's ideology, seems to trump everything. It kills all political competition without even a fight. In fact, there is no alternative political ideology in the country at the moment. The opposition no longer sees secularism as an electorally beneficial proposition and would rather buy into the Hindutva narrative as it resonates with the majority of the people. Congress has been the first to abandon its ideological space. It doesn't champion secularism, nor does it dare to woo Muslims, once its loyal vote bank. The reason for this is that, under the existing circumstances, the party sees secularism as its bane. In 2018, the UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi said that the BJP was winning the polls as it had managed to convince the people that the Congress is a Muslim party.

Similarly, Arvind Kejriwal, once a proponent of the so called post-ideological politics in the country, has chosen to rebrand himself as a Hindu leader. In 2020, he observed Lakhmi Puja on Diwali together with his entire Council of Ministers, with

his spouse by his side. Kejriwal was also the first to support revocation of Article 370. He didn't speak against the Citizenship Amendment Act. And as the AAP, Kejriwal's party, expands into Punjab and looks set to step into the vacuum of a national opposition party left behind by a depleting Congress, his nods to the BJP's ideological vision have become more conspicuous.

Is there now a tacit consensus on Hindutva in the country? It does appear so. And this makes the BJP even stronger as the party remains the sole authentic purveyor of the ideology. And no matter how much other parties hew closer to the BJP creed, they will always be seen as counterfeit, opportunistic copies of the original.

Another existing political reality of the country that goes to the advantage of the BJP is the extinction of the parties adhering to socialist and communist philosophies. These parties were doggedly secular in their politics and had a national vision. Other than in Kerala, where communists run the government, they are no longer a political force anywhere else in the country. They are not even the distant opposition in West Bengal, a former communist stronghold. So, the BJP faces little political resistance in the near to medium term.

It would require the opposition parties to forge unity ahead of the 2024 general election to be seen as a credible challenger. As of now, the BJP remains the favourite to win the national polls, despite the setbacks of the second Covid-19 wave, a tottering economy, unemployment, inflation etc. Though the opposition parties appeared to have momentarily found their bearings after Mamata Banerjee swept Bengal polls in 2021, the momentum has since been lost. As things stand, the opposition has a

long way to go before it is counted as a competitor.

Is Rahul Gandhi a credible political competitor? In the last few years, Gandhi has shown some promise to rise to the challenge, even though his image makeover remains a project in the works. Gandhi's speeches now carry more conviction. He has paid attention to his communication style: he now frames his arguments in a way that generates a bigger ideological contestation with the BJP - albeit, he still has a way to go to match Prime Minister Narendra Modi's overarching ideological challenge.

But the harsh truth is that it wouldn't be sufficient to dislodge PM Modi from his exalted position. The fact is that India's larger secular opposition is still in tatters and fighting over scraps. Gandhi may be a better challenger now, but there is no major pan-India leader in sight to take on the BJP.

The saffron party offers a deft blend of a hardcore ideology and welfare governance. It has Modi as its overarching leader. And considering its electoral machinery, it has become all-encompassing. If the opposition fails to get its act together, the BJP could even secure a stronger majority than it did in 2019.

The opposition will have to make more substantive moves to come together in the months to come to offer a more credible challenge to the BJP. The saffron party under Modi would not only need opposition unity but also an alternative ideological narrative which is so far sorely missing.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer*



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Don't Pay Peanuts To Private School Teachers

Teachers in privately owned and managed schools are being exploited on a regular basis. The teachers employed in such schools are paid a fraction of their authorised salaries and are made to work endlessly for hours.

Such malpractice is seen to affect the performance of the teachers in the classroom as well. The school

trust pays these teachers much less than the amount they were promised, leading to resignations and constant changes in the faculty. This has affected students' performance and led to an atmosphere of uncertainty in the schools which is detrimental to the cause of education.

As a nation that prides itself on respecting its teachers, it must be

understood that we cannot build a future for our students if we do not give due credit to our teachers. The government should ensure that such schools pay salaries as per the government's fixed pay scales. Payments should be made through banks and the government agencies should monitor the salary perks etc. The authorities must take up this matter in

order to investigate the issue further and mobilise the cause towards calling for a complete overhaul in the education system where needed. Teachers are the builders of the nation, it is a shame that the system fails to provide them the adequate reward they deserve.

Malika Hussain

Karbala in Kashmir

“

Overtime, the rituals moved outdoors in daylight, with male mourners lining streets in groups – some beating chests, some self-flagellating – while women lined the boundaries and buildings beating their chests to the rhythm of the nawhas

Mehak Fatima

KARBALA, literally the land of karb (sorrow) and bala (agony) has over time turned into a metaphor – one for catastrophe, and one for resistance. It was on this land that Hussain ibn Ali, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was martyred alongside seventy-one companions. Hussain and his companions made the ultimate sacrifice by standing in the face of tyranny, injustice, and corruption, and keeping alive the values of truth, justice, and dignity.

“Hayhat minna al zilla!” (never to humiliation!) – the flame of resistance was sparked by Hussain ibn Ali’s refusal to pledge allegiance to the tyrant, Yazeed, with these words. Hayhat minna al zilla! – chant mourners in processions paying homage to the martyrs of Karbala.

The month of Muharram marks the be-

ginning of the Islamic year, however, for the followers of the Shi’a school of thought, Muharram ushers in a religious fervour accompanied by grief and passion. The first nine days of the month of Muharram have, for the longest time, been observed and commemorated with mourning ceremonies across the globe, leading up to the tenth day or Ashura (Arabic for ‘tenth’), which marks the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussain and his faithful companions.

Black banners and flags atop buildings and houses betoken the onset of Muharram in Kashmir. Mourning rituals, including majalis (lecture gatherings), juloos (processions), nawhakhwani (lamentation poems), and marsiyakhwani (elegies), begin to be observed. These rituals are pronounced with expression of grief over the tragedies that befell the Prophet’s family by lamenting and beating of chests.

Juloos or processions in earlier times were

taken out in the wee hours of the night. Ceremonies were largely private and held indoors or within maatam sarais (mourning houses). The eighth and tenth of Muharram would usually be devoted to alam (flag) and zuljinah (Imam Hussain’s horse in Karbala) processions respectively. Overtime, the rituals moved outdoors in daylight, with male mourners lining streets in groups – some beating chests, some self-flagellating – while women lined the boundaries and buildings beating their chests to the rhythm of the nawhas.

Public observation of Muharram in Kashmir has long undergone notable changes. From night-time processions to mourners being detained and lathi-charged, the socio-political milieu in Kashmir over the centuries has substantially shaped Muharram into a glaring symbol of resistance. Noted poet, Agha Shahid Ali, explored his Kashmiri Muslim identity in many of his works as he drew

parallels between Karbala and Kashmir, adding a distinctive facet to resistance poetry.

“Break their hands. Will ours return with guns, or a bouquet?

Ice hardens its fat near his heart. We’re cut to the brains.

He memorizes, clause by clause, the contract for Doomsday.

We mourn the martyrs of Karbala, our skins torn with chains.

The Mansion is white, lit up with roses. He is driven

Through streets in which blood flows like Husain’s.

Our hands won’t return to us, not even mutilated, when

Death comes – thin bureaucrat – from the plains.”

– Agha Shahid Ali (Muharram in Srinagar, 1992)

The ceremonies held during Muharram, year after year, serve as a reminder and a

source for drawing lessons from lives of Karbala’s martyrs, reinforcing integrity and sustaining resilience in the face of oppression. This period comes for every individual as an opportunity to reflect upon how one can, in their own capacities, answer Hussain’s echoing call from the grounds of Karbala – “hal min nasirin yansurna?” (is there anyone to come to my aid). The answer to this call for support does not lie in physical presence and strength, but it is a call to rise up against injustice in every form, to make Hussain’s cause one’s own, and stand firm for the truth. Observers of Muharram in Kashmir continue to strive in this direction and live by the saying, “kullu yawmin Ashura, kullu ardhin Karbala” – “every day is Ashura, every land is Karbala.”

Mehak Fatima is a postgraduate in English from the University of Delhi and is currently pursuing her Bachelor’s in Education from IASE, Srinagar



Monkeypox: Whats and Whys

Nicoletta Lanese

Monkeypox is a disease caused by the monkeypox virus, a pathogen closely related to variola virus, which causes smallpox. Monkeypox and smallpox infections trigger similar symptoms, but monkeypox tends to be far milder by comparison.

WHAT IS THE MONKEYPOX VIRUS?

The monkeypox virus belongs to the Orthopoxvirus genus within the Poxviridae family of viruses. Other viruses in the Orthopoxvirus genus include the viruses that cause variola (smallpox), cowpox and camelpox, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (opens in new tab) (CDC).

According to the World Health Organization (opens in new tab) (WHO), there are two distinct clades – or genetically related groups – of monkeypox viruses: the West African clade and the Congo Basin clade (also called the Central African clade). Evidence suggests that the Congo Basin clade is more likely to cause severe and fatal disease, and also may be more transmissible, than the West African clade.

Monkeypox was first discovered in 1958, when laboratory monkeys at the Statens Serum Institute in Copenhagen, Denmark, came down with a pox-like illness, according to the WHO (opens in new tab). The first known human case was identified in 1970 in a 9-month-old boy living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Despite the virus’s name, monkeys and other nonhuman primates are likely not the pathogen’s main hosts, although this still needs to be confirmed, according to the WHO. Rather, rodents are thought to be the natural reservoir for the monkeypox virus in the wild. Although primates, including humans, are susceptible to the virus, they are incidental hosts, meaning they can become infected but don’t serve as a constant “reservoir” for the virus.

Among African rodents, monkeypox infection has been documented in rope squirrels, tree squirrels, Gambian pouched rats and dormice. And in 2003, scientists learned that prairie dogs are also susceptible to monkeypox infection, after prairie dogs in the U.S. caught the virus, according to the CDC (opens

in new tab). The prairie dogs had been housed near imported small mammals from Ghana, including several rodent species that were later found to be infected with monkeypox. The prairie dogs were sold as pets and ended up spreading the monkeypox virus to dozens of people in six states.

WHERE DOES MONKEYPOX SPREAD?

Monkeypox regularly circulates in several Central and West African countries, meaning the disease is “endemic” in those areas. Those countries include the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Sudan, according to the CDC (opens in new tab).

The 2003 monkeypox outbreak in the U.S. marked the first time that human cases of monkeypox had been reported outside of Africa, the CDC states. Between 2003 and 2022, cases of monkeypox had been reported sporadically in non-endemic countries – including the United Kingdom, Israel and Singapore – but the majority of these cases were linked to travel to an endemic country or exposure to imported animals from an endemic country.

Then, in 2022, monkeypox began spreading in non-endemic countries at unprecedented levels. The first cases were detected in London in May, and by mid-July, more than 16,000 cases had been reported in 75 countries and territories; the scale of the spread prompted the WHO to declare the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF MONKEYPOX?

The incubation period for monkeypox – or the time it takes to develop symptoms following an exposure – is roughly one to two weeks. Typically, monkeypox infections start with flu-like symptoms, including the following:

- ▶ Fever
- ▶ Headache
- ▶ Muscle aches
- ▶ Fatigue
- ▶ Swollen lymph nodes; this swelling may appear in multiple locations, such as the neck and armpit.

Then, the characteristic “pox” rashes

begin to appear, usually around the face and in the oral cavity, and later, on the extremities, including the palms of the hands and soles of the feet. These rashes can resemble those caused by the Varicella zoster virus, which causes chickenpox, and they can also look like those caused by certain sexually transmitted infections, such as syphilis and herpes.

Monkeypox rashes progress through several stages, starting out as discolored patches of skin and then forming into raised bumps, blisters, and large, pus-filled pimples that eventually scab over and fall off. In severe cases, separate skin rashes can coalesce to form one huge lesion that causes large amounts of skin to slough off at once, according to the WHO.

In the 2022 outbreak, however, some patients’ symptoms have diverged from the normal pattern. For example, some patients developed flu-like symptoms after their skin rashes or didn’t experience flu-like symptoms at all, the CDC reported (opens in new tab) in June. Some patients initially developed rashes around the genitals and anus, and these skin lesions caused symptoms of painful inflammation and rectal bleeding. Sometimes, patients have had rashes in different stages of progression at the same body site, which is unusual.

In most cases, the symptoms of monkeypox remain fairly mild and resolve in two to four weeks. However, some groups – including children younger than 8, people with weakened immune systems or a history of eczema, and people who are pregnant or breastfeeding – face a greater risk of developing severe monkeypox infections than the general public, according to the CDC.

Monkeypox infections can sometimes result in severe complications, including secondary infections; inflammation of the air sacs in the lungs (bronchopneumonia); an extreme, full-body immune response (sepsis); inflammation of the brain (encephalitis); and infection of the cornea with ensuing loss of vision, according to the WHO.

IS MONKEYPOX DEADLY?

The Congo Basin clade is linked to a higher risk of severe disease and death than the West African clade. Estimates of the case fatality rate for the Congo Basin clade range between 6% and 10%,

while estimates for the West African clade range between 1% and 3.5%, according to the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health (opens in new tab).

The 2022 outbreak has been driven by the West African clade. As of July 23, when the WHO declared the 2022 outbreak a public health emergency, there were five reported deaths out of more than 16,000 cases, worldwide.

HOW DOES MONKEYPOX SPREAD?

Monkeypox can spread from animals to humans when people come into contact with the blood, bodily fluids, rashes or sores of infected animals, according to the WHO. People can also catch the virus if they are scratched or bitten by an infected animal, or if they consume undercooked meat or use products made from infected animals, according to the CDC (opens in new tab).

Person-to-person monkeypox transmission can occur when people come into direct contact with an infected person’s rashes, scabs or bodily fluids, including pus, mucus and saliva, or with materials contaminated with their bodily fluids, such as clothing or linens, the CDC states (opens in new tab). “Direct contact” may include face-to-face, skin-to-skin, mouth-to-mouth or mouth-to-skin contact. It’s not yet known whether the virus can spread through semen, vaginal fluids, amniotic fluids, breastmilk or blood, according to the WHO (opens in new tab).

In general, the virus typically enters the body through broken skin, the respiratory tract or mucous membranes, which include tissues of the eyes, nose and mouth, according to the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. In pregnant people, the virus can pass through the placenta to the fetus and also can be transmitted via close contact with newborns during and after birth.

The virus can also spread through respiratory droplets – meaning small drops of saliva and mucus – that are expelled from the mouth and come into contact with the mucus membranes of another person, but this route of transmission typically requires “prolonged” face-to-face contact.

The 2022 monkeypox outbreak has heavily impacted men who have sex with men, which raised questions (and

disinformation) about whether the disease specifically spreads through sexual intercourse.

“While close physical contact is a well-known risk factor for transmission, it is unclear at this time if monkeypox can be transmitted specifically through sexual transmission routes,” according to the WHO. “Studies are needed to better understand this risk.” Again, more research is needed to know if the virus spreads through semen or vaginal fluid.

Monkeypox is much less infectious than its cousin smallpox. The reproduction number, or R-naught (R0), of smallpox is estimated to be between 5 and 7; that means a single infected person would infect five to seven people, on average, Joseph Eisenberg, professor and chair of epidemiology at the University of Michigan, wrote for The Conversation (opens in new tab). By comparison, preliminary research suggests that the monkeypox viruses driving the 2022 outbreak have an R0 of about 0.8, at least among the general public, the WHO reported (opens in new tab) in June; however, in social networks where the virus is currently more prevalent, the R0 may be greater than 1.

HOW TO PREVENT MONKEYPOX TRANSMISSION

The CDC (opens in new tab) offers the following tips to prevent the spread of monkeypox:

- ▶ Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
- ▶ Do not touch the rashes or scabs of a person with monkeypox.
- ▶ Do not kiss, hug, cuddle or have sex with someone who has monkeypox.
- ▶ Do not share eating utensils or cups with a person who has monkeypox.
- ▶ Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels or clothing of a person who has monkeypox.
- ▶ Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ▶ Within Central and West Africa, avoid contact with animals that can spread the monkeypox virus, such as rodents and pri-

mates. Also avoid sick or dead animals, as well as bedding or other materials they have touched.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU’VE BEEN EXPOSED OR HAVE SYMPTOMS

People who have been exposed to a known monkeypox case should monitor their symptoms for 21 days following the exposure, the CDC advises (opens in new tab). In particular, they should monitor for fever, chills, swollen lymph nodes and new skin rashes. If any of these symptoms develop, these individuals should self-isolate and contact their health care provider and the local or state health department for further guidance. At that point, individuals may be directed to seek diagnostic testing, and doctors should evaluate whether they’re at risk for severe disease or require treatment in a hospital.

People who have recently been exposed to monkeypox also may be given one of two vaccines – JYNNEOS or ACAM2000 – to reduce the severity of their symptoms or to prevent the illness altogether, according to the CDC (opens in new tab). “CDC recommends that the vaccine be given within 4 days from the date of exposure in order to prevent onset of the disease,” the agency’s website says. “If given between 4–14 days after the date of exposure, vaccination may reduce the symptoms of disease, but may not prevent the disease.”

(Note that known contacts of people who’ve tested positive for monkeypox may be eligible for vaccination before they develop symptoms, according to the CDC (opens in new tab). This is part of a “ring vaccination” strategy, in which close contacts of an initial case are vaccinated to prevent onward transmission of the disease.)

People who test positive for monkeypox and don’t require hospitalization should isolate at home, and when possible, stay in a separate room or area away from people or pets you live with until your symptoms resolve, as it’s possible that humans can spread the virus to certain animals, the CDC says. If around others, infected people should wear a mask to prevent the spread of the virus via respiratory droplets, according to Michigan Health.

–Live Science

ED raids National Herald office, other locations in money laundering case

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday raided the head office of the Congress party-owned National Herald newspaper here and 11 other locations as part of an ongoing money laundering investigation, officials said, a week after it questioned Congress chief Sonia Gandhi.

The searches are being carried out under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to "gather additional evidence with regard to the trail of funds and they are against those entities who were involved in the National Herald-linked transactions", they said.

The action is being undertaken in light of fresh evidence obtained by the ED after the latest questioning of various people, in this case, they said.

The raids come after the probe agency questioned Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her MP son Rahul at its headquarters here. While Sonia Gandhi was questioned for more than 11 hours, spread over three rounds, last month, Rahul Gandhi was probed by the ED for five days, at intervals, clocking over 50 hours in June.

Senior Congress politicians like Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal were also questioned by the ED in April. The National Herald is published by the Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL), and its holding company is Young Indian.

Officers of the federal agency searched the office of the National Herald located in the 'Herald House' building at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg near ITO in central Delhi. The office is registered in the name of AJL. According to officials, the

location of a shell (dummy) company in Kolkata involved in the case, has also been covered in the raids. The Congress party had called the ED action against its leaders "political vendetta", saying there was no money laundering in the case.

The Congress party has said it gave a Rs 90 crore loan to an ailing AJL between 2001-02 and 2010-11 and later, in 2011, the shares of AJL were allotted to Young Indian and this debt was converted into equity and the loan was extinguished in the books of the AJL.

The ED claims these transactions attract anti-money laundering charges as a complex web of transactions and routing of funds were undertaken by the party and its leaders to acquire AJL's assets worth multiple crores of rupees. The Gandhis are understood to have told the ED during their separate questioning sessions that no personal assets were made in the Congress-AJL-National Herald deal as Young Indian was a "not-for-profit" company established under section 25 of the Companies Act.

They also told the ED that AJL continues to have possession of all its assets and Young Indian neither "owns nor controls" these properties.

Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are among the promoters and majority shareholders in Young Indian. Like her son, the Congress president also has 38 per cent shareholding. The ED action in the case was initiated after the agency late last year registered a fresh case under the PMLA 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.

6 Army Jawans Booked In Rajasthan After Man Admitted By Them In Hospital Dies



Agenceis

Jaisalmer: An FIR has been registered against six Army jawans in Rajasthan after a critically injured man whom they admitted in a local hospital succumbed to injuries, police said on Tuesday.

According to police, the victim Salman (24) along with his friend had gone to the firing range in Pokhran on a motorcycle on Monday. Since it is a prohibited area, they turned their bike towards sand dunes in order to escape when they saw a patrolling vehicle of the Army, they said.

"The victim's family allege that Salman went to the firing range in search of cattle. They said while his friend managed to escape, Salman was caught by the jawans who thrashed him badly and later took him to the hospital in a critical condition, Ashok Kumar, SHO, Lathi police station said.

The Army authorities, however, denied the allegations and said the jawans had spotted the victim lying injured and they rushed him to the hospital.

Meanwhile, the aggrieved family members staged a dharna with the body in front of Pokhran SDM office, demanding the arrest of the accused soldiers, compensation of Rs 50 lakh and government job to one family member.

The station house officer (SHO) said postmortem was conducted and an FIR was registered against the jawans Monday night.

Jaisalmer collector Tina Dabi said efforts are being made to convince the protesting family members.

The matter will be resolved soon, she said.

Talking about the incident, defence spokesperson Lt Col Amitabh Sharma said the civilian was found lying injured and

the patrolling party immediately evacuated him to the nearest government hospital, where he later succumbed to the injuries.

Both the Army and police are jointly investigating the case, he said.

The Pokhran field firing range in Jaisalmer, located close to the Indo-Pak border, is used for firing by the armed forces and is regularly patrolled by Army personnel from security point of view.

On August 1 at around 11.30 am, during routine patrolling, two men were spotted who had illegally ventured about 5 kilometers inside the sensitive defence area. When the Army patrol approached them, one individual fled and the other one was found lying injured.

The patrolling party immediately evacuated the injured civilian to the nearest medical facility at Government hospital, Lathi where he later succumbed, the spokesperson added.

PM's Brother Prahlad Modi Stages Dharna At Jantar Mantar With Fair Price Shop Dealers' Demands

Agenceis

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Prahlad Modi, who is also the vice president of All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation, on Tuesday staged a dharna here with various demands of the organisation.

Prahlad along with several other members of the All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation (AIFPSDF) gathered at Jantar Mantar, holding banners and raising slogans.

"A delegation of AIFPSDF will submit a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, listing our long-standing demands for the sake of our survival. With the current situation of hike in the cost of living and overhead expenditures for running shops, a raise of mere 20 paise per kg in our margin is a cruel joke. We request the Union government to grant us relief and end our financial miseries," Prahlad said.

He further stated that AIFPSDF will hold a national executive meeting on Wednesday and based on that,

their next course of action will be decided.

AIFPSDF national general secretary Biswambhar Basu told PTI that they also plan to meet Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday.

The AIFPSDF has been demanding compensation for loss on rice, wheat and sugar, and also for edible oil and pulses to be supplied through fair price shops.

It has also demanded that the 'West Bengal Ration Model' of free distribution be implemented across the country.

Further, the members said all due margins for all the states, including Jammu and Kashmir, should be reimbursed immediately.

"We also demand that edible oil, pulses and LPG gas cylinders be supplied through fair price shops. Rural areas' fair price shop dealers should be allowed to function as direct procurement agents for rice and wheat. Our demands were also raised by TMC MP Sougata Roy in Parliament, Basu said, adding that their protests will continue until their demands are met.



SC Applies Provocation Exception, Modifies Conviction & Sentence Of Lifer

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday modified the conviction and sentence of a man serving life term for killing his brother, saying the "acts of provocation" that led to the incident were sudden and grave and there was loss of self-control.

While applying the "provocation exception", the apex court converted the man's conviction of murder under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) to Part 1 of section 304 which deals with punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

The top court, while noting that the appellant has undergone incarceration for over 10 years since September 2011,

modified the sentence to the period he has already served.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Bela M Trivedi noted that according to the prosecution, the deceased was addicted to alcohol and used to constantly torment, abuse and threaten the appellant.

"Gravity of provocation turns upon the whole of the victim's abusive behaviour towards the accused. Gravity does not hinge upon a single or last act of provocation deemed sufficient by itself to trigger the punitive action," the bench said.

The apex court delivered the verdict on an appeal filed by the convict, a resident of Durg district in Chhattisgarh.

It noted that on September 26,

2011 the appellant had himself gone to police station and confessed to the crime.

The bench observed that the case would fall under Exception 1 to section 300 of the IPC. Section 300 deals with murder and Exception 1 to this provision says culpable homicide is not murder if the offender, whilst deprived of the power of self-control by grave and sudden provocation, causes death of the person who gave the provocation or causes the death of any other person by mistake or accident.

The bench observed that gravity of provocation can be assessed by taking into account the history of abuse and need not be confined to the gravity of

the final provocative act in the form of acts, words or gestures.

It also referred to the deposition of the younger brother of the appellant and the deceased. The apex court noted the younger brother had deposed that the deceased used to frequently drink alcohol, barely interacted with the family and used to debate and quarrel with the appellant.

It said the question of loss of self-control by grave and sudden provocation is a question of fact and the act of provocation and loss of self-control must be actual and reasonable.

It noted that the law attaches great importance to two things when defence of provocation is taken under Exception 1 to

section 300 of the IPC -- first is whether there was an intervening period for the passion to cool and for the accused to regain dominance and control over his mind, and secondly, the mode of resentment should bear some relationship to the sort of provocation that has been given.

"Last provocation has to be considered in light of the previous provocative acts or words, serious enough to cause the accused to lose his self-control. The cumulative or sustained provocation test would be satisfied when the accused's retaliation was immediately preceded and precipitated by some sort of provocative conduct, which would satisfy the requirement of sudden or immediate

provocation," the bench said.

The apex court said the prosecution must establish all ingredients of the offence with which the accused is charged, but this burden should not be mixed with the burden on the accused of proving that the case falls within an exception.

The bench said to discharge this burden, the accused may rely upon the case of the prosecution and the evidence adduced by it in the court.

"It is in this context we would refer to the case of the prosecution, which is that the deceased was addicted to alcohol and used to constantly torment, abuse and threaten the appellant. On the night of the occurrence, the deceased had consumed alcohol

and had told the appellant to leave the house and, if not, he would kill the appellant," it said.

The bench said there was a temporary loss of self-control as the appellant had tried to kill himself by holding live electrical wires.

"Therefore, we hold that the acts of provocation on the basis of which the appellant caused the death of his brother, Dashrath Nirmalkar, were both sudden and grave and that there was loss of self-control," it said.

"Applying the provocation exception, we would convert the conviction of the appellant from section 302 to Part I of section 304 of the IPC," the bench said, while partly allowing the appeal.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K's Jobless Rate

where J&K was standing at an unemployment rate of 25% had brought into forth that roughly over 1.1 million people were jobless in J&K.

In April, the jobless rate had come down to 15.6 percent and then rose to 18.3 percent in May. In July, as per CMIE, the Unemployment rate stood at 17.2 percent.

However, the latest data had come at a time when the passionate J&K administration had gone ahead to say that the employment in the erstwhile state will gradually increase. "Private investments in J&K would increase to Rs 70,000 crore to give fillip to employment and a peaceful environment in the region," J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had said.

The central government last week said that available Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data indicates that the unemployment rate is on a declining trend in the country. In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Minister of State for Labour and Employment Rameswar Teli said all-India unemployment on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above in 2019-20 and 5.8 percent in 2018.

According to the CMIE's "30 day moving average" survey, among states, Haryana has the highest unemployment rate of 26.9 percent, followed by Jammu and Kashmir (20.2 percent), Rajasthan (19.1 percent) and Bihar (18.8 percent). The lowest jobless rates in July were recorded in Chhattisgarh (0.8 percent), Odisha (0.9 percent) and Meghalaya (1.5 percent), showed CMIE data.

Another credible labor survey report which substantiates the chronic unemployment scenario in the region was published by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for April-June 2021 quarter. As per that survey, J&K registered a staggering unemployment ratio of 46.3 percent.

Meanwhile, as per CMIE, India's national average was recorded at 6.9 percent where urban rate stood at 8.3 percent and rural rate was recorded at 6.3 percent.

Although, J&K government has started the

recruitment process for more than 40 thousand posts in 2020-21, most of them are still in the process.

I-Day Security

'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme and suggested that the Bands of the army, BSF, CRPF and J&K Police should perform every day at important locations within Jammu city and distribute national flags to public who gather for the band performance," it said.

Govt Warns

these registrations," the circular states. The registration of documents in the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir was done by judicial officers in accordance with provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Registration Act-1977.

Post August 5, 2019 constitutional changes, the J&K Government created a separate department of Registration under the executive-(KNO)

RC Employees

however, have not fulfilled this condition despite availing the benefit of reservation under these categories," reads a government order.

However, in the interest of administration and efficient manpower management along with attending needs of the RBA/ALC areas of the Jammu and Kashmir, the government ordered that such persons who have been beneficiaries of reservation under RBA/ALC to furnish an undertaking that they have served in such areas for the statutorily mandated minimum period of seven (07) years.

"The undertaking shall be duly authenticated by their services books by the concerned DDOs and furnished to the respective HoDs," the government said, adding, "Further, such employees who have not fulfilled this condition and are serving outside RBA/ALC areas shall be identified by the respective HoDs and their details shared with the concerned Administrative Departments to ensure that their services are utilized for the mandatory period in these areas as per statutory regulations under J&K Reservation Act 2004".

The government directed respective

departments to file a Compliance report in this regard to the General Administration Department within a month's time positively.

Covid Cases

reported the highest 239 new cases of virus, Baramulla 125, Budgam 42, Pulwama 14 cases, Kupwara 38 cases, Anantnag 14, Bandipora 15, Ganderbal 5, Kulgam 20 while as Shopian reported three fresh cases.

Similarly in Jammu division, they said, Jammu reported a maximum of 125 new cases of virus, Udhampur 14, Rajouri 16, Doda 24, Kathua 7, Kishtwar 3, Poonch 2, Ramban 25 and Reasi and Samba reported 3 cases each.

Also, the officials said that one more person succumbed to the deadly infection in Jammu division during the last 24 hours. So far, 4773 people have died in the pandemic in J&K—2344 in Jammu division and 2429 in the Valley.

"Moreover, 445 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 184 from Jammu division and 261 from Kashmir division," they added.

Government's Main

governance, and with the help of PRIs, the government is formulating development plans as per the needs of the people and ensuring government programmes and initiatives are delivered at their doorsteps.

He further said that Sinha asserted that the grassroots democracy in J&K has been empowered by the implementation of 73rd and 74th amendment of the constitution, and transfer of Funds, Functions, and Functionaries to the PRIs and Urban Local Bodies.

"PRI representatives are key stakeholders in holistic and equitable development. They are playing a major role in reaching out to the last person in queue with all the benefits of the government schemes and it clearly shows in our path breaking achievements in the last two years," the LG said.

"The District Capex Budget has been substantially increased in the last two years. We have minimised human interface in availing various government services for citizens," he

added.

The LG, as per the spokesperson also cited comparison of various parameters in health, education, social welfare, agriculture, rural development, and power sectors, which have seen visible improvement in the last three years.

"Earlier, the Neonatal Mortality Rate was 23.1 in J&K UT. It has come down to single digit, 9.8. Infant Mortality Rate was 32.4 in 2015-16, today it has come down to half i.e. 16.3. The under-5 mortality rate was 37.6 in 2015-16, which has come down by half to 18.5 today. And, in all these parameters J&K today leads the national average. The national average of Teacher-Pupil ratio in primary education is 32:1 while in J&K it is 14:1. The national average of water coverage is 50.30% while in J&K UT it is 57.86. The national average of forest and tree cover is 24.62% while in J&K it is 54%. The national average of per capita energy consumption is 1208 unit while in J&K it is 1384 units," the LG said.

"A transparent, responsible and accountable governance system has been established in Jammu Kashmir. We are completing five times more projects now and average cost has also come down. This is huge achievement as far as transparent system is concerned," he added.

Earlier, the members of the delegation including Abdul Hamid, Chairperson, Sarpanch Coordination committee and Sarfaraz Mattu put forth the various issues and demands pertaining to better functioning of three-tier Panchayati Raj System in J&K.

The LG, according to the spokesperson also received memorandums from the PRI representatives and assured them of appropriate redressal of the issues and demands of their respective areas on merit.

He further said that the delegation comprising of BDC chairpersons, Sarpanchs and Panchs led by Sheikh Muzaffar, President, J&K Nationalist People's Front expressed gratitude to the LG for the efficient grievance redressal mechanism established in J&K through JK-IGRAMS and LG's Mulaqaat, and the effective measures taken to uproot corruption from J&K.

Advices Devotees

by the MeT department," Sinha said, while talking to reporters after taking part in Chhari Mubarak puja, at Mahadev Gir Dashnami Akhada here.

According to an official spokesperson, the Chhari-Pujan was performed on the auspicious occasion of Shraavan Shukal Panchami, and is one of the important rituals prior to the culmination of the annual pilgrimage of Amarnathji Shrine.

While performing the Chhari Mubarak Pujan, he said, the LG prayed for sustained peace, progress and prosperity in J&K and well-being of people.

BSF Fires

was launched in the area along with police and other agencies, the officer said, adding nothing has been recovered so far.

Earlier, police had busted seven Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) modules, arrested seven of its members and recovered a huge cache of arms, ammunition, and explosive material reportedly dropped by 35 drone sorties from Pakistan.

Reportedly, LeT had set up three militant modules in Jammu and Rajouri districts to collect and transport weapons dropped by drones in border areas of Jammu, Samba, Kathua and Rajouri districts to militants in Kashmir. (PTI)

Landslide Blocks

Poshana area, thereby bringing the traffic to halt, they said. The clearance of the road is in process, they said.

Commuters are requested to know the status of Mughal Road from traffic units in Jammu and Srinagar before planning any journey, they said.

Several hundred vehicles are stranded on this road due to the blockade. (PTI)

Army Commander

the operational preparedness of troops along LoC, they said. Lt Gen Singh also appreciated the high standards of professionalism and operational preparedness while felicitating the valiant soldiers. (PTI)

570 Pilgrims Leave From Jammu For Amarnath Cave Shrine

Press Trust of India

Jammu: A batch of 570 pilgrims on Tuesday left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here to pay obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

The 43-day Yatra began on June 30 from the twin routes — the traditional 48-km from Nunwan in Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag, and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir.

The 33rd batch of pilgrims left in a convoy of 21 vehicles amid heavy security of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), they said.

According to officials, 346

pilgrims heading for Baltal were the first to leave the Jammu base camp in 10 vehicles followed by the second convoy of 11 vehicles carrying 224 pilgrims for Pahalgam.

The number of pilgrims visiting the cave shrine is drastically falling as the yatra is inching towards its conclusion as well as poor weather conditions, officials said.

A total of 1,43,693 pilgrims have left from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Valley since June 29. The yatra is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

A total of 36 people, mostly pilgrims, have died during till now, excluding 15 pilgrims, who died in the flashfloods at Amarnath cave shrine on July 1.

Govt Forms Panel For Selecting POs Of Food Safety Appellate Tribunals Established In 2016

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government on Tuesday constituted a panel for selection of Presiding Officer of the two Food Safety Appellate Tribunals established by the Department of Health and Medical Education on 10 February 2016.

The three-member panel is headed by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, "J&K High Court", Principal Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department and Secretary to the Government, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, according to the government

order.

"In terms of the provisions of the Food Safety and standards Act, 2006 and Rule 3.2 of Food Safety & Standard Rules, 2011, Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of the selection panel for the purpose of selection of Presiding Officer of the two Food Safety Appellate Tribunals established by the Department of Health and Medical Education, vide SRO- No.42 of 2016 dated 10.02.2016," reads an order by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi (IAS), Principal Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department.

Public Private Partnership Cell To Be Set Up In Planning Dept: Mehta

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today approved the establishment of a Public Private Partnership-cum-Project Appraisal (PPCPA) cell within the Planning, Monitoring and Development Department in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Administrative Secretary, Planning, Monitoring and Development Department, and Administrative Secretary, Law Department participated in the meeting.

The Chief Secretary also approved the engagement of consultants and domain experts, besides approving the financial grant of Rs. 90 lakhs for the functioning of the new PPCPA cell.

Dr. Mehta advised the Planning Department to seek guidance and support of the NITI Aayog for streamlining the functioning of the PPCPA cell and making it more efficient, systematic and result-oriented.

It was informed that the new cell will comprise experts from the fields of urban

development, procurement, support personnel, planning, housing, transport, industry, tourism, social sector, finance, and environment, among others.

The new cell will assist government departments in framing projects to be taken up on Public Private Partnership mode; get viability gap funding under various PPP schemes of the Government of India; carry out cost-benefit analysis; and monitor internal rate of return/return of investment of the project.

The PPCA cell will further provide assistance in the preparation of pre-feasibility reports and development of detailed project reports; recommend appropriate regulatory policy framework for creation, administration and monitoring of project development; coordinate with relevant stakeholders/departments/agencies; serve as repository of all information including best practices, guidelines, schemes, PPP projects; and undertake demand assessment and feasibility studies in Jammu and Kashmir.

After Days Of Rain, 'Hot & Humid' Weather In J&K

MeT Says Farmers Can Spray Orchards, Schools Can Plan Picnics, Outdoor Activities This Week



Agencies

Srinagar: After days of rain, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed hot and humid day with Srinagar witnessing five degree Celsius increase in maximum temperature on Tuesday.

A meteorological department official said while isolated rain was expected, the weather would be largely dry for few days.

He said farmers can spray orchards while schools can plan picnics or any outdoor activities this week. He said Srinagar recorded maximum of 28.9°C against 23.3°C yesterday and Jammu 34.2°C respectively.

Meanwhile, in last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, parts of Jammu and Kashmir received rainfall with Kukernag receiving

8.2mm followed by Pahalgam (6.1mm), Qazigund (2.8mm), Gulmarg (2.6mm), Kupwara (1.1mm), Srinagar (0.6mm), Bahihal and Botote (0.4mm) and Bhandarwah (0.2mm).

The minimum temperatures settled below normal for the season across the J&K barring Katra, the MeT official said.

Srinagar, he said, recorded a low of 17.5°C against 17.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.4°C below normal during this time of the year for the summer capital, the official said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 16.2°C same as on the previous night. The temperature was 1.0°C below normal there, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 9.6°C against 13.2°C on the previous night and it was 4.0°C below normal for the

south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 15.6°C against 15.2°C last night and it was 1.1°C below normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 8.5°C against 8.6°C on previous night and it was 3.7°C 'below' normal for the north Kashmir place.

Kupwara town saw a low of 14.6°C against 15.9°C on previous night and it was 2.8°C below normal for the place during this time of the season, the official told Global News Service.

Jammu recorded a low of 24.4°C against 24.5°C on the previous night. It was 0.3°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 14.4°C, Batote 15.8°C, Katra 22.2°C and Bhandarwah 14.6°C, the official said. (GNS)

Choudhary Reviews Progress On Tribal Research Projects

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department (TAD), Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, who is also holding the charge of Director, Tribal Research Institute, reviewed the progress on various research projects initiated for welfare and development planning for tribal areas in different sectors, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

He said that the research projects are aimed at policy interventions and development planning for tribal welfare.

Special Secretary, Mohammad Harun Malik, Jt Director Planning, Shama un Ahmed, Dr Abdul Khabir, Dy Director TRI and other officers participated in the meeting. Dr Khabir presented a detailed overview of tribal research projects which was followed by sector specific presentations by the project heads.

Secretary, Dr Shahid emphasised on quality research and comprehensive reports bringing out gaps in tribal development and welfare which will form basis for formulation of Tribal Sub-Plan and allocation of funds for inclusive development. He asked to prioritise healthcare, Education, livelihood, Skilling, Transhumant support system, culture and literature for perspective planning.

Dr Shafiq Gul and Syed Haamid Mehmood made a detailed presentation about plan for tribal artisans, their Skilling, input support and

marketing. Dr Iram Ali and Subiaya Bashir presented about mapping of tribal villages, Dhoks- highland pastures, survey of springs, GIS maps to plan tribal development and other related initiatives.

Dr Annie Jamwal and Hashmat Habib shared the progress on research related to health infrastructure, health-care delivery and service availability in tribal areas and proposed plans for inclusion in Tribal Health Plan.

Dr Simran Nag presented about impact of COVID-19 pandemic on education of tribal students and strategies for ensuring inclusive education. Archana Sharma and Abrar Qadir Mir shared their work related to impact of digitalisation on the society and culture of tribal communities in J&K, and proposal suggestions of bridging the digital divide in tribal areas.

Other research and development projects aimed at comprehensive planning for inclusive development of tribal population through Centrally Sponsored Schemes and UT budget included the presentations by Dr Ayaz Mehmood Dar for Geospatial technology based approach for area development planning, Dr Sajjad Ahmed Dar for food security, Participatory planning involving Self-Help Groups and linkages for forest dwelling communities by Sameer Khazir and Ashutosh Sharma, Role of tribal freedom fighters in freedom struggle by Mumtaz Ahmed Noomani and Munir Ahmed Malik.

Lassipora Unit-Holders Decry Lack of Basic Facilities

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The unit-holders at J&K's largest Industrial growth centre at Lassipora in Pulwama district are fuming over government's alleged ignorance in delaying the availability of basic facilities at the Industrial area, despite the unit operators petitioning the administration towards it.

The industrial unit holders have alleged that the Small Industries Development Corporation (SIDCO)'s Industrial area at Lassipora is functioning without any basic health care facilities available at the estate.

Pertinently, SIDCO Industrial growth centre, Lassipora is an industrial hub that has provided both space and opportunity to the local small scale entrepreneurs to establish themselves and promises even more for the future in Kashmir.

"Despite the administration allotting 2 kanals of land for setting up an ESIC dispensary at our industrial area, nothing has been done so far," says Haji Mohammad Muzaffer Ahanger, President Industrial Association Lassipora.

"Across India, state governments have already established a roadmap to set up dispensaries in each and every industrial estate but we're yet to see that light. This dispensary can support workers of more than 5000 labour's working in 500 industrial units at Lassipora."

Ahanger also said that the normal functioning of industries at Lassipora has taken a massive

hit due to frequent and un-scheduled power cuts. "All these units are helping in boosting Kashmir's economy. It is bizarre that power outages are happening in one of the biggest industrial estates in J&K. Despite complaints, the power department is un-moved," says Ahanger, adding that the unit holders are suffering as the unscheduled power cut has hampered the production output by unnecessary raw material wastage.

He further said that two major power lines are passing through some industrial units creating apprehensions of an unwanted event. "Two supply lines are passing through some units. These lines can prove to be catastrophic for the workers. Its department's sheer negligence in failing to streamline them through main roads," Ahanger alleged.

Besides this, Ahanger noted, the pitiable condition of internal roads at our Industrial estate has robbed the sheen of daily work. "About 70 percent of internal roads need proper macadamisation as well as repairing. However, the rest has been left incomplete by the department of SIDCO," the President Industrial Association Lassipora said.

"All these issues are to be taken very seriously by the Government as Lassipora Industrial estate is a lifeline of Kashmir's economy and any damage to units at Lassipora means damage to Kashmir's economy," he said.

GOI CANCELS 'ASIKNI' FESTIVAL

Wazwan Invite With Shankaracharya Pic Sparks Outrage

Jammu: Following a massive outrage over using Adi Shankaracharya's picture and invitation to relish Wazwan platter, the Union Ministry of Culture, has cancelled forthcoming 'Asikni' festival.

As per reports, Union Minister of Culture Meenakshi Lekhi had planned a grand Asikni festival from August 3 to August 5 at Sovereign, Le Meridien in the national capital.

Meenakshi Lekhi personally invites everyone to "Asikni" with a warm message.

"Ministry of Culture invites you to 'Asikni', the grand celebration of the ancient heritage and syncretic culture of Jammu and Kashmir," the invitation card shared by the minister reads.

The other leaf of the card carries a picture of Adi Shankaracharya, the Indian Vedic scholar and Hindu spiritual teacher and an invitation to relish Wazwan, a multi-course meal in Kashmiri cuisine that mostly consists of meat-based dishes.

Adi Shankaracharya and Wazwan on the same platform sparked a massive row on social

media, with people alleging that it has hurt their religious sentiments.

The social media users across the country and abroad expressed their anguish and sought course correction of the poster.

People demanded that posters should portray Jammu and Kashmir's true history and culture and just promote Kashmir.

In Jammu, Rashtriya Bajrang Dal also staged a massive protest and burnt effigy of BJP leader and Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi. Moreover, the social media users continued with a virtual crusade and compelled the ministry to re-think the event.

Tagging union minister Meenakshi Lekhi, a twitter user Sunanda Vashisht wrote, "Ma'am @MLekhiOffice, @MinOfCultureGoI: It is factually wrong to club Adi Shankaracharya with Wazwan. Adi Shankara had nothing to do with Wazwan. Wazwan is amongst the newer cuisines. Kashmir is many centuries older than Wazwan. Let's celebrate Adi Shankara's Kashmir."

Former deputy chief minister and BJP leader Kavinder Gupta also questioned the intention

behind holding such a festival, which allegedly hurt Hindu sentiments.

"Asikani Devi is the ancient name of the river Chenab (Jammu Province). Wazwan is a Kashmiri dish made from beef, lamb and chicken. Shankaracharya: Advaita is the pinnacle of Vedanta (Sanatan). What kind of amalgamation is this? There is no conspiracy to hurt Hindu sentiments," Kavinder tweets.

Founder of UK based Voice of Dogra organization and activist Manu Khajuria writes, "Falsehoods & forced homogenisations of JK's Sanatani cultures into one Kashmiri identity reflects the bad policy on JK. Asikni, Rig Vedic name for Chenab, is the civilisational cradle of #Jammu region. Kashmiri Wazwan & Asikni is jarring & a dangerous narrative. The separatists in JK have nurtured the "Greater Kashmir" plan wherein they eat away into the Jammu region, by cultural misappropriation & communalism. This seems to be an extension of the same. Also Adi Shankracharya and a meat based meal like Wazwaan is inconceivable."

'AAPKI ZAMEEN AAPKI NIGRANI'

A Flagship Initiative For Bringing Transparency, Ease In Obtaining Land Records: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani initiative is one of the flagship programme launched by the government of J&K to bring ease, transparency and convenience for citizens about land records, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

Under this initiative, he said, public users can search and view copies of scanned data online on CIS Portal- <http://landrecords.jk.gov.in/>. The initiative facilitates easy online access to the Land Records System, thereby reducing manipulation of the Land Records and improving the efficiency of Revenue offices substantially.

"This initiative is part of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), and the Union Territory of Jammu

Kashmir has achieved an important milestone to provide the most transparent and accountable services to the common people under this initiative," he added.

As per the official records, the spokesperson said, 7,70 cr pages of revenue records and 55216 Musavis (maps) were scanned till date. 6.5 lakh citizens have viewed their land records till date and the feedback of citizens has resulted in purification, updation of land records on constant basis.

He said that earlier there was no mechanism to view or monitor the status of the land records by the citizens who were dependent on the officials to check their land records.

Ali Asghar Raza of Thanmandi calls 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani' a landmark initiative



which saved common people from burden of visiting tehsil offices and Patwari offices for their own land records.

"We can check our land documents anytime at our own will. We can also apply for loan easily for starting our business without visiting the Patwari office", he said.

Echoing his views, Gulam Muhammad Dar of Thanmandi said that we are grateful of Government for providing land records to people at the comfort of their homes.

Similarly, Jehangir Ahmed of Qamarwari said that this initiative relieved them of visiting Patwari offices where there was always delay in issuance of land records.

Khurshid Ahmed Reshi of HMT area of Srinagar says that Government has done great job by removing illegal

encroachments from public land and utilising the freed land for public welfare and institutions.

Pertinently, the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) was formally launched in UT in April-2016 for improving online accessibility to the Land Records System and stopping manipulation of the Land Records thereby making quality of services in Sub Registrar offices/ Tehsils more efficient and transparent.

The programme aims to modernize management of land records, enhance transparency in the land records maintenance system, thus reducing scope of land/property disputes, and facilitate conclusive titles to immovable properties in the country.

The major components of the programme include

computerization and digitization of land records, Survey/resurvey and updation of all survey and settlement records, integration of property registration with land records and cadastral maps for enhancing authenticity and security of data, bringing utmost transparency in the system, Capacity building, and development of Land Records Information System.

After 5th, August 2019, Jammu & Kashmir has embarked on an unprecedented developmental trajectory wherein transformational initiatives in all sectors have been launched. Transparency in maintenance and upkeep of Land records was an area which required an urgent intervention and "Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani" (AZAN) is a landmark intervention in that direction.



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