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Truce Brings Tourists To Villages Close To Line Of Control

Augib Javeed

Srinagar: Over a year after India and Pakistan agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and other sectors in Jammu and Kashmir, tourism in the border areas is picking-up gradually with more and more tourist arrivals.

On February 25, 2021 for the first time, the decision on ceasefire was taken at a meeting between the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan.



India and Pakistan signed a ceasefire agreement in 2003, but it has hardly been followed

in letter and spirit over the past several years with more violations than observance of the pact.

LATELY, HOME-STAYS AND TENTED accommodations are becoming popular in these areas with LG Manoj Sinha led administration making efforts to promote tent stays at scenic locations that will deliver rapid growth to the tourism industry.

However, this time the pact was honoured by both the countries. The border districts of

Kashmir, especially Bandipora and Kupwara have huge tourism potential, an official from the Tourism department said.

Habibullah Hurray, a Sarpanch from North Kashmir's Machil in Kupwara told Kashmir Observer that the frontier area has witnessed a number of visitors from the last few years and locals are happy with it.

"Since the ceasefire a number of tourists have come here. The tourists stayed with the locals here and we arrange everything for them," Hurray told Kashmir Observer.

He said the Army has been very helpful in promoting tourism -which, according to Hurray, is a step to boost the economy.

The ceasefire violation remained an all time high in the year 2020. According to reports, a total of 10,752 cases of ceasefire violations took place along India's border with Pakistan in the last three years, in which 72 security personnel and 70 civilians were killed. However, everything changed after both the countries announced a truce. The move was **More on P10**

No NC, PDP Leader Under House Arrest: Police

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday dismissed a claim made by the National Conference that its president Farooq Abdullah was placed under house arrested hours after chairing a meeting at the party headquarters here.

"There is fake news going that some NC and PDP leaders have been placed under house arrest in Gupkar Road. This news is completely baseless," a police spokesman said.

He was reacting to claims of the National Conference, including its vice president Omar Abdullah, that Farooq Abdullah, the Lok Sabha member from Srinagar, had been placed under house arrest.

"It seems they have to place this truck outside the gate out of some compulsion because it's a senseless act (aside from being totally illegal). He went to the office, went for Namaz, went for a condolence visit. The truck arrived after he had nowhere else to go today. Fools!!" Omar Abdullah tweeted.

The NC spokesman had tweeted about the house arrest of the former J and K chief minister.

"Dr Farooq Abdullah has been placed under house arrest after returning from Nawai-Subha where he had earlier presided over a meeting and said 'We will peacefully fight for our RIGHTS that were illegally, unconstitutionally and undemocratically snatched from us on August 5, 2019'," he said.

However, the police spokesman said additional security personnel were deployed at certain places on Gupkar Road in view of "certain inputs of a terror attack".

"Ms Mehbooba Mufti visited her party headquarters around noon time and Dr Farooq Abdullah visited Hazratbal shrine and his friend in **More on P10**

Sinha Hails Abrogation Of J&K Special Status

J&K Youth Pick Smartphones Over Stones Now: LG

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has taken a giant leap in every sector since the abrogation of its special status three years ago and the youth now want to work with a smart phone rather than indulge in stone pelting, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday.

"Huge changes have taken place in J-K in the last three years. A common man feels that there has been a huge change in his life. J-K has taken a giant leap in every sector, be it health parameters, PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana), saturation of social schemes, e-governance, or start-ups," Sinha told reporters here.

There was no shutdown in Jammu and Kashmir on the third anniversary of the bifurcation of Jammu

and Kashmir into Union territories and abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution which accorded special status to the erstwhile state.

"Today shops are open. The youth today want to work with a smart phone rather than indulge in stone pelting. He wants to move ahead towards start-up. This is a huge change," Sinha said. The lieutenant governor said the biggest change is that a new confidence has set in among the people across the country because of the decisions taken by the Centre.

"(It is) because of that (confidence) 1.10 crore tourists visited J-K in the last seven months," he added.

Sinha said there is peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir and the union territory is moving ahead on the path of development to become a naya J-K because of the prime minister".



J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha kicks off football after inaugurating the revamped Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

88% Drop In Law & Order Incidents Post Art-370: Police

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Law and order incidents in Kashmir have dropped by over 88 per cent in three years since the revocation of the erstwhile state's special status compared to the preceding three years, police said on Friday.

From August 5, 2016, to August 4, 2019, the Valley witnessed 3,686 law and order incidents, as per the data shared by the police.

However, for the three years from August 5, 2019 -- when the Centre revoked Jammu and



Kashmir's special status and bifurcated it into two Union territories -- the Valley recorded

only 438 such incidents, which is a drop of over 88 per cent, the police said. **More on P10**

Civilian Killed, Soldier Injured In Kulgam Encounter

A civilian was killed and a soldier injured on Friday during an encounter between government forces and militants in the Redwani area of Kulgam district of South Kashmir on Friday, police said. Government forces launched a cordon and search operation in the Redwani area of Kulgam district following information about the presence of militants in the area, a police official said. The official said the search operation turned into an encounter after the militants opened firing on the government **More on P10**

JKP Sub-Inspector Recruitment Scam

CBI Searches 30 Locations In J&K, Bengaluru

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI conducted searches at 30 locations on Friday in connection with alleged irregularities in the selection of police sub-inspectors by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), officials said.

The searches were conducted at 28 locations in Jammu and one each in Srinagar and Bengaluru after the registration of an FIR against JKSSB member Narayan Dutt and 32 other accused, including middlemen and candidates, they said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has also named Karnail Singh, a medical officer posted in Jammu, Avinash Gupta, the owner of a coaching centre in Akhnoor,

and a Bengaluru-based company in the FIR, they said.

Last month, the Jammu and Kashmir administration cancelled the police sub-inspector recruitment following allegations of irregularities and recommended a CBI probe into the selection process.

It was alleged that there were irregularities in the written examination conducted on March 27.

"The results were declared on 04.06.2022. There were allegations regarding malpractices in the examination. The Jammu and Kashmir government had constituted an inquiry committee to look into the same. It was alleged that the accused entered into conspiracy amongst officials of JKSSB, Bengaluru-based private company, beneficiary candidates **More on P10**



'J&K Bhrashtachar Mukti Diwas' On August 5 : LG

Reiterating his commitment to eradicate corruption from the Union Territory, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday announced to celebrate August 5, every year as 'J&K Bhrashtachar Mukti Diwas' Sinha made this announcement while launching major initiatives with a vision for a prosperous tribal community here, an official spokesperson said Friday. On the sidelines of the **More on P10**

6 TODAY SHOPS ARE OPEN. THE YOUTH TODAY WANT TO WORK with a smart phone rather than indulge in stone pelting. He wants to move ahead towards start-up. This is a huge change."

S H O R T T A K E S

BSF Constable Shoots Self Dead

A Border Security Force (BSF) constable allegedly shot himself dead at a camp in Anantnag district of South Kashmir on Friday, officials said. N Hazarika, 43, shot himself fatally from his service rifle at his deployment post in a school in the said district around 11:30 am, they said. The deceased was



posted to the F company of the 108th battalion. The constable joined the BSF in 2004 and hailed from Jorhat district in Assam. (PTI)

Shooting Stones Block Banihal Highway

The strategic 270-kilometres Jammu-Srinagar national highway was closed due to shooting stones along the thoroughfare, mainly in Ramban district, officials said on Friday. A few hundred vehicles, including those carrying a batch of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims, are stranded on the highway, they said. Heavy rains triggered shooting of stones at Mehaar and Cafeteria Morh in Ramban, blocking the highway, the officials said. A convoy of 174 Amarnath Yatra pilgrims has been halted at Chanderkoot **More on P10**

2 Crushed Under Poultry Farm Shed



Two people died when the shed of a poultry farm collapsed due to heavy rains in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Friday, officials said. The incident happened in Keerian Gandyal area of the district, they said, adding three people were buried under the shed. While two of them died, an injured person was shifted to a hospital in Pathankot.

Corona Cases Cross 800-Mark In J&K

Jammu and Kashmir reported 823 fresh covid-19 cases while two persons succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours, officials said on Friday. They said that 190 cases were reported from Jammu division and 633 from Kashmir Valley, taking the overall tally to 468245. Among the cases, 172283 are from Jammu division and 295962 from Kashmir Valley. Providing district wise details of the cases, they said, Jammu reported 118 cases, Udhampur 3, Rajouri 8, Doda 11, Kathua 6, Samba 8, Kishtwar 17, Poonch 7, Ramban 12, Reasi 0, Srinagar 212, **More on P10**

2 Absent Teachers Suspended In Kupwara

The authorities on Friday suspended two teachers after their video regarding absence during duty hours went viral in Karnah area in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. The order in this regard was issued by the zonal education officer (ZEO) on Friday after a video about their late arrival to school went viral on social media. "Undersigned visited UPS Haridal and after inspection it is found that two teachers failed to attend the school well in time and arrived late in the school," it reads. The order reads that pending enquiry into **More on P10**

Retired Officers In CUS: Govt Orders Probe

Government on Friday appointed Dheeraj Gupta (IAS), Principal Secretary to Government, Housing & Urban Development Department, as Inquiry Officer to conduct a time-bound enquiry into the matter of allowing retired officers to continue in Cluster University, Srinagar. The inquiry officer has also been asked to fix responsibility of the officers and officials who exceeded their authority and passed orders without approval of Competent Authority, according to a government order. "The Special Secretary to the Government, **More on P10**



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Health Care Is Responsible For 7% Of Our Carbon Emissions

The Conversation

While we think of carbon emissions coming from manufacturing and agriculture, we don't often think of those arising from health care. In Australia, health care is responsible for 7% of national carbon emissions, while globally, health care is responsible for 4.4% of emissions. If global health care was a country, it would be the world's fifth largest emitter. The warming resulting from health-care's emissions in turn cause harm to human health through heatwaves, wildfires, increased mosquito-borne infectious diseases, and undernutrition due to drought and lower fish stock. In short, treating patients indirectly causes human harm, at odds with the mission of health-care professionals to increase the duration and quality of patients' lives.

What can health care do about its emissions?

Analysis of the UK's National Health Service's (NHS) emissions shows nearly 45% of its carbon emissions come from purchasing equipment and medicines, with only 10% coming from the electricity and gas needed to run hospitals and other health services. We don't currently have detailed data on Australia's health sector emissions, but assuming we are similar to the UK, reducing emissions will require changes in how health-care professionals provide care. There are things health care can start doing today to reduce its emissions, while not harming patients.

Scans

Our latest research has shown one MRI scan has a carbon footprint of 17.5kg CO2 equivalent, which is the same as driving a car 145km, while one CT scan has a footprint of 9.2kg CO2 equivalent, or driving 76km. These are significantly higher than X-rays (0.76kg CO2 equivalent, 6km) and ultrasound (0.53kg CO2 equivalent, 4km). While imaging is important in providing information to doctors in many circumstances, it is often unnecessary. For example, studies have shown 36-40% of imaging for lower back pain, and 34-62% of CT scans for lung blood clots are unnecessary. These scans were assessed as unnecessary because they were given to patients who didn't need them according to evidence-based guidelines or decision rules. Such scans offer little or no benefit to patients, may result in harm, and waste resources. There are also opportunities to use low-carbon scans instead of high-carbon, such as using ultrasound rather than MRI for shoulder scans. Other research we have performed has shown the impact of blood tests is between 49-116g CO2

equivalent per test. While individually small, more than 70 million blood tests are performed annually in Australia. Like imaging, studies have shown 12-44% of blood tests are unnecessary. Some specific tests are ordered unnecessarily at even higher rates. For example, it's estimated over 75% of Vitamin D blood tests in Australia are unnecessary, with this costing Medicare more than \$80 million annually.



While imaging is important in providing information to doctors in many circumstances, it is often unnecessary. For example, studies have shown 36-40% of imaging for lower back pain, and 34-62% of CT scans for lung blood clots are unnecessary. These scans were assessed as unnecessary because they were given to patients who didn't need them according to evidence-based guidelines or decision rules. Such scans offer little or no benefit to patients, may result in harm, and waste resources.

Gases

Around 5% of the UK's healthcare emissions come from anaesthetic gases and metered dose inhalers, commonly called puffers, used for the treatment of asthma. Anaesthetists can use the clinically equivalent anaesthetic gas sevoflurane (144kg CO2 equivalent per kilogram) instead of desflurane (2,540kg CO2 equivalent per kilogram). Nitrous oxide or laughing gas (265kg CO2 equivalent) can be excluded from general anaesthesia without harm, and there are calls for a reduction in its use as acute pain relief for childbirth due to its high levels of emissions. Midwives, however, have cautioned mothers should not be made to feel guilty about their pain relief choices, and suggested hospitals could introduce nitrous destruction systems to allow its ongoing use. Metered dose inhalers contain hy-

drofluorocarbons, which are potent greenhouse gases. A patient using a preventer and a bronchodilator to stop wheezing can be safely moved from using metered dose inhaler delivery to the same drugs, delivered using a dry-powder inhaler in most cases. This shift reduces their annual carbon footprint from 439kg to 17kg CO2 equivalent. Importantly, it can be achieved without changing health outcomes for patients, as can be seen with 90% of inhalers in

Scandinavian countries now being dry-powder, with no change in respiratory outcomes.

Getting health care to net-zero

These are only a few examples of how health care can reduce its emissions while not compromising patient safety or quality of care either by moving from high carbon to low carbon alternatives, or by reducing unnecessary testing or treatments. The Australian Medical Association and Doctors for the Environment have called for Australian health-care to be net-zero by 2040, with an interim emission target of an 80% reduction by 2030. This can be achieved, but will require both ongoing education of current and future health-care professionals about low-carbon care, and targeted commitments by individual health-care organisations, and federal and state health departments.

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Computer Engineering	02	01	-	-	-	01	-
Electrical Engineering	04	01	01	01	01	-	01 ID&MI/MD
Environment Engineering	02	01	01	-	-	-	-
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Abbreviations:

UR - Unreserved	OBC - Other Backward Classes	EWS - Economically Weaker Sections	PwBD - Persons with Benchmark Disability
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Electrical Engineering		Electrical Engineering (EE)
Environment Engineering	1) Master's Degree in Natural Sciences or equivalent [in Chemistry discipline only] with not less than sixty per cent marks in aggregate [fifty per cent for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes].	Environmental Science & Engineering (ES)
Chemistry		Chemistry (CY)
	2) Having valid GATE* score of 2020/2021/2022. The GATE score must be valid as on 26.08.2022 (closing date of application).	

*GATE- Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering

3. **Age Limit:** The candidates must be between 21-30 years of age as on closing date of application. Relaxation in age limit for SC, ST, OBC, Persons with Benchmark Disabilities, Ex-Servicemen and Departmental Candidates of BIS is as per applicable rules.

4. The Detailed Advertisement is available on the BIS' website: www.bis.gov.in. The candidates are required to apply **ONLINE** from **06.08.2022** onwards to **26.08.2022** (last date) through BIS website. No other means/mode of submission of applications will be accepted under any circumstances.

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LG Inaugurates 150-Bedded Ujala Cygnus Kashmir Superspeciality Hospital In Nowgam

Equipped with all advanced medical facilities, the new state-of-the-art hospital will strengthen government's efforts of ensuring quality healthcare services to the people of J&K: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the 150-bedded Ujala Cygnus Kashmir Superspeciality Hospital in Nowgam on Friday.

The Lt Governor said that the new state-of-the-art Hospital, equipped with all the advanced medical facilities, will strengthen the government's efforts of ensuring quality healthcare services to the people of J&K, besides generating employment opportunities for the locals.

To protect the health of citizens is the foremost responsibility of the administration. The UT Government is partnering with renowned healthcare companies, bringing private players on board and facilitating all such efforts to bridge the health gap for extending affordable & accessible healthcare facilities to all segments of society, observed the Lt Governor.

Highlighting the major strides made in the healthcare ecosystem, the Lt Governor said, J&K, once struggling to cater to the healthcare needs of the people, is now emerging as one of the leading states/UTs in various health parameters.

Even after 67 years of Independence, there were only three medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, seven new medical colleges have been established in the UT in just eight



years. J&K has the unique distinction of being the first UT of the country with two AIIMS, the Lt Governor observed.

Hon'ble Prime Minister also launched the Ayushman Bharat-SEHAT Scheme in December 2020, extending health insurance of Rs 5 lakh per family to every citizen without any discrimination. Before 2019, there were only 129 health and wellness centers across Jammu and Kashmir. As many as 1275 new health and wellness centers have been set up in two years, he added. Furthermore, 211 Ambulances are serving the people of the UT round the clock. Dialysis facilities are now available in

all 20 districts of UT. Government Medical College Jammu has also successfully performed a record three kidney transplants this year. Moreover, J&K is getting a much higher average per capita healthcare budget allocation than many states having more than twice the population, the Lt Governor further added.

Within a year, 22 proposals worth Rs 4400 crore have been approved for developing Medicity in Jammu and Kashmir, which will create additional 1000 MBBS seats, and add thousands of beds for patients in health facilities, besides providing large employment opportunities to medical professionals, noted the

Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the improvements registered in various health parameters during the last couple of years.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the neonatal mortality rate has come down to 9.8, which is way less than the national average of 24.9 (Per 1000 live births). The national average of infant mortality rate is 35.2 while in Jammu and Kashmir, it is 16.3. J&K's under-5 mortality rate is 18.5 as compared to national average of 41.9. Sex ratio at birth- National average is 929 whereas in Jammu and Kashmir, it is 976. The UT of J&K is also in a better position in the country with 92.4% Institutional births, 96.5% Fully Immunized Children, besides having Life Expectancy Rate of 74, informed the Lt Governor.

All these achievements are a reflection of the government's resolve towards improving the quality of life and quality of health for all, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor congratulated the entire team of Ujala Cygnus and hoped that the health facility launched today will serve the people with full dedication.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary while speaking on the occasion observed that inauguration of Ujala Cygnus Hospital marks the beginning of medical tourism in J&K. The UT is ahead in the country on various health parameters and would become a hub of medical tourism. All hospitals in J&K will be ranked based on their performance, he added.

'Janam-Faidaye-E-Hyderi' Returns As 'Zuv Miyon Fida-E-Hyderi' In Kashmir

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The iconic elegy that became a smashing hit across religious and cultural barriers four years ago has now got a Kashmiri version—"Zuv Miyon Fida-E-Haideri"—and it is getting popular by the day.

The original number, 'Janam Fida-E-Hyderi, is based on an Urdu song dedicated to Imam Ali (A.S).

The Kashmiri adaptation has been directed by the well-known actor-director from Kashmir, Mir Sarwar.

Shot in the valley's beautiful landscapes, the song has been sung by Mudasir Ali and the video features Ahmer Haider and Mudasir Ali.

Mudasir has composed and sung several Bollywood songs, while Ahmer Haider has also made a mark in acting

and is known for his performances in movies like Lines, Jihad, Bioscope-Wala.

Sarwar said the idea behind the Kashmiri version is the popularity of the original song.

"After seeing the song getting popular in Urdu, I realized that we can compose it in Kashmiri language as well. So, I spoke to Mudasir Ali about it and he agreed to sing it," Sarwar said.

DAK Seeks Monkeypox Testing Facility At GMC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday has sought monkeypox testing facility at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar of Kashmir valley.

"That would help in quicker testing of suspected monkeypox virus samples and hasten detection of cases," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan in a statement said.

Dr Hassan said "we have the recommended biosafety level 3 lab at GMC Srinagar and machine to do the tests. We have the laboratory expertise in molecular detection of the virus."

"We need "diagnostic testing kits" and we will be doing the tests," he said.

"It is imperative to enhance

laboratory preparedness which is crucial to tackle the looming public health threat posed by monkeypox," he added.

The DAK President said according to the guideline of the Union Health Ministry only "suspected cases" and contacts that are symptomatic are to be tested for monkeypox.

A suspected case is a person with unexplained acute skin rash and one or more of the symptoms – swollen lymph nodes, fever, headache, body aches, and profound weakness.

guideline also states that the person must have a history of international travel in the last 21 days.

"However, in the current outbreak there are cases who have no history of travel which gives us to understand that the guidelines need to be revisited," he said.

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Advertisement No. 06 (GE) /2022/HRD

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
07 Muharram
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	4:10
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:30
Magrib	7:32
ISHA	9:03

This Day In History

- 939- Battle at Simancas - Spain beats Moors
- 1726 - Treaty of Alliance between the Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI and the Russian Empire signed at Vienna
- 1824 - Battle at Junan - Simon Bolívar's army defeats the Spanish
- 1825 - Bolivia gains independence from Peru (National Day)
- 1861 - The British annex Lagos, Nigeria
- 1870 - Battle at Spicheren: Prussia beats France
- 1896- France annexes Madagascar
- 1914- WWI: Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia
- 1914 - WWI: Serbia declares war against Germany
- 1915 - The British land more troops at Suvla Bay on the northern shore of Gallipoli in an effort to break the stalemate on the peninsula during WWI
- 1918 - Ferdinand Foch becomes Marshal of France during WWI
- 1918 - World War I: Second Battle of the Marne ends
- 1919 - 1st air flight over a major body of water in Australia (Harry Butler)
- 1940- Estonia is annexed into Soviet empire
- 1945 - Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima by the US B-29 Superfortress "Enola Gay"
- 1960- The UN Security Council lay down rules which would allow UN forces to enter Congo
- 1990 - President Ghulam Ishaq Kahn dismisses Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan
- 1990 - UN Security Council votes 13-0 (2 abstentions Cuba and Yemen) to place economic sanctions against Iraq
- 1995 - Thousands gather in Hiroshima for the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city
- 1996 - NASA announces that life may have existed on Mars after examining meteorite ALH84001, thought to be from Mars
- 1996 - Korean Air Flight 801 crashes in the United States territory of Guam, killing 228 people

From KO Archives

WWIP Wazwaan & A Bridge Too Far

Ghulam Muhammad

Sopore: Even as the long wait for completion of the Hathishah bridge here is over, its formal opening awaits a ministerial indulgence. For a good two months, no minister or VIP has been available to cut the ribbon to enable the people benefit from its erection. The inordinate delay &am generated resentment among the local people who have been inconvenienced due to its absence over the fears.

According to reports, the authorities had slated the formal inauguration of the bridge at least thrice so far. On every such occasion, the engineers had to arrange the customary feast, known as wazwan, for the august guests to partake. Obviously forces alleged, the charges on this account might have to be borne out of the funds provided for the main project.

Reports said the border Security force (BSF) personnel manning the security posts on filler side of the bridge were not allowing any vehicle to pass over the bridge on the plea that no minister had so far inaugurated it formally. However, they allowed some pedestrians selectively prohibiting the general public to walk over the bridge.

It may be recalled the speaker of the legislative assembly, Abdul Ahad Vakil, was the one to crack an occasional whip to get the work on the bridge, which had been going on at a snails pace over the years, speeded up. He held several meetings with engineers and even promised its completion long ago. Now that the work is complete, no minister is available to Commission Bridge.

(Kashmir Observer, August 06, 2000)

ADGP JKP, IG CRPF Review Security On Ground In Srinagar

Agenceis

Srinagar: Additional Director General of Police Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar and IG CRPF Charu Sinha visited various areas of Srinagar and reviewed security arrangements deployed on the ground on Friday, officials said.

They said that duo along with other officers visited areas of downtown, Bemina, Hyderpora and Lal Chowk.

They reviewed security arrangements deployed on the ground and interacted with officers and personnel deployed on the ground, the official said.

Talking to reporters, he said that hybrid militants were "no more challenge" to police. "We identify them and arrest or neutralize them," he said.

Asked about the attack on Gadoora Pulwama in which a non-local labourer was killed and two others injured in a grenade blast last evening,

the ADGP Kumar said that two militants were behind it.

"Two LeT (militants) came on a bike. We have identified them and very soon they will be either arrested on neutralized."

He also said that Hurriyat calls have stopped due to which all shops, markets used to be closed and children used to suffer as schools and college used to be closed down.

"After killing of a militant, thousands of people used to attend funerals and it used to glorify militants that also has stopped," he said, adding, "Stone pelting used to happen at encounter sites which resulted in collateral damage and that has also stopped."

He said a "good atmosphere has been created. "Public should understand the motive of militants and Pakistan. Public should cooperate with security forces so that peace is maintained," he said.(GNS)

AIGRK Inspects Sub-Registrar Offices in Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Inspector General Registration, Kashmir (AIGRK), Sajad Hussain Ganie today inspected various Sub-Registrar Offices in district Srinagar to personally take stock of the registration process in these offices.

The inspection was conducted on the instructions of Commissioner Secretary, Revenue, V K Bidhuri in the backdrop of reports received by the Government that some Sub Registrars are not registering the documents uploaded by the citizens online on the appointed date and time. Ganie directed the Sub Registrars to ensure registration of documents mandatorily on the appointed date and time to avoid any inconvenience and hardships to the citizens.

He asked the Sub-Registrars that if any document is not fit for registration, it should be reverted or refused as per the merits of case, strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Registration Act, 1908 and other relevant laws governing the subject.

Ganie was informed that the Sub Registrars are strictly following the instructions issued by the Government vide Circular No: 10-JK (REV) of 2022 dated: 29-07-2022.

AIGRK also interacted with advocates and citizens at the Sub-Registrar offices, who had come for registration of documents. They expressed satisfaction over the process of registration.

AIGRK apprised them that the Department of Registration is in the process of further streamlining the registration process through a series of technological interventions to bring in more efficiency and transparency in the document registration.

Given the fact that the J&K Government is laying special

thrust on capacity building for digital delivery of services, the Department of Registration is also progressing towards employing a robust digital framework to make its online services more citizen-friendly. The Department is also in the process of introducing the Online Payment Gateway as a part of digital transformation and technological improvisation.

Use of latest technology and sustained up-scaling of digital services in the Registration Department, has not only made the registration process citizen-centric and hassle-free, but has, at the same time, also resulted in a phenomenal jump in registrations and revenue collection.

The data regarding steady growth in registrations and subsequent jump in revenue collection for the past three years across J&K indicates that the digital up-gradation of services is showing the desired results on the ground.

According to the data available with the Department, against a total of 21193 registrations done during the financial year 2019-20, the number of registrations jumped to 61498 during the year 2020-21 and further to 84140 during 2021-22. He said during the first four months of the current fiscal, 28331 registrations have already been recorded in J&K.

He said with the increase in registrations there has been a steady swelling of revenue collection as well. "Against the total revenue collection of Rs 88.28 Crores during 2019-20, the revenue collection jumped to Rs 327.78 Crores during 2020-21 and swelled further to Rs 499.11 Crores during 2021-22," he said and added that during the first four months of the current fiscal, the revenue collection has already touched around 184 Crores.

LG Flags Off "The Great India Run" From Lal Chowk

Marathoners Will Cover A Distance Of More Than 800 Kms From Srinagar To New Delhi With The Message Of Peace & National Integration



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today flagged off "The Great India Run" from the iconic Lal Chowk Srinagar.

The marathoners will cover a distance of more than 800 kms from Srinagar to New Delhi with the message of peace and national integration. The run is being dedicated to the 'HarGharTiranga' campaign to mark 'AzadiKaAmritMahotsav'. The venue was decorated with 75 Indian tricolours to mark 75

years of Independence.

The occasion also witnessed the children celebrating 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign as a part of the marathon.

The relay-run will go across 4 states covering the routes-Banihal, Patnitop, Mansar Lake, Dinanagar, Hoshiarpur, Rupnagar, Ambala Cantt before culminating at India Gate on the occasion of Independence Day.

The first leg of the run is being led by Ultra-marathon runner, Arun Bhardwaj.

Some of India's most iconic

sports legends including PT Usha, 'Queen' of Track & Field; Anju Bobby George, World Championship Medalist; Commonwealth Champions, former Indian Cricketers, footballers among others will join in the various legs of the run.

Sh Kartikeya Sharma, Member Parliament Rajya Sabha; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh Dilbag Singh, DGP J&K; Sh Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir, besides senior officials and people from all walks of life were present on the occasion.

LG Launches Major Initiatives With A Vision For Prosperous Tribal Community

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today launched major initiatives with a vision for a prosperous tribal community.

On the sidelines of the event, the Lt Governor announced the government's decision of extending various provisions under the Public Services Guarantee Act completely through online mode.

Online Public Services are now linked with timelines laid down under Public Services Guarantee Act. The defaulting officers will be served notices for failure in automated online mode, and linked with penal provisions, said the Lt Governor.

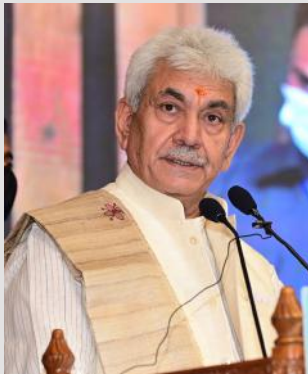
5th August will be celebrated as 'J&K Bhrashtachar Mukti Diwas', he added.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor inaugurated eight tribal hostels built at a cost of Rs 26 crore and laid the foundation stones for Rs 100 cr worth 25 tribal hostels.

The occasion witnessed the launch of a series of initiatives by the Lt Governor including Coaching programme for NEET/JEE and competitive examinations under TOP 50, Host 50 and Stars 100 schemes.

Top-20 meritorious tribal students received laptops for their outstanding performance in the matriculation exam.

Apart from this, the top two



students have also been felicitated with a cash award of Rs one lakh each. Besides, tablet computers & sports kits were distributed among hostel students. Smart Cards were distributed to Migratory Tribal Population to ensure their smooth seasonal migration.

The Lt Governor also flagged off exposure tour of 200 tribal hostel students to various parts of the country under "Bharat ko Jano" programme which will instill the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' among the tribal youth.

Dedicating new initiatives to the people of tribal community, the Lt Governor said that the schemes by Tribal Affairs Department will unleash the productive potential of the youth, holistic development of tribal community free from all discrimination, fear and insecurity.

Expressing gratitude towards Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for securing the

rights of the tribal community in J&K, the Lt Governor reiterated the government's commitment to empower the tribal population of J&K who were neglected for decades.

We are working with a resolve to make the development process holistic, universal and impacting all sections of the society. For the first time in the history of J&K, the tribal population is feeling fully integrated, connected with the mainstream of development. For the first time, their voice is being heard and they have been given their due rights, said the Lt Governor.

The initiatives launched today are part of the continuous endeavours of the Government to promote the welfare of tribal community and ensure that the present & future generations of the community have all the facilities which their previous generations were deprived of, observed the Lt Governor.

Dedicated focus is being given towards facilitating best education to the new generation of the tribal community. We expanded the scope of pre-matric scholarship to 1.5 lakh students and 12,500 children were selected for post-matric scholarship. Rs 50.62 crore worth scholarships are being given for the education of the children of tribal community, which is a big record in itself, the Lt Governor added.

'Make Work Estimates Public, Why Shall People File RTI'

Observer News Service

Budgam- In an interesting development the Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Budgam Nazir Ahmad Khan has directed the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) and Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP) to make all the work estimates public on official district website and social media so that people can know how much funds are available for developmental works in rural areas and what kind of material has to be used for the same. In a circular issued on Thursday, the Chairman DDC Budgam said that section 4 (1) (b) of RTI Act 2005 lays emphasis on voluntary disclosure of information on websites and other platforms.

"It has been brought to my notice that the District website Budgam isn't having updated information on PMAY beneficiaries from all the blocks. In addition to it people complain that the estimates approved for works aren't available in the public domain and when a JE in Nagam block was asked to provide a copy of an estimate for a village road project he denied to provide that categorically. This is completely against the policy of Govt of India and LG administration in Jammu & Kashmir," reads the circular.

Chairman DDC Budgam said that people are forced to use RTI Act 2005 to seek information about estimates and works done in villages by the Rural Development Department and even after filing the same they are not provided information. This practice has to be stopped as Govt officials are public servants and have to be accountable to the citizens and that is mandated under several laws and constitution which includes RTI Act 2005 as well.

We need to ensure Good Governance and that is what LG Manoj Sinha is focussing on. This is the reason that I have advised that all the



estimates be kept available in the public domain on district website Budgam, social media (Facebook pages, twitter handles etc). All the BDOs have been directed to create a dedicated Twitter Handle, Facebook Page so that people bring their grievances into their notice & work estimates are also kept available for public scrutiny.

"An official should be assigned the task of updating these social media pages. The estimates and work orders are also updated on social media sites at block level. Pertinent to mention that Honble LG JK UT had already given an instruction in this regard last year in January & General Administration Department (GAD) had already issued a circular on this subject, but that is not being followed in letter and spirit" the letter further reads

Nazir Ahmad Khan in the circular suggested that a dedicated website be created for the office of Assistant Commissioner Development Budgam and Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Budgam separately. The residents of Budgam have hailed the decision of Chairman DDC Budgam. Rafiq Ahmad Ahangar, RTI activist from Bugzoo Nilnag said that it is a historical order. Mudaser Yattoo a social activist from Nagam praised Nazir Ahmad Khan for issuing the circular on voluntary disclosure of information "Govt officials must abide by the orders and a sign board be erected at all work sites by local BDOs with details of estimates written on it" he said

Class 3 Students In J&K Not Acquiring Required Knowledge, Reveals Official Data



Agenceis

Srinagar: Students of Class-III in Jammu and Kashmir have not achieved the required knowledge and skill to be considered minimally successful regarding curriculum demands, an official document revealed.

The official documents available with local news agency stated that the learners at below basic level are at the early stages of development regarding the curriculum standards.

"They have not achieved the required knowledge and skill to be considered minimally successful regarding curriculum demands. They need guidance at every stage of learning. They need a lot of encouragement and support," it said.

About the basics, the documents reveal that the learners of 3rd standard demonstrate a minimum level of knowledge and skills related to the curricular demands. "They can follow simple instructions and apply simple rules to achieve the expected performance. Learners have ideas but lack coherence."

It also stated that the learners can also solve problems using simple logic, and also express themselves using simple language. They need enough guidance at various stages of learning.

Speaking about the proficient category, it reads that the learners have acquired most of the learning outcomes and skills required by the curriculum.

They can work independently with minimum supervision. "Learners have a systematic methodology to solve problems and they can communicate their ideas clearly." "They can also connect different ideas and create meaning with minimum guidance and supervision. They can analyze situations and interpret information for application in new situations. Efforts are required to bring all learners to attain the proficient level and above," it reads.

The documents also state that in the advanced category learners display exceptional mastery of the learning content as prescribed by the curriculum and beyond.

"The students of Class-III are independent with high analytical, reflective and critical thinking. They can connect and integrate concepts and ideas to create new knowledge and meaning and solve complex problems."

At this level, the learners communicate information with the highest level of creativity and coherence as well as make sound judgments—(KNO)

DGP Visits Srinagar City Areas In View Of Ashoora And I Day Celebrations

Observer News Service

Srinagar : The Director General of Police J&K Shri Dilbag Singh today afternoon visited Hazratbal, Lal Chowk areas of the Srinagar city to take stock of the on ground deployment of Police and CRPF personnel in view of Ashoora and forthcoming Independence Day celebrations.

He visited Police Station Ahmadnagar, Hazratbal Srinagar where he interacted with the Police and CRPF personnel besides reviewed crime records of the Police Station.

The DGP was accompanied by ADG CRPF Shri Daljit Singh Choudhary, IG CRPF Srinagar Ops Sector Ms Charu Sinha and DIG Central Kashmir Range Shri Sujit Kumar.

Interacting with Police and CRPF Jawans & officers, the



DGP said that JK Police along with CRPF and other security forces have achieved good results on different fronts. He stressed for alertness and quick response to any incident and directed for joint deployment/patrolling and area domination for restricting the movement of anti-nation and anti peace elements. The DGP

said that due to well planned and coordinated efforts of Police and security forces there is huge improvement in the overall security scenario of the UT.

Stressing quick response to the problems of the people, the DGP said that the grievances of the people have to be addressed genuinely on priority.

He emphasized working in co-operation with the people to curb the crimes. The DGP also inspected the Police Station Ahmadnagar accommodation.

While interacting with the jawans & officers of Police and CRPF working in the Police Station, the DGP enquired about the available facilities. He impressed upon the personnel to be more dedicated towards professional duties and continue to work for safety, security of the people. He directed for intensified efforts against the war on drugs adding that it is our responsibility to protect our youth who are falling to the drugs.

SP Hazratbal, Shri Mashkoor Ahmad, officers of CRPF 21 Bn. and other jurisdictional officers apprised the DGP regarding the security scenario of their jurisdiction.

Road Connecting 40 Villages In Ganderbal Awaits Completion

Agenceis

Ganderbal: A road which lies between Kangan to Naranag and connects around 40 villages in Ganderbal district is in dilapidated condition for a decade. Locals said that the PMGSY department started widening the road in 2010 with a budget of Rs 10 crore but the work is going at a slow pace causing inconvenience to villagers.

Locals allege that last year a patch was macadamised but within a year the road is back to the same condition with potholes dotting its length.

"It clearly exposes the low cost material used during macadamisation of this road. With no proper drainage system along the road walking becomes more difficult, mostly during this rainy season," locals said.

183 Pilgrims Leave For Amarnath Cave Shrine

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Over 180 pilgrims on Friday left Jammu city for twin base camps of 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

A total of 183 pilgrims left in 36th batch from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here in a convoy of 8 vehicles amid heavy security of CRPF this morning, the officials said.

They said that 62 pilgrims heading for Baltal were the first to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp in three vehicles followed by the second convoy of 5 vehicles carrying 121 pilgrims for Pahalgam.

With this, a total of 1,44,490

pilgrims have left from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Valley since June 29, the day the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

The annual 43-day yatra commenced on June 30 from the twin routes -- traditional 48-km-long Nunwan-Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

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 on-going Amarnath yatra till Friday, excluding 15 pilgrims, who died in the flash floods at Amarnath cave shrine on July 1

Narrow Escape For Driver As Bridge Collapses In Budgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A driver of a vehicle had a narrow escape after a bridge collapsed in Narbal area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday, officials said here.

Quoting an official news agency KNO reported that the decades old bridge on Nallah Sukhnag in the Narbal area col-

lapsed when the vehicle was crossing it.

He said that the driver of the vehicle escaped unhurt.

Meanwhile, locals said that due to collapsing of the bridge, people living in the area will have to suffer.

They appealed to the authorities to come up with some alternative as soon as possible.

Free Medical Camp Organized At Yakhmanpora, Pattan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A free medical camp was organized by J&K Ali Asgar (A.S) Youth Foundation Trust Yakhmanpora in collaboration with Black Medical Officer on 5th August, Friday.

The medical camp began at 10.a.m. in the morning to 2 p.m.

Scores of people benefited

from the camp as free treatment was offered to the residents visiting the camp. Free medicines were also given to patients.

Many medical professionals including Dr. Shafiq, Dr. Suriya, Mohammad shafi, Ruksana Murtaza, Takhreema took active part in the camp.

The organizers said they intend to hold more such camps in the future.

J&K Pollution Control Committee Flags Off On-Wheels E-Waste Collection Van



Observer News Service

JAMMU: In continuation to the initiatives launched to create doorstep awareness on E-waste across 20 districts of J&K, Chairperson J&K Pollution Control Committee, Dr. Neelu Gera Friday virtually flagged off On -Wheels E-waste Collection Centre (E-waste Mobile Collection Van) in presence of Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, K. Ramesh Kumar and a doorstep awareness drive in collaboration with PRO Saahas Zero Waste and their partners, Xaomi India, LG India, EPSON India, Namo E-waste Management, Red FM, MIER College of Education and ELFA International.

The event was launched to create awareness amongst consumers regarding E-waste, which is one of the most serious and fast emerging environmental issues. The awareness cum collection campaign shall be carried out in various districts of Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with Saahas Zero Waste under Producer Responsibility till January, 2023.

Dr. Neelu Gera, Chairperson, JKPC appreciated the innovative initiative by the officials of JKPC, PRO Saahas Zero Waste and its partners to conduct the awareness drive in J&K. She also highlighted that the lack of proper collection mechanism and unscientific disposal is a major cause of environmental and health hazards triggered by e-waste & plastic waste.

She further added that effective collection mechanism established by PROs and working in coordination with concerned local bodies in various districts can play a vital role in e-waste management.

K. Ramesh Kumar, Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, briefed that electronics and electrical items

such as computers, televisions, mobile phones etc. are being discarded swiftly post their life completion and contribute to a huge volume of e-waste.

Sat Paul, Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, appealed to consumers to play a responsible role in ensuring safe collection and disposal of all types of electronic waste.

Commenting on the launch of the drive, Murali Krishnan B, President, Xiaomi India, informed that, "As India's No 1 Smartphone and Smart TV brand, the focus of Xiaomi is not only on responsible recycling, but also educating, spreading awareness towards e-waste management amongst consumers. He further appreciated the JKPC's initiative of 'Mass awareness and launch of On Wheels E-waste Collection Centre' is an important step towards building a sustainable and future ready tomorrow. He expressed immense pride in being a part of this e-waste drive in partnership with Saahas Zero waste.

The Representative from LG Electronics pointed out that the company is committed to sustainable practices and referred to the launching of multiple initiatives including a digital campaign #UP-GRADERESPONSIBLY in year 2021 towards creating awareness for responsible disposal of E waste. The Company congratulated JKPC and Saahas Zero Waste on the launch of E-waste awareness drive across J&K.

Govt Employees Ordered To Participate In I-Day Function

Abid Bhat/KO



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government on Friday ordered all government employees to participate in the Independence Day function, advising heads of departments to ensure the presence of officials working under them.

"Independence Day is an important national event celebrated on 15th August every year. All government employees are duty bound to participate in commemorating such an im-

portant turning point in the history of our Nation," said a circular issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary to the government.

"All the officers above the rank of Under Secretaries in the Union territory stationed at Srinagar/Jammu are therefore enjoined upon to attend the main function of the Independence Day Celebration, 2022 at the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Sonawar, Srinagar/Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu

respectively, as part of their official duty. Any absence shall be only permissible with prior permission of their immediate superior," it said.

It asked Administrative Secretaries, Heads of the Departments, Managing Directors/Chief Executives of the Public Sector Undertakings to ensure that all officers/officials working under their administrative control, and stationed at Srinagar/Jammu, attend the function at their respective places—(KNO)

Mainly Dry Weather Likely In J&K: MeT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Weatherman on Friday forecast mainly dry weather with chances of a brief spell of rain and thunderstorm in Jammu and Kashmir in next 24 hours.

"Mainly dry (is expected). A brief spell of rain/thunderstorm may occur towards late afternoon/evening," a meteorological department official said here, adding, "There is no forecast of any significant weather." He said "no large change" was expected in the next two days also.

Regarding minimum temperature, he said, there was rise at most places in Kashmir and decrease in Jammu division.

Srinagar, he said, recorded a low of 20.0°C against 17.8°C on

the previous night. The temperature was 1.3°C above normal during this time of the year for the summer capital.

Qazigund recorded a low of 18.3°C against 16.7°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.5°C above normal there, he said, as per news agency GNS.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 14.8°C against 13.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 17.1°C against 15.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.0°C above normal for the place, he said.

Popular tourist resort Gulmarg recorded a low of 12.0°C against 9.6°C on the previous night. However it was 0.3°C be-

low' normal for the north Kashmir place.

Kupwara town saw a low of 16.5°C against 15.6°C on previous night and it was 0.9°C below normal for the place during this time of the season, the official told Global News Service.

After rains with 21.4mm in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, Jammu recorded a low of 23.3°C against 26.3°C on the previous night. It was 1.5°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal (with 17.22mm rainfall) recorded a low of 19.0°C, Batote 18.5°C, Katra 22.7°C and Bhandarwah 18.5°C while temperature settled at 21.8°C in Kathua which received 69.2mm of rain during the last 24 hours, the highest in entire J&K.

Two-Day Bangus Festival To Begin Today: Officials

Say in a first, hot-air balloon, zorbing to be rolled out as well

Agencies

KUPWARA: Two days Bangus Festival in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, being organised by Tourism, Forest departments and the army, will begin on Saturday.

An official said that during the festival, a number of adventurous activities like camping, trekking, angling and other recreational events will be organised.

He said that the authorities will also roll out first ever hot-air balloon and zorbing for the visitors tomorrow.

He further said that several measures have been initiated to improve connectivity to the picturesque valley to boost tourism so that more tourists are attracted to this place.

The official said that Asia's biggest golf course can be built at the place, which has green meadows spiraling over hundreds of kanals.

"We have informed the higher authorities about it and we are awaiting for their response for the same," he added.

Earlier, for the comfort of tourists, tourism department

had pitched multiple modernized tents for night accommodation at the Bangus Valley, while many essential shops were also set up there by locals.

In 2011, the then state government established Lolab-Bangus-Drangyari Development Authority for the development of the area and is constantly working to bring it on the tourism map.

Notably, the area was recently made motorable via the Mawer route, following which massive influx of tourists was seen in the valley—(KNO)

Chief Secretary E-Inaugurates Online Portal Of H&P Dept

Additional Accommodation Block At Circuit House Jammu Also Unveiled



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday e-inaugurated online room booking portal of Hospitality and Protocol (H&P) department. He also e-inaugurated an additional accommodation block at Circuit House Jammu. Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Vivek Bhardwaj was also present on the occasion.

The online portal provides for reservation system of circuit houses of H&P department within and outside Jammu and Kashmir. With the e-inauguration of online room reservation system, Government employees and other people can apply online for booking of the circuit houses from the click of their mobile phones within and outside J&K.

The portal allows for online submission of booking request by officers/officials and citizens. With the submission of booking request, an OTP is generated on the mobile phone of the customer and the booking is confirmed once the OTP is entered. The booking details are sent to the mobile phone of the customer.

Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts of Hospitality and Protocol department and said that this is another feather in the journey of Digital Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed hope

that the new system will bring further transparency and fairness in the allotment system.

He also asked the concerned officers to maintain online data of the circuit houses and keep assessing the requirements of the circuit houses on regular basis. He also called for maintenance and upkeep of circuit houses and other assets. He also stressed on checking the utilities of these assets on daily bases by the concerned caretaker.

Commissioner Secretary Hospitality and Protocol, Talat Parvez informed the Chief Secretary about the online portal and said that it has been completely integrated with RAS. He said the portal is very user friendly and the room reservation confirmation status is instantly intimated to the applicant through SMS or Sandes App.

Giving details about the additional block at circuit house, he informed that it consists of 2 suites and 12 very well furnished rooms. The work on the project was started by the executing agency PWD(R&B) Jammu in June 2019 and was completed on June 2022. He informed that the total cost of the project was 660 lakhs, however total expenditure incurred on completion of the block is 510.83 lakhs.

SHA Suspends Empanelment Of Private Hospital

Also Imposes Penalty Of Rs. 10.79 Lakhs On Two Private Hospitals For Non Adherence Of Guidelines Under AB-PMJAY-SEHAT Scheme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: State Health Agency (SHA), J&K on Friday suspended empanelment of Hakeem Sanaullah Hospital, Sorepore and imposed a penalty of Rs. 5.81 lakhs and Rs. 4.98 Lakhs on Mohammadia Nursing Home, Pulwama and Florence Hospital, Srinagar respectively, for various fraudulent activities.

The action against these health care institutions was mainly taken for non-adherence to minimum criteria for empanelment, non-maintenance of quality/service standards as laid under AB-PMJAY-SEHAT scheme and illegal cash payments taken from beneficiary patients.

Earlier, SHA J&K took similar kind of action against Ibn Sena Hospital, Budgam, Quality Healthcare Hospital, Kupwara, Ess Bee Hospital, Kupwara, North Kashmir Hospital, Handwara, Waseem Memorial Hospital, Handwara and Narayana Hrudayalaya hospital Katra and

imposed a total penalty of Rs. 44.6 Lakhs on these errant hospitals.

Actually, the Fraud under AB-PMJAY-SEHAT not only results in financial losses but have a much greater impact on people's health. AB-PMJAY-SEHAT aims at developing an anti-fraud culture that permeates all aspects of the scheme's governance. The approach to anti-fraud efforts is based on principles like Transparency, Accountability, Responsibility, Independence, and Reasonability.

Recently, in a review meeting of ABPMJAY-SEHAT, Principal Secretary Health & Medical Education, Manoj Kumar Diwedi remarked that Govt. Of J&K has adopted zero-tolerance approach while dealing with the instances of fraud and abuse under ABPMJAY-SEHAT scheme, highlighting that strict action will be taken against the hospitals and doctors involved in any kind of errant or fraudulent activities under the scheme.

UT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE SUB-DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE KHANSAHIB

sdmkhansahib@gmail.com | Fax: 01951277324

Subject: Designation of authority for accord of approval/Permission for Construction /Re-construction Residential /Commercial buildings of Rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, with respect to approval /permission of commercial buildings/other buildings (excluding residential house) in Rural areas of J&K Rural Development Department, Government of J&K vide Govt Order No:- II-RD&PR of 2022 dated:- 22-01-2022 constituted the following committee of members who have been empowered to grant permission/decision of rates for commercial buildings including shops and any other Government buildings.

1. Sub Divisional Magistrate Chairman
2. Tehsildar concerned
3. Town Planning Officer concerned
4. BDO concerned
5. Surpanch of Halqa Panchayat concerned.

Whereas, a meeting by all concerned officers in this regard was held in the office of undersigned on 11-06-2022 and after through discussion and deliberation, the following rates have been proposed by the committee.

S. No	Structure/Floor/New construction /alternation	Fee/Sft
01.	Basement	Rs. 10/-
02.	Ground Floor	Rs. 15/-
03.	1st floor and above	Rs. 12/-
04.	Walling	Rs. 15/-per running feet
05.	Government building	Rs. 15/-

Therefore, if anybody has any objections with respect to above mentioned proposed rates, he/she can file the same to this office within Seven days time from the date of publication on of this notice.

No.: SDM/KHS/2022/04/107
Dated: 04-08-2022

DIPK-7470-22

SUB-DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE
KHANSAHIB

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA COMPLEX, POLO-GROUND, SRINAGAR /
RAIL HEAD, JAMMU
TELE: 01942476816; 01942485175 (FAX) SGR /
01912479692; 01912479643 (FAX) JAMMU

CORRIGENDUM

In partial modification of this office order No:49 JK (INF) of 2022 dated 19.05.2022 of Mr. Shadab Bashir Dar, appointed as orderly (MTS) in this office.

Please read and consider his mother's name as "Tasnim Kouser" instead of "Tasleema Kouser" as mentioned in the above said order.

By Order

No.INF/K-204/2021/1664-69
Dated: 05 .08.2022

DIPK-7428-22

(Hitesh K. Choudhary)
Administrative Officer
Directorate of Information
& PR.

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Twitter Talks



“RBI raising repo rate by 50 bps is good move. But with wholesale price inflation 15.18% & consumer inflation 7.01% small businesses in India are making losses & closing. This may be good for big businesses but not good for the nation. We need fiscal policy to correct this”

@kaushikcbasu

“A man asked a Muslim man: Why do your women cover their bodies and their hair? The muslim man smiled and took two pieces of candy out form his pocket. He opened one and ate it quickly, then he opened and ate the other one. "I love candy" he said”

@btwtsmir

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Administrative Reforms

The chief minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, has asked the administration to girdle the loins to accomplish the government's agenda to reach out to every area for speedy development. For this purpose, he impressed upon the administrative secretaries to act as the "necessary hub" in the development mechanism for the overall progress and prosperity of the state. It sounds reasonable that the chief minister avails himself of an opportunity to interact with the higher echelons of the bureaucracy as is imperative for forging better understanding and cohesion between the political and administrative arms of the government. Speaking at a meeting of senior officials on Monday, he gave them a perspective that had inspired the recent administrative reshuffle. He said that "considering suitability, merit, dedication and honesty" during the reshuffle, "many local officers have been encouraged to be at the helm of affairs in various public interest departments." Kept in view was their knowledge about "geo-economic situation along with the nature of terrain, climatic diversity, socio-cultural position of people and mosaic of requirements and problems they are confronted with." Obviously alive to the sensitivities of the "senior IAS officers from outside the state," the chief minister acknowledged their vast experience and "high quality working capacity and capability" saying that they had been working in the state with "zeal and dedication" and that they would remain available for "every guidance" to local officers. Saying that "punctuality and commitment to work must be buzz word in administration," he asked the administrative secretaries and heads of department to undertake "intensive tours" which would "not only help complete the works as per specifications within the time frame but also provide ample opportunities to the officers to interact with common masses and feel the pulse of their requirements and demands."

There can be no denying that most of our bureaucrats are indeed clueless about the local conditions obtaining in various areas of the state whose affairs they are managing. Their movement is restricted between their offices and residences. The constraints imposed by the security situation too could be a contraindication for their touring, particularly across the valley. Because of this, they generally fail to appreciate the people's problems in their true shape. Known for their compulsive high-flying between Srinagar, Jammu and Delhi, they would not have even a hazy idea of how life could be like in the areas Azad named in his harangue: Neoma, Machhil, Gurez, Dudu Basantgarh, Marwah, Padar, Loran and Malhar. In fact, the heads of various department may be equally clueless about the places, even as they are duty bound to pay an occasional visit to the perpetually neglected areas.

Unless the chief minister is absolutely clear about his views on administrative functioning at its different levels, the prudence behind the "intensive touring" of secretaries would still call for an objective and holistic appraisal. Going by experience, a sizeable number of commissioners and secretaries are, more often than not, found away from their offices. Notwithstanding the new "work culture" introduced late last year, there is no denying that even a routine letter has to have the initials of the secretary before it moves in or out of an administrative department. With their roles hardly defined, an army of special, additional, deputy and under secretaries and their elaborate ministerial paraphernalia are mere pawns up and down the administrative department's chessboard. And, once the worthy secretary is "away on tour," the frustration it can cause to a lesser mortal, who might have traveled a long distance to get his problem addressed, could be anybody's guess.

One is reminded of the chief minister's directive given to commissioners/secretaries soon after he assumed the high office to ensure their availability to the common people, at least in the afternoon. He had even asked the legislators to keep away from the secretariat, at least in forenoons. Certainly, he must not unaware that his order is being honoured more in abuse. In such a scenario, the direction to the commissioners / secretaries to undertake "intensive tours" is apt to open a floodgates for "authorized" truancy in which the general public will be the ultimate sufferer. The additional burden on the state (public) exchequer on account of the heavy travel expenses of the top bureaucrats and their paraphernalia can be no less unjustified. It goes without saying that the administration functions at various levels in a wayward manner where the right hand doesn't know what the left hand might be doing. For quite some time now, the administration has been crying for comprehensive reforms to bring it in tune with the present day needs of the society. We are told there is a full-fledged department of administrative reforms whose primary job it must be to advise the chief minister on its specifics with a view to initiating short and long term measures to turn the administration into an instrument of good governance, a dream he has been at pains to translate into a reality. Let's hope he spares a thought or two for the suggestion.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on June 29,2006

Is the “Moral Fabric” of Kashmir Really in Danger?

As against the common perception of moral deflection and corruption, a deeper analysis reveals that we are on the path of enlightenment and progress

Amir Suhail Wani

Time and again we have been told that our generation is on the verge of a moral and ethical catastrophe. An Edenic picture of the past is presented before us where virtue is shown permeating the society and piety defining individual lives. Is this a truer picture of reality or does it merely reflect our nostalgia rooted in the idealisation of the past? Have we really turned into “lesser” humans in comparison with our ancestors? Are we walking on the ramp of a descending moral slope just to discover ourselves at the bottom of the pit?

I plead that this is not the case. As against the common perception of moral deflection and corruption, a deeper analysis reveals that we are on the path of enlightenment and progress.

Let's start our case from the larger context of humanity taken in its global whole till we finally zoom into our locale and indigenous society. There can be innumerable points of comparison but let's start with the human tendency for war and violence and the evolution of war ethics across ages. We tend to imagine our ancestors as peace loving or at least less violent than we ourselves are. But this is simply to gloss over the fact that the ancient world has seen much more destruction and devastation than the cumulative destruction of all modern wars. We only need to take a cursory look at the regimes of Nebuchadnezzar, the much celebrated pacifist Ashoka, Caligula, Ivan the Terrible and others. Any of them and their war histories, their tryst with violence will make Hitler seem a mediocre or pygmy in comparative ability to cause violence. And do we lament the rape and loot that accompanied the partition of subcontinent in 1947? We direct serious readers to any standard text on Indian and global history to discover for themselves the difference between the savages that we were and the humans that we are.

Well, the world is too large and history too vast, so we better focus on Kashmir and the moral paradigms it has gone through. All of us are thrown into moral anxiety and shaken to roots whenever an incident of moral “indecentness” erupts in our society. The most infamous, if not the only instance of its sort was the scandal that was exposed in Habba Kadal many years ago. This simply comes at the cost of collective amnesia that we still have



While we condemn these habits of drinking and substance abuse, ancients almost invariably sanctified them, by assigning them a mystical character. Not only this, poets universally celebrated drinking in their poetry and employed it as a symbol of paradisiacal and ecstatic experiences. This is quite contrary to the modern consciousness where these habits are invariably condemned as immoral

a place in the heart of Kashmir – Tashwan, which has become a symbol of prostitution and a historical allusion to moral laxity. Sex work or the likes of it used to be quite a norm in our society, run under the aegis of state protection till recent past in Kashmir. It took the efforts of conscientious men, Subhan Hajam being the most celebrated among them, to fight this institution of flesh trade in Kashmir.

Today, we revel at the mere thought of such episodes and that reflects our heightened moral sense that the knowledge and information has brought with it.

The case against marital violence has picked up some pace in the wake of women's liberation movements and awareness about women rights. Yet the demonisation of in-laws (whether genuine or groundless) continues unabated. Domestic and marital violence is characterised as the problem of the present era so much, as though women were enjoying the heavenly bliss in marital life in ancient days. We tend to forget that much of the domestic and marital violence committed against women stays lost in history and was rarely documented. Do we not remember the pithy remarks of saintly women Lal Ded

about her in-laws? Do we not read in books the trauma and terror Meera Bhai had to suffer at the hands of her in-laws and husband? For the fact that these were the women who somehow rose to prominence, history preserved their words and experiences. What about hundreds of those women whose voices were muffled and therefore buried in history forever? Today, women are empowered, educated and better equipped to report domestic and marital abuse and to register their grievances with various NGOs and government run institutions. This wasn't the case earlier.

When crimes and ethical degeneration of the present era are enumerated, the menace of drug addiction and substance abuse is often presented as one without a historical precedent. But we overlook the fact that scriptures like Vedas celebrated the intoxicating drinks like Soma. Nor is it hidden from anybody that drinking was a norm both in ancient Greek and pre-Islamic Arabia, where the occasions of drinking used to be accompanied by all sorts of vulgarity and ethical debasement – a raw version of modern day pubs, as these places used to be. While we condemn these habits of drinking and substance

abuse, ancients almost invariably sanctified them, by assigning them a mystical character. Not only this, poets universally celebrated drinking in their poetry and employed it as a symbol of paradisiacal and ecstatic experiences. Though it is also known that few poets used wine and drinking merely as a symbol and a literary device, most of them physically indulged in drinking and later praised the same. This is quite contrary to the modern consciousness where these habits are invariably condemned as immoral.

Now, the problem of drug abuse may seem to be a recent one, but it is recent only in as much as the discovery or manufacturing of more lethal drugs is concerned, otherwise men used to indulge in substance abuse across geographies and the consumption of weed and other psychoactive substances in antiquity is an open secret. Carlos Castadena's quasi mystical books like “Journey to Ixtalan” are curtain raisers in this direction. Even a pack of cigarettes in our times carries a cautionary warning but till recent times liquor and drinking used to be a norm and people felt no shame or moral guilt while indulging in these activities. Mrinal Pande's article is a vivid testimony to what has been stated here.

While we have drawn out a comparison between the past and the present and our comparison has titled the bob in the direction of the past when it comes to the gravity of crimes and their impacts, it shall not make us complacent and give us the pedestal of moral superiority. True, we have come a long way down the path of enlightenment but the pervasive presence of crimes in our societies and world shall awaken us to the larger fact that the path to moral excellence is an unending one and if the present times fare relatively well that shall be a stimulus to make the coming times even better. Past shall not be judged from the parameters of the present nor shall the present be evaluated against the past. The yardstick is the timeless criterion of being good to ourselves and good to others in whatever we do. In these two dimensions lie all the secrets and characteristics of better individuals, better world and better civilizations.

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

The author is a Srinagar based columnist

Better Late Than Never

Financial Express

The successful conclusion of the 5G auctions on Monday has an important lesson for the government, which has long treated spectrum sales as a revenue-generating machine. Such an approach was fine in 2010 or even 2012, when spectrum was scarce and the number of operators quite high—as many as 10-12 in each circle. However, with the number of operators shrinking to just three post 2016, and the quantum of spectrum rising, there should have been a change in approach both by the government and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), which sets the reserve price for the auctions. It took the near bankruptcy of Vodafone Idea for the government to realise that sickness in the telecom sector could have a cascading effect. Not only foreign investors or banks, even significant government revenues were at stake—80% of Vodafone Idea's dues are to the exchequer. The government's move to come out with a relief package for the telcos in September 2021 was thus merited, and the auction results are proof of this. Apart from the Rs 1.5-trillion-plus that it was able to mop up, the fact that the premium 700 Mhz band



spectrum, which did not find any takers in the previous two auctions, also got sold this time, is quite noteworthy. This shows that industry would respond favourably if the policies are realistic.

Two measures by the government deserve special mention here. The first was to provide a four-year moratorium to the operators on paying their large adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues, which came about through the 2019 ruling of the Supreme Court. To this was added a moratorium running into equal number of years on the payment of annual instalments for spectrum

bought in the past auctions. The second measure was the decision not to levy spectrum usage charge on airwaves bought in future auctions. While the first provided cash flow relief to the industry, the second lowered their expenses. The government's move was aptly supplemented by the Trai, which not only lowered the reserve price by around 39% across bands, but also changed the methodology of arriving at the base price. No more were past auction prices used as the benchmark if the entire spectrum on sale in a given band didn't get sold.

That 71% of all spectrum on of-

fer got sold this time (against only 40% in the past two auctions in 2016 and 2021) certainly shows that the government does not lose out if policy measures are aimed at bringing a balance between the interests of exchequer, industry, and consumers. Despite two rounds of tariff-hikes by the operators, mobile voice and data rates continue to be low and have not adversely impacted the goals of Digital India. The minutes of voice usage and data consumption per user continues to grow. The government should now take two more steps to put the sector on the track to even higher growth. The first is to reduce the licence fee from the current 8% of the AGR. A move in this direction can be made by abolishing the 5% universal service obligation levy. The second measure should be that the current reserve price for spectrum bands is maintained for future auctions. Such a move would ensure that an annual auction calendar is maintained without any delays, and operators can plan their purchases without any surprises thrown in.

Views expressed in the article do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express

From Makkah To Karbala

Jerrmein Abu Shahba

The Month of Zil Hijjah has just passed and the sorrowful month of Muharram has emerged, bringing along with it all its grief, sadness, and mourning as the new year commences. It was in the year 60 A.H. when Imam Hussain (peace be upon him) and his family made the intention to perform Hajj in the sacred Haram. However, just before the commencement of the pilgrimage, he suddenly left Makkah without performing Hajj! This was the time when huge crowds were entering Makkah for Hajj that Imam Hussain was going out of that Holy City with his family and followers. This strange event must have elicited questions in the minds of everyone as to why the grandson of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him and his progeny) was leaving Makkah just on the eve of Hajj without performing Hajj. Why did he leave Makkah, when he embarked on this spiritual journey in order to complete what is one of the best deeds in Allah's eyes? Why didn't he wait just a few days until he finished the necessary rituals of pilgrimage? After all, based on our human judgment, nothing could be more important than the pilgrimage that would deserve interruption or cancellation right?

History tells us that the Imam discovered that some of the followers of Yazid had entered Makkah as pilgrims, with the mission to kill him during the rites of Hajj with the arms they carried under their special pilgrimage dress (the Ehraam). So Imam Hussain shortened the pilgrimage rites and decided to leave. Amidst the vast crowd of people, he stood up and announced in a speech that he was setting out for Iraq, he declared that he would be martyred, asked the Muslims to help him in attaining the goal he had in view, and to offer their lives in the path of God. The next day, he set out with his family and a group of his companions for Iraq. But it was not his own life that he was fearful for; rather, it was the life of Islam that Imam Hussain had his eyes set on! The proof for that is that he knew very well that he would be killed in Karbala and was literally walking towards his own death! So why interrupt his Hajj only to die in another land, if not for a noble reason?

The prime reason for leaving Makkah was that Imam Hussain did not want to be killed in a manner that the tyrants might remain hidden and undetected. In the huge rush of pilgrims assembled from all corners of the world, it would have been impossible to apprehend the killer, and particularly to ascertain the real killer behind the curtains.

The prime reason for leaving Makkah was that Imam Hussain did not want to be killed in a manner that the tyrants might remain hidden and undetected. In the huge rush of pilgrims assembled from all corners of the world, it would have been impossible to apprehend the killer, and particularly to ascertain the real killer behind the curtains.

Secondly, Imam Hussain's ultimate aim was to expose Yazid, and the Imam was determined not to give his allegiance to this corrupt oppressor. In this way, the question of why Imam Hussain refused allegiance to Yazid came to the forefront of discussion among all individuals and groups who assembled for Hajj as they noticed that Imam Hussain left Makkah without performing the Hajj. If the Imam were to be killed now, it would be assumed that Yazid



must have arranged his killing – and this is what actually happened. Yazid stands clearly, openly and directly exposed as the perpetrator of the crimes which formed part of that tragedy and his un-Islamic ideas; the beliefs and acts lie exposed to the world. The very people who had been silenced by fear and awe of the murderous tyrants were so moved to the core of their hearts by the tragic events of Karbala that they began picking up courage to express themselves against Yazid. In a very short time, there was a widespread uproar of protests against him and his government. This was possible only because of the superb way in which Imam Hussain carried out his plan of meeting Yazid's violence with the strength of his character.

It would be an erroneous statement to say that the Imam skipped or canceled his Hajj that year! In fact, Imam Hussain abandoned the ritualistic Hajj to perform the true essence of Hajj, which is embodied in his sacrifice on the plains of Karbala!

We learn from Imam Hussain that there was a more important goal for him to accomplish than completing the rituals of Hajj and risking bloodshed in the Haram. Actually, it would be an erroneous statement to say that the Imam skipped or canceled his Hajj that year! In fact, Imam Hussain abandoned the ritualistic Hajj to perform the true essence of Hajj, which is embodied in his sacrifice and bloodshed on the plains of Karbala! Quite frankly, many of the ritualistic acts of Hajj symbolize the tragedy of Karbala, most notably the slaughter on the day of Eid al-Adha. Even though we celebrate that day out of gratitude that Allah spared the grief of father and son – Prophets Ibrahim and Isma'il (peace be upon them) – from the slaughter ordered by Him, our moment of joy doesn't last long because it is soon replaced by the Great Slaughter (Dhibh 'Adheem, as mentioned in 37:104-108 of the Qur'an) which is personified in Hussain ibn Ali. The grief we feel is further intensified as we remember the pain of separation between Imam Hussain and his son Ali Akbar, which was not spared like that of Isma'il

“
Not all who wear the Ehraam
have forbidden themselves
from that which Allah has forbidden
them. Not all who sacrifice an
animal has their offer truly accepted
by Allah, and it is only those who
sacrifice their souls – like the
blessed companions of Imam
Hussain and exhibit readiness to die
for the Imam and the mission he
represents, whose offer is accepted
by Allah

and his father. The 10th of Dhil-Hijjah is only a few weeks away from the 10th of Muharram, reminding us of the true sacrifice that was offered in Karbala one month later!

When we think of Lady Hajra's plight in fetching water for her son Isma'il, we are reminded of Imam Hussain's pain of watching his young-est son, Ali Asghar, die out of thirst as he tries his best to seek water from the enemy by raising his infant in his arms in the hopes of moving their hearts and quenching his son's thirst. Unlike Hajra, whose heart was solaced when a spring of water erupted to save her son's life, Imam Hussain found nothing but a tri-headed arrow to pierce the neck of Ali Asghar! It is narrated that when Lady Hajra saw with her own eyes the marks of the knife on her son's neck, she fainted from that scene; one can only imagine what overwhelming emotions Lady Fatima experienced when she witnessed her son's

headless body trampled by the hoofs of the horses after dying in a state of extreme thirst!

When we walk the distance between Safa and Marwa, we are reminded that it is the same distance as that between the holy shrine of Hazrat Abbas ibn Ali and his brother, Imam Hussain. This exact match in distance is certainly not a coincidence, and it reminds us of the challenge which Hazrat Abbas underwent as he sought to bring water to the thirsty children who had all their hopes pinned on him.

As the pilgrims rush to attain the blessings of the holy water of Zamzam, they are to be reminded of that water which Imam Hussain was denied until he died in the state of thirst, when even animals are given a last sip before being slaughtered!

The pilgrims in Hajj wear their clothes of Ehraam for the sake of Allah, and Imam Hussain also wore his clothes of Ehraam for His sake while abandoning the pleasures of this life only for these 'Ehraam' clothes to be drenched in his own pure blood to irrigate the tree of Islam!

The pilgrims stone the symbols of Shaytan numerous times to expel the whisperings of the devil which we are all prone to every second of every day. Hurr ibn Yazid al-Riyahi and Umar ibn Sa'd also experienced whisperings from Shaytan to attain the glory of power. However, Hurr stoned the whisperings of Shaytan and made the right decision to join Imam Hussain, while Umar followed the whisperings and became a Shaytan himself!

When the pilgrims go to Mina where the final sacrifice is given, this stage of Hajj symbolizes our intention to sacrifice everything beloved to us for Allah just like the Imam did, and the tents are a reminder of his family's tents which were burned down and destroyed in Karbala after the Great Slaughter!

When the pilgrims visit the Holy Kaaba and circumambulate it, they are reminded of the honor Allah gave Prophet Ibrahim in rebuilding this sacred House of God. They are also to be reminded of the rebuilding of the pure Mohammadan Islam by Imam Hussain when he offered his pure blood

to give a jump-start to this Deen, which was on its way to corruption and deviation.

It is important to note that a pilgrim who performs Hajj without recognizing Karbala to be its true essence does not gain the real fruits of his/her pilgrimage. In the words of Dr. Ali Shariati: "Imam Hussain did not complete his Hajj in order to teach the pilgrims that if there is no Imam and there is not true leadership, if there is no goal, if 'Hussain' is not there and 'Yazid' is there, making Tawaaf around the house of Allah is equal to making Tawaaf around the idol-house." (Hajj)

All the pilgrims stone the Shaytan, all of them wear the robe of Ehraam, and all of them circumambulate the Kaaba and walk the distance between Safa and Marwa. But not all who physically stone the Shaytan have truly rid themselves from his temptations. Not all who wear the Ehraam have forbidden themselves from that which Allah has forbidden them. Not all who sacrifice an animal has their offer truly accepted by Allah, and it is only those who sacrifice their souls like the blessed companions of Imam Hussain and exhibit readiness to die for the Imam and the mission he represents, whose offer is accepted by Allah. Not all who raise their voices and call out "La ilaaha illaAllah" have truly recognized the essence of Tawheed, and it is only by fulfilling the conditions that one has truly pronounced the word of Oneness. As Imam Ali ar-Ridha (peace be upon him) relayed to his companions: "The Almighty Allah said, 'I surely am the God besides whom there is no god, so worship Me. Whoever comes with the testimony of Tawheed sincerely, he has surely entered My castle; and whoever enters My castle, he shall be protected from My chastisement.' When some of the companions expressed excitement from that statement, Imam Ridha immediately added, "Yes this is true with its conditions." This condition is to acknowledge and submit to the Imam and Wilayat of Imam Hussain and his descendants.

If we recognize the essence of Hajj as being intertwined with the tragedy of Karbala, we can then understand why Allah's mercy encompasses the pilgrims visiting the holy shrine of Imam Hussain on the day of Arafah, even before the pilgrims of Hajj! (Kamil al-Ziyarat) We will then understand why a special Ziyarat is to be recited for Imam Hussain on the day of Arafah, which is one of the most important deeds that one can do. We will then realize that it is not a coincidence that one of the key recommended deeds to be performed on the day of Arafah is to recite the special beautiful supplication of Imam Hussain for the day of Arafah, which speaks volumes of the level of Irfan and wisdom which Imam Hussain possesses as he summarizes to us in concise words the fundamentals of Tawheed. We will then understand why, according to authentic hadith, visiting the holy shrine of Imam Hussain is worth 90 Hajj and 90 Umrah performed by the Holy Prophet himself! It is common knowledge that Hajj is obligatory on all Muslims if and only if they have the means to do so and all the prerequisite requirements are met. However, supporting and treading the path of Imam Hussain is incumbent and obligatory upon every human at all times, whether Muslim or non-Muslim!

Egyptian by birth author is Clinical Research Scientist by profession. She contributes as a writer for different Islamic journals.

Diasporic Wanderlust: Sh. Abdal Hakim Murad's "Travelling Home"

A Book Review of Travelling Home: Essays on Islam in Europe by Abdal Hakim Murad

Lugman Quilliam

There is something strange happening in the Western world. Across hardly a half-century, religious observance in the West has not merely slackened, but vanished. The sudden decline of organized religion throughout Western civilization has been so precipitous, so staggering, that it in fact lacks any sort of parallel throughout history, almost as though overnight an entire civilization turned over in their beds and decided to stop believing in God. Nowhere has this civilizational collapse been more marked than in the stolid isles of the United Kingdom; a land once marked by the stern countenances and solemn observances of Cranmer and More, and fields on which "old maids bicycl[ed]" to Holy Communion through the morning mist; now long since torn up and desecrated. Upon their paved remains zoom large buses displaying the banal slogan of a vapid, hollow, and nihilistic class: There's probably no God, so stop worrying and enjoy your life.

But parallel to one rising trend comes another: as one once-majestic decrepit village church after another is deconsecrated and destroyed, a new masjid is often erected in its place. While European nations move at an expedient rate towards a world where "...the Church is no longer regarded, not even opposed, and men have forgotten / All gods, except Usury, Lust, and Power," the Muslim population of those self-same countries is set to exponentially increase. This provides the premise for Travelling Home: Essays on Islam in Europe, a compilation of essays inspired by the lectures and writings of perhaps the greatest of all contemporary English religious thinkers, who, as a sign of the times, is neither

an Anglican nor a Roman Catholic, but a Sunni Muslim: Dr. Timothy Winter, better known as Shaykh Abdal-Hakim Murad.

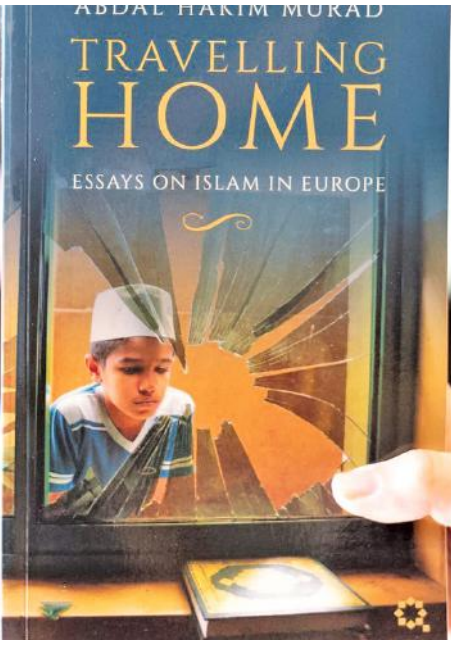
In Sh. Murad's estimation, the challenge for the newfound class of diasporic and convert Western Muslims is not merely to cement their existence in a land alien to their faith—so too were Egypt, Turkey, and even Makkah and Madinah, once upon a time. Rather, Europe is unique for having defined its existence for centuries in opposition to Islam. In his introduction, Sh. Murad chillingly outlines the multitude of ways the West has defined, constructed, and re-interpreted numerous facets of its history to position itself as the eternal bulwark against the encroachment of the Muslim world. Travelling Home is an eclectic work, even for an anthology, its topics ranging from the Bosnian War to the vicissitudes of modern consumerist neoliberalism, but if there is one theme that unites his varied strands of thought, it is a Muslim's hope in Allah – and in the ability of the faith to take root and blossom even in the most barren of lands. An example the shaykh presents that permeates the entire book is that of a devout hanafi, hands clasping tasbeeh beads in prayer, lips quietly engaging in recitation, boarding a metro alongside the average "post-European" youth of today, hands clasped around the latest technological innovation, lips murmuring the lyrics of the latest pop driv[er].

What is it that connects these two individuals, without a common way of life or prism through which they view the world between them? Following the prophetic sunnah, Sh. Murad explicates these newfound myriad challenges with mercy and compassion, while remaining faithful to the Islamic tradition. Dr. Winter is, after

all, not only a Muslim man, but an Englishman, and thus perfectly placed to walk the line between two worlds, as he looks upon the decline of both civilizations with great sadness and pathos. Even the title of the book, Travelling Home, easily interpreted as a nod to the sense of youthful adventurism and romanticism with which the Shaykh himself empathizes with, reveals itself as a condemnation of the anomie of modern society:

Britain is technically still home to the British, but in its unprecedented secularism it has become a travelling home, a laboratory for ever more radical beliefs and social practices. We deal not only with a loss of faith within individuals, but with its immense moral and social ramifications [page 208, emphasis mine].

Travelling Home does not concern itself only with social decay and civilizational decline, but with more individual and communal vices as well. Unjust anger, tit-for-tat vengeance, and sectarianism are not spared from analysis. While these inequities are by no means unique to Muslims, they have nonetheless been frustratingly prevalent among the diasporic community. Under the guise of a return to an austere traditionalism of yesteryear, false values diametrically opposed to our faith have been imported. Across the ummah, we see this result culminating in sharp and bruising online debates, each response more cutting and personal than the last, "race temples" scowling down at any not sufficiently affiliated to the lands Back Home who dare cross their doors, and beady-eyed



gatekeepers of the manhaj perpetually on the lookout for any type of deviation from their preferred school. The fault here lies not in any one sect, whether salafi or sufi, deobandi or barelvi, but in an entire program of modernity that has infiltrated our deen. What Sh. Murad calls for is instead a return to real Prophetic values: mercy, courage, compassion, modesty, humility, honesty, and strength. While elements of the trends in Muslim communities that have been imported to the West may be culturally specific, Islam itself is not— and neither is the fitrah. The values imparted by the Quran and Sunnah cut deep into the hearts of every living human being, no matter how clouded by the fog of atheistic materialism.

It is perhaps because of this that

Travelling Home feels refreshingly modern, despite its distinctly traditionalist outlook (and not merely due to its repeated references to the ongoing worldwide coronavirus pandemic). In an era when most public Western Muslim leaders and intellectuals insist that the faith must be watered down, neutered, and reduced to its barest rubble, able to co-exist with practically anything, in order to retain appeal for the younger generation, Sh. Murad boldly suggests that the classical Islamic tradition should be presented in full, in all its complex diversity, and that the taking of film and scholarship should be encouraged. In his ninth chapter "Seeking Knowledge: the multiple horizons of British Muslim studentship," the Shaykh compares the wandering, unmoored Western Muslim, fruitlessly searching across the Muslim world for relics of what he imagines to be his lost ancestral heritage to a Majnun of Arab folklore, seeking his metaphysical Layla. Rather than condemning such foolhardy wanderlust, however, the Shaykh celebrates it, and provides thoughtful advice to young Muslims drawn to this path. Sh. Murad's vision for the coming generation is bright and intellectually-minded, easily far more appealing than any drab modernist revisionism.

As previously mentioned, the book is not, strictly speaking, an original text, but rather, an adaptation of previously published speeches and articles. Much of the material, however, has been expanded in its inclusion, oftentimes with a brand new conclusion or overarching theme. For example, his

fourth chapter, "Islamophobia and the Bosnian War," has been transformed into a detailed and bloodcurdling examination of how Orthodox theology was developed to target and eradicate the Balkan Muslim population. Thus, Travelling Home still has much to offer for even the most seasoned follower of the Shaykh.

For those who are not as familiar with Sh. Murad's writings, however, Travelling Home may prove itself a much denser read. Aside from its over 60 pages of endnotes and citations, the Shaykh's famed writing style— clever, idiosyncratic, and even witty— gives the reader much to contend with. In one of the book's most entertaining digressions, he envisions a newspaper column from a not-too-distant dystopic future Britain in which gender-bending and sexual deviancy have been elevated to the level of a state religion, and belief in traditional marriage consigned to a heresy. A lover of the English language, the Shaykh rejects out of hand much of the clunky, secular terminology that has been derived to communicate ancient Islamic concepts. "Islamophobia," for example, a meaningless term, here becomes "Lahabism," hearkening back to the mindless hatred those steeped in kufr have for tawheed, dating back to the time of the Prophet – Even the Muslim himself has been reconfigured into an 'Ishmaelite' (or potentially, as Sh. Murad suggests, an 'Ishma-elite'). Like Ishmael, the Muslim is often cast out, trodden upon, despised. While he should never come to accept this treatment in the dunya, neither should he have any reason to lose all hope, and thus forfeit the akhirah as well. For the Ishmaelite, everything is always the way it was meant to be. For the curious and open-minded non-Muslim, Travel-

ling Home also may prove beyond their regard, being more focused on the unique position occupied by diasporic Muslims in Western society. Many may be interested in an author who seems as well-read in Marx and Kirkegaard as he is in Imam Malik and Ibn Kathir, but they might find themselves better served by the Shaykh's earlier text, Commentary on the Eleventh Contentions (2012).

Travelling Home is not destined to be universally popular. For starters, there is the author's clear grounding in the tradition of tasawwuf to contend with, along with some of the Shaykh's less common views, such as his belief that rulings on certain issues should be made lighter for Muslims living in the West, or that Western universities may become the next great breeding ground for a new generation of ulema. Notwithstanding these small disagreements, with the dearth of native literature from educated scholars on these issues stymying attempts at the organic growth of communities, the arrival of any text as insightful and perceptive as this one is certainly of great benefit. Travelling Home deserves a spot on every Anglophone Muslim's bookshelf.

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

The author aspires to one day become a student of shariah. His interests include indigenous British Islamic heritage, statecraft, Islamic economics, and film

AI Helps Scientists Keep Up In Covid-19 Mutation Race

360info

Artificial intelligence can help predict mutations in COVID-19. Some have achieved a perfect strike rate.

Mutations of COVID-19 are continuing to plague the world. For medical scientists, getting the earliest possible look at when and how the virus changes is critical it gives them a head start in developing the latest and strongest batch of vaccinations and medicines, and the most time to consider which health directives might need to be issued.

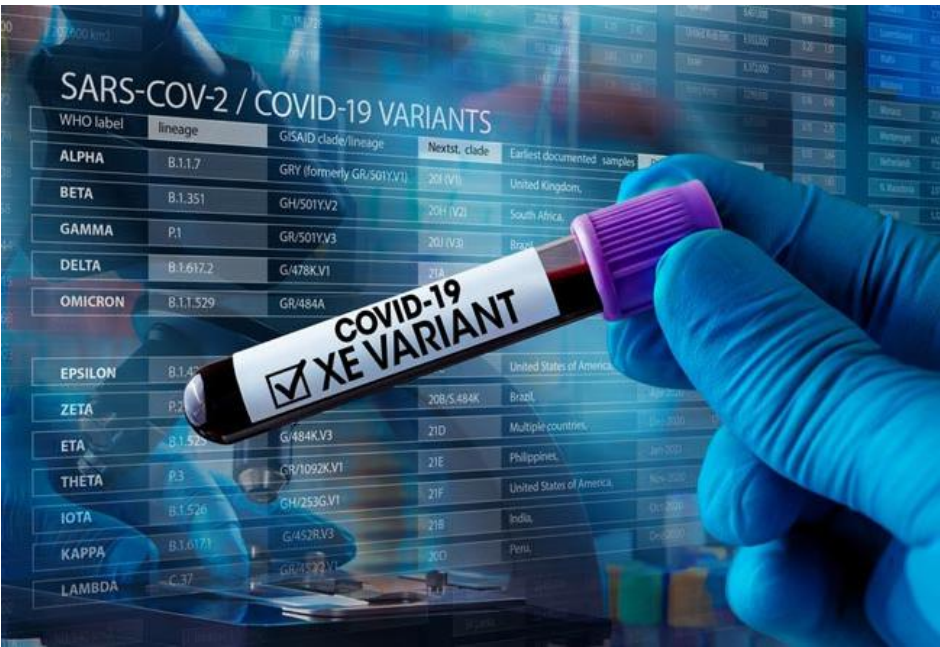
When speed and accuracy are vital, machine learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI) come to the fore. AI can analyse data with a pace and precision unmatched by humans. And it's starting to help out in the fights against COVID-19, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), a trio of viral infections that can be fatal.

DNA analysis of viruses has long been used to uncover similarities between diseases, helping draw links that unlock greater knowledge about each one. COVID-19, SARS and MERS

share very similar nucleotide sequences, making them prime candidates to cross-reference and study together. Effectively, they're from the same family.

But research conducted without machine learning or AI couldn't make the breakthrough needed to crack the code and understand how COVID-19 might mutate. In trials, researchers studied 30 DNA samples each of COVID-19, MERS and SARS, compared against a primer' of COVID-19. A primer is a DNA sequence used to test whether a DNA sample is positive for certain viruses or bacteria by analysing similarities between the sample and the primer. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing clarified the distinction between the nucleotide structures of the three viruses, but the results could not definitively differentiate between COVID-19 and the other two viruses.

Adding machine learning to the equation increased the success rate drastically. It allowed researchers to study the distance pattern of each DNA sample, so the precise location of the DNA infected with COVID-19 could be known and predicted. Researchers used four machine-learning methods,



each optimised with a different combination of parameter settings. The diversification allowed researchers to focus on the best prediction results for each case study.

The similarity of the DNA structure of COVID-19, MERS and SARS is one of

the obstacles in predicting samples that are actually infected with COVID-19. The DNA-alignment method with COVID-19 primary samples resulted in positive values in all samples, including both MERS and SARS. But with the assistance of AI, it has become much

clearer where the distinctions between the viruses lie. Machine learning could differentiate between the three closely related viruses in a way DNA testing could not.

The prediction results were strong, showing two machine learning optimisation approaches were able to observe changes in DNA alignment patterns and predict shifts with 100 percent accuracy. The two less successful optimisations still produced 98.3 percent accuracy, with errors occurring in the COVID-19 sample data. This shows the DNA composition in COVID-19 samples is still diverse and there is a possibility that mutations will continue to occur.

This data is incredibly helpful for researchers and pharmaceutical companies. The results of this analysis give the clearest indication yet of how COVID-19 will mutate, allowing optimal planning on important resourcing decisions, such as vaccine manufacturing and production of antivirals. As the pandemic rages on, the research community needs to stay on the cutting edge to give the world a fighting chance against the coronavirus. AI in the research process is helping do that.

'LTL-Obesity Relationship Being Reported In Women For First Time'

Press Trust Of India

A cross-sectional study conducted between 2015-2020 has found that Leucocyte Telomere Length (LTL) -- a biomarker -- is linked to obesity in prediabetic and type 2 diabetic women, researchers have claimed.

LTL is at its longest at birth, shortens rapidly until adolescence and then shortens at a reduced rate until old age, as per medical experts.

"In this cross-sectional study from July 2015 to December 2020, 1,361 women were randomly selected from north India (aged 2060 years) who were residing there for more than six months. Among them, 797 pre-diabetic women (obese, 492; non-obese, 305) were enlisted and their demographic, clinical profiles and fasting blood glucose were evaluated," according to a statement issued on Thursday by a hospital here which conducted the study with other partners.

The research was conceived and designed by Dr Anoop Misra, Executive Chairman and Director, Diabetes and Endocrinology, Fortis C-DOC Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences, and conducted jointly by Surya Prakash Bhatt, Ravindra Mohan Pandey and Ashish Datt Upadhyay. The findings have been recently published in the journal, BMJ Open Diabetes Research and Care, it said.

"It is already known that LTL is linked with aging and associated diseases, such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. This is the first study to investigate the relationship of LTL in prediabetic women, and specifically, the relationship of LTL with obesity is being reported in women for the first time," the researchers claimed in the statement.



Prediabetes means one has a higher than normal blood sugar level. It is not high enough to be considered type 2 diabetes yet.

LTL is the measure most commonly used to study age-dependent shortening and disease risk in human populations.

The study explored the relationship between prediabetes, truncal obesity and LTL, shortening of which indicates faster aging and premature death, the researchers said.

LTL was quantified by a quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), which is a laboratory technique for rapidly amplifying millions of copies of a specific segment of DNA. Along with that, the telomere length was detected from DNA samples and expressed as the mean T/S ratio (telomere repeats per single-copy gene), they said.

The study subjects were randomly designated to have an approximate representation of higher, medium and lower income groups, from 41 residential areas in Delhi.

Many of them were excluded on various grounds which includes the use of oral antidiabetic drugs,

alcohol, tobacco, or drug abuse, any medication which could affect insulin sensitivity, those who are pregnant, severe end-organ damage or chronic diseases, malignancy and other endocrine disorders and significant liver, kidney, thyroid, or other endocrine diseases, the study said.

The average LTL was significantly shorter in obese women with pre-diabetes, it found.

Besides age, obesity and fat distribution in the truncal part of the body are major contributors to telomere shortening in women with abnormal fasting glycemia, the statement said.

"Besides age, obesity and subcutaneous adiposity (predominantly truncal) are major contributors to telomere shortening in Asian Indian women with abnormal fasting glycemia (impaired fasting glucose). This means Indian women who are excess fat, over trunk and are prediabetes, may have lower longevity. It has connotation to mortality statistics of females in India as well huge implications of prevention of prediabetes," said Dr Mishra.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION BARAMULLA.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No:- 62/4831-40/2022-23/RnB/Bla Dated 29.07.2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest money. (In Rs.)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA	Position of funds
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Up-gradation/ widening of Sheeri Heewan Larridora Sultanpora road (Baramulla) by way of construction of cement concrete drain at Sheeri in KM 1st & KM 2nd	70.84	141800/-	1600/-	90days	AAY	MH-5054-CRF	Accorded	Available

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	29.07.2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 30.07.2022 to 12.08.2022 4:00PM
3	Bid submission Start date	01.08.2022
4	Bid Submission End Date	12.08.2022 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	13.08.2022 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/ BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 3% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Baramulla.

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

6. The bidder shall be debarred for tendering process if:-

a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

7.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

7.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

7.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

7.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as LI immediately after opening of financial bid.

7.6. Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of Works executed/ under execution by the agency during the year 2021-22

7.7. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The tender receiving authority reserves the right of opening of the tenders on due date or any other convenient available date or rejecting any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof

10. 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 rates inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

11. Price escalation & taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified deductions on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. In case of CRF & any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding documents shall be followed

14. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

14.1. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/ qualification information with their bids

a. Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of business.

b. Valid GST No. & Pan No. along with the latest GST Return form GST-3/GSTR-3B ending 03/2022.

c. Earnest money/bid security & tender document fee indicating name of work therein.

d. Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of works executed/ allotted/ under allotment by the agency during the year 2021-22.

14.2. The bidders at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

14.3. Nonattendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.

14.4. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English language

15. The contractor shall have to purchase the required material of approve brand [i.e. cement 43grade OPC, steel Fe-415] & specifications prescribed to be certified by Assistant Executive Engineer incharge after getting non-availability certificate from Executive Engineer & shall not be entitled for any type of excessive rates on this account and also shall have no bearing on stipulated date of completion & other terms and conditions of the contract.

No. 4831-40
Dated 29.07.2022


Executive Engineer
R&B Division Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the registration of my Tour And Travel Agency under Name and Style "RUHAMA TOUR AND TRAVEL". If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tourism Department Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Qasim Afzal Najar
S/o Mohammad Afzal Najar
R/o shah Kadal srinagar kashmir
Cell no.9018369515

JNT



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

**Notice Inviting Tender for Comprehensive
'Annual Maintenance Contract' for R.O Water
Purification Systems**

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 5/- are invited for Comprehensive "Annual Maintenance Contract" (A.M.C) for RO Water Purifications Systems of Kent, Osmos and Aquafresh installed at Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K from the reputed and experienced agencies/authorized service providers dealing in concerned items. The tender document can be obtained from the office of Assistant Registrar (Procurement & Stores) or can be downloaded from the University website: www.iust.ac.in against DD of Rs. 500/- (non refundable) favouring Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, (J&K) as cost of the tender document and to be submitted by or before **16-08-2022 (2.00 pm)**. Terms and Conditions apply.
No. IUSTR/Reg/P&S/AMC/22/319 **Sd/-**
Dated : 04-08-2022 **Assistant Registrar (Procurement and Stores)**
DIPK-NB-3011/22

RBI Retains Inflation Projection For FY23 At 6.7%



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The RBI on Friday retained inflation forecast for FY23 at 6.7 per cent amid uncertain price trajectory on "geopolitical shocks" and on hope that inflationary pressures would ease with pick-up in kharif sowing and supply chain improvements. In its previous monetary policy review in June, it had projected retail inflation for 2022-23 at 6.7 per cent, higher from 5.7 per cent forecast in April.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided to raise the benchmark repo rate by a steep 50 basis points to 5.40 per cent with immediate effect to tame inflation while supporting growth.

Repo is the key rate at which the RBI lends short-term money to banks. One basis points is equivalent to one-hundredth of a percentage point.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said inflation in second and third quarter of current fiscal year is expected to remain above the upper tolerance level

of 6 per cent.

The central bank has been mandated to keep retail inflation at 4 per cent with a bias of 2 per cent on the either side.

Spillovers from geopolitical shocks are imparting considerable uncertainty to the inflation trajectory, even as food and metal prices have come off their peaks recently, Das said while announcing the MPC meeting outcome.

He said global crude oil prices have eased in the recent weeks, however, they remain elevated and volatile. There are supply-related concerns amid weakening of global demand outlook.

"Taking into account these factors and on the assumption of a normal monsoon in 2022 and average crude oil price (Indian basket) of USD 105 per barrel, the inflation projection is retained at 6.7 per cent in 2022-23," Das said.

For second quarter of 2022-23, the RBI has projected inflation at 7.1 per cent; Q3 at 6.4 per cent. It is, however, expected to come under control at 5.8 per cent in Q4.

Dulloo Asks Officers For Building Rapport With Farmers, Regular Grievance Redressal



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo chaired a meeting to discuss agriculture extension strategies with Vice Chancellors of SKUAST-J and SKUAST-K at the Civil Secretariat today.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-J, Prof JP Sharma gave exhaustive presentation on the status of agriculture, its allied sectors and its various aspects and discussed ways for its overhaul in Jammu & Kashmir. Similarly, a presentation of SKUAST-K was also presented to the ACS.

Upon detailed discussions with the Vice Chancellors and senior officers of agriculture and horticulture departments, the ACS said that areas of intervention by the government have been identified in a conference held recently at SKICC Srinagar. An Apex Level Committee is also being constituted in this regard, he informed.

The ACS said that the goal of agriculture extension activities is to increase farmers' income and to bridge the gap between the com-

munity and the administration. Another objective is to promote secondary agriculture activities, crop diversification, promotion of different crop varieties and generating awareness about governmental insurance schemes and subsidies, he added.

The ACS called for setting quantifiable goals, identifying key messages to be delivered and chart out distinct and for formulating definitive strategy for each and every district. Stress was also laid on building rapport with farmers through consistent contact with the farmers and regular redressal of their grievances.

Atal Dulloo called for identifying district-specific crops for diversified farming. He suggested that specified advice on crop diversification and crop variety be given to the farmers for their productivity gains.

The ACS remarked that there is a general lack of awareness about governmental schemes among some farmers. Attention needs to be paid in this regard as well, the ACS said and added that key messages need to be delivered strategically to them.

Loan EMLs To Rise As RBI Hikes Interest Rate Again

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Home, auto and other loan EMLs are set to rise further after RBI on Friday raised the key interest rate by 50 basis points, the third straight increase since May in an effort to cool stubbornly high inflation.

The increase in lending rate or the repurchase rate (repo) by 50 bps to 5.40 per cent is 25 bps higher than the pre-pandemic repo level.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das signalled that the second straight half-point hike wasn't the end of the rate tightening regime and more may come to tame inflation that has for six months stayed above the comfort zone of 6 per cent.

The central bank however did not revise its existing economic growth or inflation forecast despite indications of a global slowdown, recessionary conditions in the developed economies, and the moderation already witnessed in commodity prices.

"Inflationary pressures are broad-based and core inflation remains elevated. Inflation is projected to remain above the upper tolerance level of 6 per cent through the first three quarters of 2022-23, entailing the risk of destabilising inflation expectations and triggering second-round effects," Das said.

RBI said the volatility in the global market is leading to imported inflation.

The spillover from geopolitical shocks has resulted in uncertainty in the inflation trajec-



tory. Global commodity, metal and food prices have eased from recent peaks, however, they still remain elevated.

On the domestic front, higher sowing of kharif crops bodes well for the food price outlook. The shortfall in paddy sowing is being monitored closely, even though rice stock remains above buffer norms.

Since May, the central bank has cumulatively raised interest rate by 140 bps in its effort to contain inflation. Despite this sharp hike, RBI expects inflation to remain above its comfort zone and has retained CPI inflation forecast at 6.7 per cent for current fiscal year. RBI expects India's GDP growth to remain strong at 7.2 per cent in FY23.

The RBI's six-member rate-setting panel voted unanimously on the rate hike decision while sticking to its resolve to withdraw the accommodative stance.

Suman Chowdhury, Chief Analytical Officer, Acuit Ratings

& Research, said the deposit and lending rate hikes are expected by banks, given the improved credit demand in the economy.

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said the current policy rate hike cycle is expected to continue till RBI reaches what is known as 'neutral policy rate'.

This is the short-term policy rate which is expected to stabilize the economy down the road in the long run, it said adding if the RBI's FY23 inflation projection holds, then it may look for another 25-50 bps in the remaining months of FY23.

The central bank surprised markets with a 40 bps hike at an unscheduled meeting in May, followed by a 50 bps increase in June, but prices have shown little sign of cooling off yet.

The latest increase mirrors the US Federal Reserve-led global tightening of interest rates to rein in spiralling prices, caused by supply snarls and energy price shocks following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Unacceptably High Inflation Led To 50 Bps Rate Hike: RBI Guv

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The "unacceptably high" inflation trending around 7 per cent marked the Reserve Bank of India to hike rates by an aggressive 0.50 per cent on Friday, according to Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Stating that there are signs that headline inflation, which has breached the 6 per cent upper threshold set for the RBI for six consecutive months, has peaked, Das on Friday said policy moves from here on will be "calibrated, measured and nimble" and will depend on unfolding dynamics.

The governor refused to spell out any guidance on the way forward, pointing out that we live in a dynamic world where things are changing very fast.

He also noted that generally, guidance in a rate hiking cycle is difficult as compared to that in a rate cut cycle.

"... inflation still remains at uncomfortably or unacceptably high levels and therefore, monetary policy has to act," he told reporters after the central bank's six-member rate setting panel decided to hike the repo rate at which it lends to the system by 0.50 per cent.

It can be noted that ahead of the policy announcement, many analysts had been of the view that the hike would be a



calibrated 0.35 per cent while a few expected the RBI to front-load by being aggressive with a 0.50 per cent increase.

"Monetary policy will be calibrated, measured and nimble depending on the unfolding dynamics of inflation and economic activity. The focus will remain on ensuring safe and soft landing for the economy," he added.

He said steps have to be taken to contain inflation and inflation expectations in the economy.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) also took the growth aspect into consideration while taking its call, he added.

The governor also mentioned that as per the RBI's assessment, Indian economy is an isle of macroeconomic and financial stability in a turbulent ocean right now, and has braved two black swan events of the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Seeking to defend the deep rate cuts undertaken during the pandemic, Das said inflation does not have its roots in the monetary policy actions of the past but is led by supply-side factors and international events.

In what may come as a relief to many, he reiterated that inflation may have peaked and will moderate going forward.

It can be noted that while the MPC retained the FY23 forecast at 6.7 per cent, it said the April-June 2023 quarter will see the headline number at 5 per cent. There was also a mention of the objective to achieve 4 per cent CPI target in Das' statement earlier in the day.

When asked about the role played by the depreciating rupee in the policy formulation, Das admitted that there is an impact of imported inflation but added that the MPC's deliberations were influenced by the overall inflation and growth aspects.

Without spelling out what aspect into "volatility" for the RBI, Das said the central bank does not have a level in mind for the rupee and intervenes only when it finds volatilities to ensure that the currency moves smoothly.

The MPC also deliberated on the negative interest rates being earned at present, Das said, terming it as a "matter of concern".

Dir Tourism Reviews Progress On Homestay, Tented Accommodation Registration



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr G N Itoo Friday reviewed the progress achieved on registration of Homestay and tented accommodation across Kashmir. The aim is to enhance the bed capacity in order to attract more tourists.

The meeting discussed the identification of destinations and resorts where the scheme has been rolled out and also the uniformity of procedure to be adopted.

Expressing satisfaction over the initial progress achieved, Director Tourism Kashmir directed sticking to the targets already fixed for the destinations and urged the officers to work in mission mode so that the set targets are achieved. He also asked the concerned officers to encourage local entrepreneurs at these destinations for home stays and tented accommoda-

tions and also make those home stays functional at already identified locations at the earliest.

The Director Tourism impressed upon the CEOs and Resort Officers to stay in regular contact with respective District administrations and take the scheme further down in a synchronised manner. He also reiterated to organise capacity building programmes for intending stakeholders for their handholding and popularising the said policies.

The Director Tourism sought feedback from CEOs and resort officers about the scheme and also discussed the issues and logistics about the scheme.

The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of all development authorities, senior officers of Tourism Department, Resort Officers of various tourist destinations and other concerned.

Three-Day Entrepreneurship Awareness Program Held At IUST



Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The three-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Program concluded at the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development, Islamic University of Science and Technology.

The program was organized to create awareness about the avenues available for entrepreneurship and sensitize future engineers to be successful entrepreneurs of tomorrow. Besides engineering students and incubators, students from different Government Polytechnic Colleges participated in the awareness program.

The main speakers of the program were Fayaz Ahmad (CEO SAGG Eco Village) Shahid Khan (Director, SoftFinn), Fawzul Kabir (CEO, GR8 Sports), Prof. A.H.Moon (Dean Research IUST), Dr. Parvaiz A Mir (Director, CIED), Dr. Majid Koul (Head, Mechanical Engineering IUST), Dr. Aabid Shalla (Head, Department of Chemistry IUST), Dr. Fayaz Ahmed, Dr. Basharat Nabi, and Dr. Asifa Baba.

Talking about the scope of entrepreneurship in the engineering sector, Prof. A.H. Moon (Dean Research IUST) said, "Our main motive is to encourage students to think innovatively and look beyond a salaried job. Such programs are aimed to expose the incubators and students to new

ideas and innovations".

"The present world is of smart technologies, so the aspirants should also develop smart goals and join entrepreneurship drive and create growth opportunities for themselves and employment opportunities for others", said Fayaz Ahmad.

"Focus, determination, and hard work are key ingredients for any successful business. And to excel as an entrepreneur, engineers need to utilize skills and resources to identify solutions to the contemporary problems", said Shahid Khan.

Kabir termed entrepreneurship as an essential asset for society and talked at length about the challenges and prospects of entrepreneurship in Kashmir.

Stressing on the need to 'create the jobs, rather than waiting for the jobs', Dr. Parvaiz Mir said, "Gaining knowledge is much easier than gaining skills, and the youth should focus on acquiring the right skills, rather than just acquiring an educational degree. The knowledge, skills, and right attitude can change the employment scenario of the country".

Dr. Majid H Koul talked about Mechanical Engineering and Entrepreneurship. He discussed various industrial revolutions and how entrepreneurship has brought prosperity to many nations.

ED Freezes Over Rs 64-Cr Bank Deposits Of Crypto Exchange WazirX

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said it has frozen bank deposits of Rs 64.67 Crore as part of a money laundering probe against crypto currency exchange WazirX.

The federal agency said it conducted raids against a director of Zanmai Lab Pvt Ltd, which owns WazirX, on August 3 in Hyderabad and alleged he was "non-cooperative".

The agency's probe against the crypto exchange is linked to its ongoing investigation against a number of Chinese loan apps (mobile applications) working in India.

The agency had charged WazirX last year for alleged contravention of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

"It was found that Sameer Mhatre, Director WazirX, has complete remote access to the database of WazirX, but despite that he is not providing the details of the transactions

relating to the crypto assets, purchased from the proceeds of crime of instant loan app fraud."

"The lax KYC norms, loose regulatory control of transactions between WazirX and Binance, non-recording of transactions on block chains to save costs and non-recording of the KYC of the opposite wallets has ensured that WazirX is not able to give any account for the missing crypto assets," the ED alleged in a statement.

It said the company made no efforts to trace these crypto assets.

"By encouraging obscurity and having lax AML (anti-money laundering) norms, it has actively assisted around 16 accused fintech companies in laundering the proceeds of crime using the crypto route," it said.

Therefore, the ED said, equivalent movable assets to the extent of Rs 64.67 crore lying with WazirX were frozen under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).



Gold Marginally Lower; Silver Falls Rs 487

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold in the national capital on Friday was marginally down by Rs 9 to Rs 52,592 per 10 grams, according to HDFC Securities.

The yellow metal had closed at Rs 52,601 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also declined by Rs 487 to Rs 58,477 per kg from Rs 58,964 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,789 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 20.13 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded below USD 1,790 (per ounce) still heading for positive week ending on economic slowdown worries and risk premium over China - Taiwan tension," Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities, said.

No GST On Room Rents Of 'Sarais' Managed By Religious Or Charitable Trusts: CBIC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Finance Ministry has said that the Goods and Services Tax will not apply on room rents of 'sarais' (inns) or properties managed by religious and charitable institutions.

The clarification was issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on Thursday evening to clear the confusion with regard to the levy of GST on room rents.

This clarification by the Finance Ministry came following a demand from various quarters including AAP MP Raghav Chadha that the GST on rooms rented by religious institutions be withdrawn.

Chadha met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday and submitted a letter regarding withdrawal of the decision of imposing 12 per cent GST on 'sarais' (inns) located near the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

The GST Council had in June decided that a 12 per cent tax will be

levied on all hotel rooms that cost below Rs 1,000 per day.

Certain 'sarais' managed by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on their own started collecting GST for rents up to Rs 1,000 per day after the GST proposal on room rents below Rs 1,000 per day came into force on July 18, 2022.

As per the recommendation of 47th GST Council, hotel rooms having room rents up to Rs 1,000 per day were brought under the GST rate slab of 12 per cent from the earlier exempt category.

However, the GST is not applicable on room rent in religious precincts by charitable or religious trusts, the CBIC under the Finance Ministry said in a series of tweets.

There is another exemption which exempts renting of rooms in religious precincts by a charitable or religious trust, where the amount charged for the room is less than Rs 1,000 per day, it said, adding this exemption continues to be in force without any change.

Rupee Rises 16 Paise To 79.24 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Reversing a two-session losing streak, the rupee appreciated by 16 paise to close at 79.24 against the US dollar on Friday after the Reserve Bank hiked interest rates by 50 basis points.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic currency opened at 79.15 per dollar and hovered in a range of 78.94 to 79.29.

It finally settled at 79.24, up 16 paise over its previous close of 79.40.

The Reserve Bank on Friday raised the key interest rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 per cent to cool stubbornly high inflation. This was the third straight increase since May. With this, the repo rate or the short-term lending rate at which banks borrow has crossed the pre-pandemic level of 5.15 per cent.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was up 0.25 per cent at 105.95.

Forex traders said foreign fund inflows into capital markets also boosted the local currency.

ED, Price Rise Excuses; Cong's Protest In Black Clothes Message Against Ram Temple: Shah

Agenceis

New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday linked Congress leaders' protest in black clothes over the issues of price rise and unemployment to the party's "appeasement" politics to convey its opposition to the Ram temple foundation laying by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this day in 2020.

Speaking to reporters at Parliament house complex, Shah said everybody saw protests from Congress leaders of late in regular clothes they wore but they especially chose black clothes for Friday's agitation as Modi had peacefully resolved an over 550-year dispute involving the Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya and performed its 'shilanyas' on this day.

The construction of the temple, central to the faith of crores of people, is now in full swing, he noted.

The issues of ED action and price rise are only excuses, Shah claimed, adding that the Congress has chosen to express its opposition to the foundation-laying ceremony and the ongoing construction of the temple by protesting in black clothes.

The Congress hit back saying only a "sick mind" can produce such bogus arguments and give a malicious twist to the protests.

"Home Minister has made a desperate attempt to divert, distract, polarise and give a malicious twist to today's democratic protests of @INCIndia against price rise, unemployment & GST. It's only a sick mind which can produce such bogus arguments. Clearly the protests have hit home!" party general secretary Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

Shah claimed that as the Congress cannot dare speak openly against the issue, it has given a hidden message of its stand against the temple's foundation-stone laying as well as construction.

"I clearly believe that the Congress has chosen August 5 for its strong protests in black clothes to show its opposition over the temple issue," he said. The real anguish of the Congress is the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, and this is why it undertakes some protest on this day every year, Shah said.

With the Congress and protesting against the Enforcement Directorate action against its top leaders in the National Herald case, he said everyone should respect the legal system and follow and cooperate with judicial process.

The home minister said the Congress is not willing to drop its "appeasement politics" despite facing so many poll defeats.

He noted that the Congress had been protesting on the issues like the Enforcement Directorate action against its leaders and price rise since Parliament's monsoon session last month. What was so special today, he asked, adding that there was no ED action on Friday.

"It was on this day Modi laid the foundation stone for the temple at Ram Janmabhoomi which is the centre of faith of crores of people. The dispute had remained unresolved for over 550 years, and the Congress which was in power for most of time since independence did nothing to resolve it. Modi worked to find a solution peacefully and laid the temple's foundations stone... It is that sacred day today," Shah said.

SC Allows Plea For Conman Suresh Chandrashekhar's Production Before TN Court Through VC

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday allowed an application filed by the ED and Delhi Police seeking alleged conman Suresh Chandrashekhar's production before a Tamil Nadu court through video conferencing (VC).

A bench headed by Justice U U Lalit passed the order while noting that Chandrashekhar's counsel has no objection to this.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju told the bench, also comprising Justices Aniruddha Bose and S R Bhat, that Tihar authorities have received a production warrant from a court in Chengalpattu in Tamil Nadu asking for Chandrashekhar's production in connection with a case there.

"Instead of taking him to Chennai, it may be done by video conferencing," Raju told the bench.

The ASG said in a lighter vein if Chandrashekhar goes to Chengalpattu, one more person may be duped.

The counsel for Chandrashekhar said there are 21 ongoing cases across the country against him and every court will issue production warrant.

"Today, at times we get request from the accused saying that why should I be taken from A place to B, C, D etc. Why not consolidate everything in one place," the bench observed.

The bench said an application has been filed that instead of Chandrashekhar being taken to Chennai the investigating machinery can come to the national capital and interrogate



him in Tihar Jail.

"That will be actually convenient for you," the bench told his counsel.

"The counsel appearing for the original petitioner, Suresh Chandrashekhar, has no objection to the grant of the prayer as prayed," the bench said.

On July 13, the apex court had directed Chandrashekhar, who had claimed Rs 12.5 crore was extorted from him by some officials at the Tihar Jail, to submit the list of such people and details about the payments made on his behalf.

The apex court has been hearing a plea of Chandrashekhar and his wife seeking to be shifted from the Tihar Jail on the ground of an alleged threat to their lives.

On June 23, the Centre had proposed to the top court that if at all Chandrashekhar and his wife are to be shifted outside the Tihar Jail, they should be lodged in Mandoli prison which is being guarded by paramilitary forces.

The government had opposed

the transfer of Chandrashekhar and his wife to any other jail outside Delhi on the alleged ground of a threat to their lives and added that they will be protected by the personnel of Tamil Nadu Special Police Force and be observed through CCTV cameras.

On June 20, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had claimed he indulged in money laundering, extortion, impersonation of public officials, including those holding constitutional posts, and opposed his plea for prison transfer outside Delhi.

The probe agency had sought to intervene in a plea by Chandrashekhar, in jail on charges of alleged money laundering and duping several people of their money, and his wife seeking transfer to a prison outside Delhi claiming threat to their lives from jail staff.

The probe agency named several TV and Bollywood personalities with whom the alleged conman had contact and who he lavished with expensive gifts.

I-T Dept Seizes Rs 55-Cr Deposits After Raids On Ex-Fund Manager, Share Brokers

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Income-tax department has seized "unaccounted" deposits worth more than Rs 55 crore and unearthed "evidences" of large-scale hidden investments after it recently raided Viresh Joshi, a former chief trader and fund manager of Axis Mutual Fund, some share brokers and others, the CBDT and officials said Friday.

The raids were launched on July 28 and more than 25 premises in Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bhuj and Kolkata were covered including that of "middlemen

and entry operators (hawala operators)."

Documents seized during the searches "including sworn statements recorded from various persons have revealed the modus operandi that the said fund manager and chief trader were sharing specific trade related information with brokers/middlemen and persons located in certain foreign jurisdictions," the CBDT said in a statement.

"These persons in turn, used such information for illicit gains in the share market by trading in such scrips either in their own account or account of their clients," it said.

RBI Monetary Policy Aggressive In Response To Inflation: Abheek Barua

Agenceis

New Delhi: Abheek Barua, Chief Economist and Executive Vice President, HDFC Bank while commenting on the RBI monetary policy it is frontloaded and aggressive in response to inflation that remains high while the growth momentum remains reasonably positive. Accordingly, the RBI kept its inflation forecast unchanged at 6.7%, sounding caution on uncertainty around inflationary pressures despite the recent moderation in global crude oil and metal prices. The central bank kept its stance unchanged at "withdrawal of accommodation" signalling yet again that the notion of stance is being defined by the

liquidity in the system and in turn the overnight rate.

Unlike previous policies, the central bank also focussed on the resilience of external balances implicitly communicating its preference for not just a less volatile rupee but also perhaps some resistance towards very sharp depreciated levels of the rupee.

"We expect the RBI to continue with its rate hikes in the upcoming policies taking rates up to 5.75% by the end of the year. The bond market rally seen over the last few days is likely to reverse and we expect the 10-year paper to trade closer to 7.3-7.4% by the end of the quarter as markets reprice in RBI action and the supply of both SDL and central government bonds this year."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Truce Brings Tourists

welcomed by both mainstream and separatists groups in Kashmir, which brought peace to the border residents, who are presently reaping the benefits of the ceasefire.

The ceasefire has brought relief to the border residents who resumed activities like farming and schooling that were the worst-hit by cross border shelling.

The agricultural fields located near the Line of Control (LoC) witnessed a full farming season as the farmers can carry out their agriculture works in the fields without fear of firing and shelling.

To boost the economy and to promote tourism, the J&K administration is pushing for border tourism along the LoC in Kashmir.

In September 2021, Ministry of State (MoS) for Defence and Tourism, Ajay Bhatt, announced that the border areas will be developed as tourist places.

In July a group of over 40 people traveled to visit the border village of Machil. The trip was facilitated by the Jammu and Kashmir forest department and Army.

Farah Zaidi Ali, co-founder of the Kashmir off Road (KoR), organised the trip to Machil and told Kashmir Observer that the place was overwhelmed with the warmth and love of the people.

"It's an amazing and untouched place. The people were very happy to see us there. They welcomed all of us to at their houses," Farah told Kashmir Observer.

She said they also trained people and gave them the idea of home stay. She said the roads are well blacktopped and people can go easily.

The group went to a number of hamlets namely Misri Behak, Dudi, Chuntwari, Dabdal and Hardrung.

Earlier, before the ceasefire these areas were restricted for any civilian movement without prior necessary permissions. However, the administration has made it very easy for travelers now.

"You can apply for the e-permission online on the district administration website and get it within no time," Farah said.

The area had earlier witnessed ceasefire violations between India and Pakistan which left many dead and injured.

A top army official from North Kashmir told Kashmir Observer that the tourists wouldn't find any inconvenience from the Army and they are free to visit non-prohibited areas.

He said around 35 people from Maharashtra visited Machil in last month and stayed there for three days.

In August 2021, the department organised a tourism festival at the Bangus Valley in Kupwara district in order to promote tourism.

On the occasion, LG Manoj Sinha said that the tourism department and the Army will make efforts to facilitate visits to such remote places.

The footfall has certainly increased, said Azad Khan, a resident of Bangus valley in Kupwara.

Khan said the residents don't encourage fancy hotels but would prefer serving the tourists at home.

Similarly in the Gurez sector of North Kashmir's Bandipora district the tourists' arrival has remained at an all time high from the last two years of the ceasefire.

In July 2022, the Tourism department organised a three-day festival in Gurez in a bid to boost tourism in the border area.

Lately, home-stays and tented accommodations are becoming popular in these areas with LG administration making efforts to promote tent stays at scenic locations that will deliver rapid growth to the tourism industry.

On 22 July, LG chaired a high-level meeting to review the new initiatives of the Tourism Department. While reviewing the measures being taken to promote home-stays in the UT, the LG was informed that around 800 home-stays are registered with the Tourism Department.

The Lt Governor directed Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez, to submit a report on the number of tourists staying at these home-stays, and set the target of enhancing the capacities of home-stays to 25,000 beds by 31st December.

No NC, PDP Leader

Shalimar in the afternoon. Media friends are advised to verify news from authorities before circulating (them). JKP is a fully professional police force and is well aware of its duties," he said.

The police spokesman also posted the latest photographs from outside the residences of Abdullah and Mufti which showed no presence of security vehicles.

'J&K Bhrashtachar

event, he said, the LG also announced the government's decision of extending various provisions under the Public Services Guarantee Act completely through online mode.

"Online Public Services are now linked with timelines laid down under Public Services Guarantee Act. The defaulting officers will be served notices for failure in automated online mode, and linked with penal provisions," Sinha said.

"5th August will be celebrated as 'J&K Bhrashtachar Mukti Diwas,'" he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG inaugurated eight tribal hostels built at a cost of Rs 26 crore and laid the foundation stones for Rs 100 cr worth 25 tribal hostels. He said that the occasion witnessed the launch of a series of initiatives by the Lt Governor including Coaching programme for NEET/JEE and competitive examinations under TOP 50, Host 50 and Stars 100 schemes.

Top-20 meritorious tribal students received laptops for their outstanding performance in the matriculation exam.

Apart from this, the top two students have also been felicitated with a cash award of Rs one lakh each. Besides, tablet computers & sports kits were distributed among hostel students. Smart Cards were distributed to Migratory Tribal Population to ensure their smooth seasonal migration.

The Lt Governor also flagged off exposure tour of 200 tribal hostel students to various parts of the country under "Bharat ko Jano" programme which will instill the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' among the tribal youth.

Dedicating new initiatives to the people of tribal community, the LG, as per the spokesperson said that the schemes by Tribal Affairs Department will unleash the productive potential of the youth, holistic development of tribal community free from all discrimination, fear and insecurity.

Expressing gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi for securing the rights of the tribal community in J&K, Sinha, he said,

reiterated the government's commitment to empower the tribal population of J&K who were neglected for decades.

"We are working with a resolve to make the development process holistic, universal and impacting all sections of the society. For the first time in the history of J&K, the tribal population is feeling fully integrated, connected with the mainstream of development. For the first time, their voice is being heard and they have been given their due rights," the LG said.

"The initiatives launched today are part of the continuous endeavours of the Government to promote the welfare of tribal community and ensure that the present & future generations of the community have all the facilities which their previous generations were deprived of," he added.

The LG, according to the spokesperson also said that dedicated focus is being given towards facilitating best education to the new generation of the tribal community.

"We expanded the scope of pre-matric scholarship to 1.5 lakh students and 12,500 children were selected for post-matric scholarship. Rs 50.62 crore worth scholarships are being given for the education of the children of tribal community, which is a big record in itself," the LG said.

"We are also spending Rs 40 cr to convert 200 schools in tribal areas into smart schools. Till 31st March, 100 schools have been converted into smart schools and the work of remaining 100 schools will also be completed soon," he added.

Sinha, as per the spokesperson said that under initiatives of Host-50 and Top-50, 100 meritorious students of tribal community, including 45 girls will be provided coaching for the first time in Government Empanelled Institutes for NEET/JEE exams, besides scholarship worth Rs.70,000 to Rs.75,000 per year will be given to those who would crack the competitive examinations.

"100 tribal youths aspiring for civil services exams like UPSC and JKAS will get the quality coaching in the reputed institutes under Stars-100 scheme, and the administration will bear the expenses of tuition fees, study material for the talented tribal graduates belonging to poor families," he said.

"Moreover, 2000 tribal youths will be trained in formal skill development in different professions, and many such youths who have already taken informal training in any occupation will also be certified," he added.

According to the spokesperson, in yet another important step, pre-matric scholarships for the tribal communities have been on-boarded on the National Scholarship Portal.

"Now, the scholarship amount will be transferred directly to the accounts of 10,000 tribal students in a completely transparent manner. Besides, we have taken a step forward to encourage sports culture among the tribal youth," the LG said.

The spokesperson said that under the 'Technology Enabled Education Scheme', Tablet computers preloaded with course wise study material distributed to 800 tribal hostel students of 10th, 12th and PG will prove to be an important factor in promoting digital literacy among the youth of the tribal community.

He further said that a Video clip on reformatory measures taken by the government for students of tribal population of J&K was displayed on the occasion, besides the testimonials of

several tribal children expressing their feelings after benefiting from various initiatives dedicated to children of tribal community.

"Besides handing over cash prizes and felicitating meritorious students belonging to tribal community of J&K UT and providing them Laptops, Tablet computers and sports kits, the LG also felicitated the wardens of tribal hostels for their continuous support to students in their education journey," he added.

88% Drop In

The police said while 124 civilians were killed in law and order situations in Kashmir in the three years prior to August 5, 2019, no civilian was killed in such situations since then.

Similarly, six police and security forces personnel lost their lives in such situations from August 5, 2016, to August 4, 2019, but there was no such case since then, according to the data.

Police said 930 militant incidents were recorded in the three years before August 5, 2019, and this number dropped to 617 in the next three years.

Three years before the abrogation of Article 370, 290 security forces personnel were killed in militant incidents in the Valley, and this number dropped to 174, the police said.

As far as civilian killings in militant attacks are concerned, police said the number dropped from 191 to 110 in the three years after the constitutional changes.

A top police officer claimed that frequent shutdowns called by separatists and the resulting closure of markets and educational institutes and stone-pelting have ended.

"There used to be hartal on the call of Hurriyat. Shops, markets used to remain shut. Schools and colleges used to remain closed and students would suffer. All that has ended," Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Vijay Kumar said.

He said before the abrogation of Article 370, thousands of people used to attend funerals of slain militants, which led to radicalisation and recruitment.

"It used to breed radicalisation, that has ended. Glorification of terrorists has ended. Incidents of stone-pelting near encounter sites, which used to lead to collateral damage, have ended. Because of all this, a good atmosphere is building up.

"So, the people should understand the intention of terrorists and Pakistan, and cooperate with security forces, police and administration in maintaining peace," he said and attributed the "peaceful atmosphere" to the public's support.

About Thursday's grenade attack in Pulwama in which a non-local labourer was killed, Kumar said it was carried by two bike-borne Lashkar-e-Taiba militants.

"Two LeT terrorists on a bike attacked the three labourers with a grenade. One of the labourers was killed and the two others are in hospital. We have identified them and will soon either arrest them or neutralise them in an encounter," he said.

The ADGP said hybrid militants was no more a challenge for the security forces.

"A year ago, it was a challenge. But now, it is not a huge challenge because we identify them sooner and either arrest or neutralise them," he said.

He appealed to the parents to prevent their children from treading the wrong path.

"Those who have taken the path should be brought back with the support of police," he

said.

Civilian Killed, Soldier

forces, who retaliated.

"One Army Jawan and one civilian got injured in the #encounter. Search in the area is still going on. Further details shall follow," a police spokesman tweeted.

However, in another Tweet police said that the injured civilian succumbed to his injuries at the hospital and the operation in the area has concluded.

"#KulgamEncounterUpdate: Injured civilian namely Manzoor Lone S/O Abdullah Lone R/O Redwani Bala Kulgam succumbed to his injuries. Injured Army Jawan Kiran Singh of 1RR, R/O Ramban is hospitalised at 92 base Hospital Srinagar. Search operation concluded," police said in another Tweet.

CBI Searches 30

and others, and caused gross irregularities in conduct of written examination for the posts of sub-inspectors," the CBI said in a statement.

The initial inquiry showed that there were "abnormally high percentage" of selected candidates from Jammu, Rajouri and Samba districts.

"Violation of rules by JKSSB was allegedly found in assigning the task of setting question paper to Bengaluru-based private company," it said.

The CBI has also booked Ashok Kumar, ASI, J&K Police; Ashwani Kumar, former CRPF official; Akshay Kumar, manager of the Akhnor coaching centre 'EDUMAX Classes'; Roshan Bral, RET teacher; Bishan Dass, then under secretary at JKSSB; Anju Raina, then section officer at JKSSB; and the Bengaluru-based MeritTrac Services Private Limited.

Shooting Stones

Yatra Niwas till clearance of the road, they said.

"People are advised not to travel on Jammu-Srinagar highway without confirmation from Traffic Control Units Jammu/Srinagar/Ramban."

Corona Cases

Baramulla 159, Budgam 83, Pulwama 12, Kupwara 41, Anantnag 48, Bandipora 37, Ganderbal 9, Kulgam 31 and Shopian 1.

There were two deaths, one each from Jammu and Kashmir Valley during the time. So far 4776 people succumbed to the virus and among them include 2346 from Jammu division and 2430 from the Valley.

Besides, they said, 679 Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—246 from Jammu division and 433 from Kashmir Valley. There are now 5133 active cases— 1426 in Jammu and 3707 in Kashmir.

2 Absent Teachers

the matter two officials including Ghulam Mustafa, and Gulistan Fatima posted at UPS Harial are placed under suspension with immediate effect.

It added that the salary of the officials is kept withheld till enquiry completion.

Retired Officers

Higher Education Department shall be the Presenting Officer in the case."

The Inquiry Officer has been asked to submit the report within a period of one month.

Pulwama Girl Bags Gold In MMA C'ship In Delhi

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A 20-year-old girl from south Kashmir's Pulwama district has brought laurels to Jammu and Kashmir by bagging gold medal in Mixed Martial Arts Championship in Delhi.

Shariya Manzoor, a resident of Nehama village in Kakapora, who is pursuing her Bachelor's from Government Degree College Pulwama wants to participate in mega international events.

Talking with the news agency KNO, Shariya said that she was happy to win the gold medal at the national level in martial arts and she will work hard as her dream is to reach to the international level.

She said that she was interested in martial arts since her childhood but in the absence of any infrastructure and coach in the district she faced various challenges.

"I had to merge with martial arts in the absence of any support from the government. I have won gold medals in the national Tang Soo Do championship and



national boxing championship, besides I have also participated in belt wrestling championship," she added.

She also thanked Owais Yaqoob, a martial art player and coach from Pulwama for teaching her and helping her win the gold in martial arts.

Shariya also thanked J&K MMA Association for providing her opportunity to showcase her talent at the national level. (KNO)



YOUNG RUGBY PLAYERS compete for the ball at the newly upgraded 45,000-seater Bakshi Stadium on Friday. Pic: Abid Bhat/KO

LG Sinha Inaugurates Renovated Bakshi Stadium



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K LG, Manoj Sinha, on Friday inaugurated the refurbished and upgraded Bakshi Stadium with a grand scale function marking the occasion.

Reportedly, the stadium had been undergoing restoration works since 2016 after being damaged in the 2014 floods. Thousands of school students and athletes were seen participating in the reopening festivities, with the administration

claiming that the football stadium has been rebuilt according to FIFA standards.

"For the youth of Kashmir, Bakshi Stadium has always been a place of dreams for the youth who made it so big in the sport. The upgraded and renovated stadium is handed over to those who love the sport. It was PM Narendra Modi, who had given clear orders that this stadium should be made according to FIFA standards," the LG said on the occasion.

"I am happy that with a cost of 50 crores, we are handing over the stadium to the youth of valley. I am thankful to Sports Council, and everyone associated. I am hopeful that the youth from Jammu and Kashmir will make India proud. Jammu and Kashmir is becoming a hub of sports," he added.

LG Sinha said that over 70 lakh people participated in the sports activities across J&K since the COVID-19 pandemic and he hoped that this year the number will be higher.

4th T20I: Iyer, Hooda To Fight For Asia Cup Berth As India Look For Series Win



Press Trust of India

FORT LAUDERHILL (Florida): Shreyas Iyer's performance will be under intense scrutiny as India gear up for the back-to-back T20I games against West Indies, starting here on Saturday, with the twin objective of winning the series and also firming up squad for T20 World Cup.

India are currently leading the five-match series 2-1 and nothing would be more satisfying than a couple of thumping wins in front of the USA's In-

dian diaspora, which is anticipating an enjoyable weekend cricket carnival.

However in this current India set-up, if there is one man whose performance will be monitored more than anyone else, it has got to be Iyer.

Deepak Hooda, who has used most of the opportunities handed to him, looks good to outwit Iyer at the moment as far as the big ticket T20 World Cup berth is concerned.

With KL Rahul and Virat Kohli all set to be back in the playing eleven for the Asia Cup, time

is certainly running out for the 27-year-old Mumbaikar, who has had scores of 0, 10 (11 balls) and 24 (27 balls) in the three games so far in the ongoing series.

He looked distinctly uncomfortable against the fast and rising deliveries.

While the short ball is his main problem, watching Iyer gives a feeling that he is unable to decide at what pace and which gear would he bat in a T20 game, something that's not the case when he is taking strike in 50-over format.

15 Australian Players Offered AUD 700,000 To Play In UAE League



Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: The International League (ILT20) in UAE has reportedly offered 15 top Australian players a whopping AUD 700,000 deals to ditch the Big Bash League (BBL), dates of which are overlapping, causing considerable tension in Cricket Australia (CA)'s ranks.

The Big Bash League will be played between December 13 to February 4 while the inaugural edition of ILT20 is scheduled from January 6 to February 12, making it virtually impossible for Australian players to take part in both the tournaments.

According to a report in Sydney Morning Herald, "As many as 15 Australian players have been offered contracts worth up to AUD 700,000 a year to abandon the Big Bash League and play in the UAE Twenty20 tournament in January."

Most of the top Australian players have no obligation to play BBL under their existing

central contract, with Warner not having played a single edition since 2014.

The BBL's highest payment till date from the draft has been D'arcy Short's USD 258,000 (AUD 370,000) and the money compared to what has been paid to marquee Australian players in IPL, has been significantly lesser.

According to Australian newspapers 'The Age' and 'The Sydney Morning Herald' by senior cricket sources, "the scale of the attempted raid on Australian players goes far beyond the threat of losing one player David Warner to the UAE because he does not have a BBL deal."

The paper also revealed: "UAE contract sizes so far above and beyond what has been on offer in the BBL have placed Cricket Australia and the Australian Cricketers Association under pressure to reassure players that they are not being left behind the rest of the world by remaining loyal to the game in this country."

BCB To Investigate Shakib's Post Endorsing Betting Company



Press Trust of India

DHAKA: Bangladesh's biggest cricketing star Shakib Al Hasan has once again courted controversy as country's cricket board is set to investigate an alleged social media post from him endorsing a sports betting company.

Back in 2019, Shakib was banned by the ICC for one year on charges of failing to report a corrupt approach from an Indian bookmaker.

As per existing laws in Bangladesh, there is prohibition on facilitation and promotion of any gambling related activities.

According to a report in Cricbuzz, "BCB will investigate a recent social-media post from the all-rounder announcing his partnership with a company

called "Betwinner News".

BCB president Nazmul Hassan has announced that Shakib, a veteran of nearly 400 international games with 12,000 plus runs and nearly 650 wickets, will be served a showcause notice.

"There are two things. Firstly there is no chance of taking permission because we won't give permission. If there is anything related with betting we won't give any permission," Nazmul was quoted as saying by the website.

"That means he did not ask any permission from us. Second, we have to know whether he had really signed a deal or not."

BCB had a meeting on Thursday where the decision was taken with regards to investigating his social media post.

Martial Ruled Out Of Man Utd's Opener Against Brighton



Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester United forward Anthony Martial will miss Sunday's Premier League opener against Brighton & Hove Albion due to a minor injury, but new signings Christian Eriksen and Lisandro Martinez could start, manager Erik ten Hag said on Friday.

Martial scored three goals in friendlies in the pre-season after returning from his loan spell at Sevilla, and Ten Hag is hoping the Frenchman will shake off the problem quickly. "It is always difficult to say with these injuries, but hopefully not too long," Dutchman Ten Hag told reporters, adding that fans will have to wait until Sunday to see if Cris-

tiano Ronaldo will play up front.

The Portuguese forward skipped United's pre-season tour to Thailand and Australia and was left out for the team's friendly defeat by Atletico Madrid before playing 45 minutes in their 1-1 draw with Rayo Vallecano last Sunday.

Ronaldo's future at United has been the subject of intense speculation after British media reported that the 37-year-old told the club that he wanted to leave so he can play in the Champions League.

"I'm really happy. We have a top striker. He's here and is in the squad. We stick to the plan," Ten Hag said. "I think we have to look forward to the first game. We want to win every game and we will be trying to do that from Sunday."

ADC Flags-Off Cycle Rally In Bandipora



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Waseem Raja on Friday flagged-off a Cycle Rally from SK Stadium Bandipora as part of the Fit India Campaign.

The rally was organised by a local NGO, Kashmir Environmental and Social Organization in collaboration with the District Administration on the theme of conservation of Nature-Green Jammu & Kashmir.

The rally started from SK Stadium Bandipora and culminated at Mini Secretariat Bandipora. Officials said the aim of organising the rally was to promote

cycling among youth that serve two purposes-staying fit and conserving environment ensuring pollution free atmosphere.

Students of various schools, including Army Goodwill School, NRP School, Shahihamdan School, Emergent School of Education Quil participated in the Cycle Rally and at least 70 students rallied on Cycle from SK stadium to DC office.

On the occasion ADC emphasized the school children to adopt Cycle culture to remain physically fit. SHO Bandipora Ashiq Hussain, Chairman of NGO Gh. Hassan, Mudassir, Muzaffar, Firdous Sultan were present on the occasion.

JKCA Lays Claim To Attached Properties, Files Plea

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) has filed an appeal before a court in Srinagar laying claim on the attached properties of the four main accused in the cricket body money laundering case, a statement issued by the association on Friday night said.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had in July filed a supplementary charge sheet against former president of JKCA and ex-chief minister Farooq Abdullah and others, including Ahsan Ahmad Mirza and Mir Manzoor Gazanfer, in connection with its probe in the money laundering case. The court has already issued notices to the accused for appearing before it on August 27.

The JKCA has filed an appeal before the court of principal district and sessions judge, special court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases, Srinagar. Brigadier (retd) Anil Gupta, Member Administration, JKCA, said the association filed three different appeals in the court laying claim on the attached properties of Abdullah, Gazanfer, Mirza and ex-office bearers of JKCA who had conspired together to siphon off crores of rupees received from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

As per an estimate, funds amounting to a tune of Rs 43.69 crore (which ED now claims to be over 50 crores) were siphoned off between 2002-2011 from the accounts of JKCA using dubious means deliberately ignoring the laid down rules and procedures. The ED so far has attached assets worth Rs 21.55 crore belonging to the three accused, Gupta said.

In its appeal, the JKCA has submitted that according to the



investigations conducted by the CBI and the ED, the accused persons had conspired to siphon off funds of JKCA for their personal benefit and have thereby generated proceeds of crime while committing scheduled offenses of criminal conspiracy, said senior advocate Sunil Sethi, Member Legal Affairs, JKCA.

The JKCA has appealed to the court that the said proceeds of crime had been used by the accused including Abdullah in acquiring the huge assets which now stand attached by the ED. It said the JKCA has a legitimate interest in the attached assets of the three accused persons since it has suffered a quantifiable loss as a result of money laundering of its monies by the accused.

The crores of money siphoned off by the accused was actually meant for the development of cricket infrastructure in the then state of Jammu and Kashmir, now the UTs J-K and Ladakh.

"Had it been used judiciously for the intended purpose, many cricketers belonging to J-K would have risen to the national and international levels. The inadequacy of infrastructure continues to haunt the cricketing activities in J-K and Ladakh, stated Mithun Manhas, Member Cricket Operations and Development, JKCA.



*Famous Irani
Chai of Bombay
now in Srinagar*

IRANI CHAI
PINEAPPLE TEA
BUN MASKA
BUN MASKA WITH JAM

SANDWITCHES

TURKISH BURGER
(BUN MASKA SPECIAL)
CHICKEN CRISPY BURGER
CHICKEN PERI PERI
MEXICAN BURGER
BARBECUE BURGER
CHILLI GARLIC
ZINGER BURGER
KINGSIZE BURGER

VEG BURGERS

ALOO TIKKI
CRISPY PANEER
PERI PERI
CHILLI GARLIC
TANDOORI
BARBECUE

QUICK BITES

DRUMSTICKS 2 Pc
CHICKEN STRIPS 4 pc
CHICKEN WINGS 2pc
CHICKEN POP CORN 15 Pc
CHICKEN CHEESY POPCORN
CHICKEN PERI PERI POPCORN

FRENCH FRIES

DRINKS

REGULAR
PERI PERI
CHEEZY

COLD COFFEE
MOJITO
FRESH LIME SODA



JK Bank Lawns,
Opp Ghat 6 Boulevard,
Srinagar

