

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday 16 August 2022 | 17 Muharram | 1444 Hijri | Srinagar | Vol: 25 | Issue: 190 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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'For Sovereignty And Integrity Of Nation'

Govt Nod To VDGs For Self Protection, Checking Trans-Border Movement

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Government's home department on Sunday accorded official sanction for the creation of Village Defence Guards Scheme (VDGS)-2022, in an attempt to "inculcate an attitude of self protection in security matters amongst the local population and to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of the nation".

In an order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, UT Administration's Financial Commissioner Raj Kumar Goyal sanctioned the creation of



Representation Photo

VDGS-2022.

"In pursuance of the approval conveyed by the Ministry of

Home Affairs, Government of India vide referred communication and in supersession

VDGS ARE THE UNOFFICIAL FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE IN J&K to counter militants at initial stages. That's why they'll be trained in the handling of new weapons and drone warfare. Police will also work on improving communication with these members during emergency to reduce delays when responding to militants."

of the Government Order No.Home-293 of 1995, dated 30.09.1995, sanction is hereby accorded to the creation of the Village Defence Guards Scheme (VDGS)-2022, as per the details, forming annexure to this Order.

The Scheme shall come into operation w.e.f. 15' August, 2022 and shall have prospective effect," reads the order.

Pertinently, in 1995, when militancy was at its peak, village defence committees

(VDCs) with 9-10 locals in border villages of Jammu were raised by New Delhi with an idea that these groups would tackle militancy that had spread from Kashmir to the Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley regions of Jammu. Initially, there were around 5,000 VDC members but over the years the numbers have risen to over 20,000.

As per the latest UT administration's order, the aim of the Village Defence Guards Scheme (VDGS) is to organize a small group of volunteer armed civilians in the identified villages along the borders as well as **More on P6**

Missing Soldier's Body Found After 38 Years

Press Trust Of India

Haldwani (U'khand): The body of an army jawan was found in an old bunker in Siachen, 38 years after he went missing in an avalanche while on patrol.

The Sainik Group Centre in Ranikhet on Sunday identified the body as that of Chandrashekhar Harbola of the 19 Kumaon Regiment. Harbola was part of a 20-member troop that was dispatched to the world's highest battlefield for 'Operation Meghdoot' to fight Pakistan in 1984.

During patrolling, they came into the grip of an ice storm. While the bodies of 15 soldiers were recovered, those of the other five could not be found and Harbola was one among them. His wife **More on P6**

Strikes, Stone Pelting In Kashmir Now History: LG

'We Have Launched The Final And Decisive Assault On Terrorism'

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said the Union territory had put behind strikes and stone pelting and entered a new era of development and peace.

"We have launched the final and decisive assault on terrorism. The 1.30 crore people of Jammu and Kashmir should lend their voice in support of these efforts," Sinha said addressing the 76th Independence Day celebrations at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium here.

He said there were no more strikes being called in Kashmir and the era of stone-pelting has been consigned to pages of history.

"There is no shutting down of markets or schools remaining

closed for long periods," he added. Sinha said Jammu and Kashmir had entered a new era of development, good governance and transparency.

"Jammu and Kashmir is on the move. I call upon every section of the society to make their valuable contribution to a happy, peaceful and prosperous UT. On this Independence Day, let us take a pledge to make Jammu and Kashmir Nasha-Mukt, Bharshtachar-Mukt and Rozgaar-Yukt," he added.

In his 33-minute-speech, Sinha highlighted various steps taken by the government for taking development to the grassroots level in Jammu and Kashmir and for improving the basic amenities like electricity supply, drinking water, and education. **More on P6**



Security personnel offer salute to the Tricolour displayed at Lal Chowk's clock tower to mark 76th Independence Day on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

I-Day Parade In Srinagar Passes Off Peacefully

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Heightened security, minus snapping of internet services, marked the 76th Independence Day celebrations in Kashmir as Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha presided over the main function at Sher-e-Kashmir cricket stadium here.

However, the authorities did not snap internet services on mobile devices.

This year's celebrations were accentuated by the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as national flags were literally hoisted in every nook and corner of the valley.

Flag hoisting ceremonies -- on a big scale in district headquarters and smaller scale in schools and other government

offices -- were held at thousands of places in the valley.

The main function was held at Sher-e-Kashmir cricket stadium where contingents of various belt forces and school children braved rains to march past the dias where Sinha took salute.

Earlier, Sinha inspected the parade by various contingents of police and other security forces.

After many years, the authorities did not snap internet services on mobile devices, which had become a part of security drill on Independence Day and Republic Day after 2005 blast outside Bakshi stadium.

However, security arrangements around the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium had been beefed up with only vehicles carrying a special security clearance being allowed within 1.5 kilometre **More on P6**

7500 Sqft Tricolour Displayed At Dal Lake

A 7,500 sqft tricolour reached the Dal Lake here on Monday after traveling through the length and breadth of the country. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited the Dal Lake and saluted the 7500 sqft Tricolour displayed on the Banks of Dal Lake at SKICC.

"It was a joyous moment for me to salute our beloved tricolour," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson. The LG, he said, maintained that it is a matter of great pride for us that J&K is hosting the National flag of such huge dimensions under 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Utsav. **More on P6**

PM Sets 'Panch Pran' Target For Next 25 Years

Asks People To Have 'Hatred' For Corruption, Nepotism
Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the time has come to cleanse the country of corruption and nepotism and asked people to have 'nafrat' (hatred) for these twin evils that go beyond politics, as he set a 'Panch Pran' (five resolves) target to make India a developed nation in 25 years.

"The nation should now only be setting big goals. That big goal is a developed India and nothing less," Modi asserted in his ninth consecutive



address from the ramparts of Red Fort on the country's 76th Independence Day, as he also highlighted the challenges of dynastic politics.

India has entered a decisive era in its battle against corruption which is "eating the country like termites," he said, adding corruption **More on P6**



THREE YEARS AGO, PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR MODERN AND equitable socio-economic development in Jammu and Kashmir. Under his guidance, J&K has been making remarkable achievements for the holistic development of the region.

Cop Injured In Nowhatta Encounter Dies



A policeman, who was injured in a 'chance' encounter with militants in the Old City of Nowhatta on Sunday, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital here, police said Monday.

"Police personnel namely Ct Sarfaraz Ahmad R/O Batote Ramban who was injured yesterday during an anti-terrorist operation, succumbed to his injuries & attained **More on P6**

273 Cases, Two Covid Deaths In J&K

Jammu and Kashmir reported 273 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus on Monday while two more people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported 239 new cases of Covid-19 while 34 others were detected from various districts of Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of the pandemic in J&K to 474055. In the Valley, officials said, Baramulla registered the highest 96 new cases of virus, Srinagar 60, Budgam 29, Anantnag 23, Kupwara 16, Pulwama 9, Bandipora 5 and Kulgam 1. Shopian and Ganderbal **More on P6**

Shooting Stones Block Banihal Highway



The strategic 270-kilometres Jammu-Srinagar national highway was blocked on Monday due to mudslides and shooting stones in Ramban district, officials said. "Jammu-Srinagar NHW (NH-44) blocked at Cafeteria, Mehar, Ramban due to mudslide and shooting stones. Also SSG road blocked at Drass due to cloud burst. However, **More on P6**

Missing Man Found Dead In Bijbehara

A man, who was missing for several days, was found dead along the banks of river Jhelum in Bijbehara area of Anantnag district, officials said Monday. The body of Mohammad Ashraf Shah of Behi Bagh Kulgam was found along the banks of river Jhelum in Zirpara village of Bijbehara on Monday afternoon, officials said. The body, they said, was spotted by some passersby and accordingly informed the police. "The body was shifted from the site to GMC Anantnag for medico-legal and identification was made there", the official said. A police official in the meantime said that the victim, as per his family, had **More on P6**

Mysterious Blast Creates Panic In Poonch

A mysterious blast happened during August 15 function in Nar Balakote area of Mendhar area of Poonch district on Monday, officials said. A parked vehicle suffered damage in the blast but there was hardly any disturbance in the functioning with local sarpanch Aftab Khan unfurling tricolor at Panchayat Ghar, they said. There was no loss of life in the blast which took place some distance away from the venue, they said. A police officer while confirming it to a local news agency GNS said that investigations have been launched into the incident. "It was a mysterious blast. Nature and other **More on P6**

Policeman Among 2 Injured In Grenade Attacks

Two persons, including a policeman were injured in two grenade attacks by militants in Kashmir on Monday, police said. The militants carried out two grenade attacks within an hour -- one at a minority habitation in Chadoora in Budgam district and another at Police Control Room in Srinagar, police said. "#Terrorists hurled grenade in Gopalpora Chadoora area of #Budgam in which one civilian namely Karan Kumar Singh got injured. He has been shifted to Srinagar hospital for treatment where his condition is stated to be stable. Area #cordoned off. Further details shall **More on P6**



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Teen Girls Find It More Difficult To Give Up Social Media Than Boys

IAN S

Teen girls find it more difficult to quit social media platforms like TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube than teen boys, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center in the US. When asked about the idea of giving up social media, 54 per cent of teens say it would be at least somewhat hard to give it up, while 46 per cent say it would be at least somewhat easy. "Teen girls are more likely than teen boys to express it would be difficult to give up social media (58 per cent vs 49 per cent)," the survey findings showed. Conversely, a quarter of teen boys say giving up social media would be very easy, while 15 per cent of teen girls say the same. "Older teens also say they would have difficulty giving up social media. About six-in-ten teens ages 15 to 17 say giving up social media would be at least somewhat difficult to do. A smaller share of 13- to 14-year-olds think this would be difficult," the survey revealed.

vev revealed.

When reflecting on the amount of time they spend on social media generally, a majority of US teens (55 per cent) say they spend about the right amount of time on these apps and sites, while about a third of teens (36 per cent) say they spend too much time on social media. Beyond just online platforms, the vast majority of teens have access to digital devices, such as smartphones (95 per cent), desktop or laptop computers (90 per cent) and gaming consoles (80 per cent). The study shows there has been an uptick in daily teen internet users, from 92 per cent in 2014-15 to 97 per cent today. In addition, the share of teens who say they are online almost constantly has roughly doubled since 2014-15. While teens' access to smartphones has increased over roughly the past eight years, their access to other digital technologies, such as desktop or laptop computers or gaming consoles, has remained statistically unchanged, the survey said.



Older teens also say they would have difficulty giving up social media. About six-in-ten teens ages 15 to 17 say giving up social media would be at least somewhat difficult to do. A smaller share of 13- to 14-year-olds think this would be difficult

YouTube Plans To Launch Its Own Online Streaming Store

Agencies

Google-owned YouTube is working on to launch an online store like Apple TV and Amazon Prime Video to let users subscribe to other streaming services and the new platform could be available as early as this fall. According to a report in Wall Street Journal, the YouTube 'Channel Store' will allow consumers to choose streaming services through the main YouTube app. The company is already in talks with en-

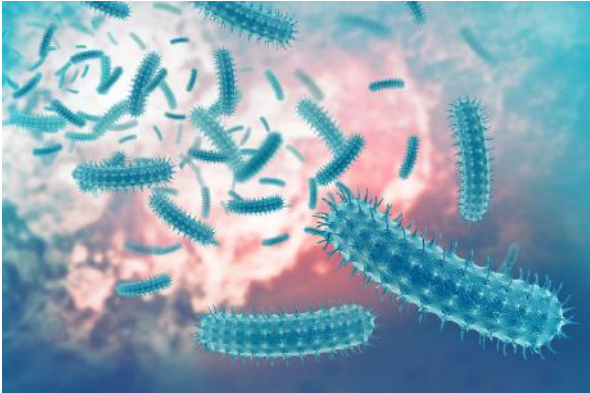
tertainment companies about participating in the YouTube marketplace. The YouTube online store "has been in the works for at least 18 months". YouTube TV already has this capability for HBO, AMC+, Showtime, and many others. "YouTube is discussing splitting subscription revenue with streaming partners, although the terms may vary widely for each partner," the report mentioned. The pitch is that the new YouTube channel store would offer great marketing for streaming services because "consumers

could watch trailers of shows or movies free on YouTube and then easily pay to subscribe to the service". YouTube in 2020 for the first time discussed launching an online streaming video store. Walmart is also planning to add streaming services as a new perk to its membership programme. Netflix and other streaming services will be part of Verizon's new Plus Play subscription manager.

This Drug Can Fight More Than 300 Drug-Resistant Bacteria

IAN S

A team of researchers have developed a novel drug molecule that can help ward off more than 300 drug-resistant bacteria. Reported in ACS Central Science journal, the drug compound called fabimycin, inhibited drug-resistant gram-negative bacteria in lab experiments, as well as in mice with pneumonia and urinary tract infections. Gram-negative bacteria are a class of microbes that infect millions of people worldwide, and are especially difficult to treat because they have strong defense systems -- tough cell walls that keep most antibiotics out and pumps that efficiently remove those antibiotics that get inside. The microbes can also mutate to evade multiple drugs. Furthermore, treatments that do work aren't very specific, eradicat-



ing many kinds of bacteria, including those that are beneficial. Fabimycin, developed by a team from the University of Illinois in the US, showed potential to infiltrate the defences of gram-negative bacteria and treat infections, while leaving other helpful microbes intact. The team led by Paul Hergenrother, from

the varsity's Department of Chemistry, started with an antibiotic that was active against gram-positive bacteria and made a series of structural modifications that they believed would allow it to act against gram-negative strains. Fabimycin proved potent against more than 300 drug-resistant clinical isolates, while remaining relatively inactive toward certain gram-positive pathogens and some typically harmless bacteria that live in or on the human body. In addition, the new molecule reduced the amount of drug-resistant bacteria in mice with pneumonia or urinary tract infections to pre-infection levels or below, performing as well as or better than existing antibiotics at similar doses. The researchers said the results show that fabimycin could one day be an effective treatment for stubborn infections.

دھوبی خاندان کو صدمہ

تجهیز و تکفین کمیٹی در گاہ آثار شریف حضرت بل سرینگر

انتقال پُر ملال

ہم پھر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ مشہر کرتے ہیں کہ ہمارے ایک مرحوم ممبر محترم غلام قادر دھوبی صاحب کی اہلیہ محترمہ زونہ بیگم ساکنہ محلہ دھوبی گھاٹ حضرت بل اے مورثہ 14 اگست 2022ء بروز اتوار دن کے ساڑھے گیارہ بجے ایک حادثے میں جان بحق ہوگئی۔ ہم جملہ ممبران گھنٹی ان کے لواحقین کے اس دردناک سانحہ میں برابر شریک ہیں اور اللہ پاک کے حضور دست برد عایں کہ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں جگہ دے اور ان کے لواحقین کو یہ تلخ صدمہ برداشت کرنے کی ہمت بخشے مرحوم ایک نیک سیرت، شریف انفس اور پابند صوم و صلوات خاتون تھی۔ مرحومہ کے غمزدہ فرزند ان جناب شکیل احمد دھوبی، جناب نصیر احمد دھوبی، حاجی گلزار احمد عرف بلال دھوبی صاحب کے مطابق مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 17 اگست 2022ء بروز بدھوار صبح کے دس بجے (10:00) ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع NIT دیوار کے ساتھ دھوبی گھاٹ حضرت بل اے سرینگر میں انجام دی جائے گی انشاء اللہ

نوٹ: مستورات سے گزارش کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ اپنے ساتھ کسی بھی قسم کا میوہ وغیرہ ساتھ نہ لائیں۔

نائب صدر و شفیق گو جری عرف بیگ تجہیز و تکفین گھنٹی در گاہ آثار شریف حضرت بل سرینگر

75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
15th-16th August 2022

General Manager's Message
Independence Day 2022

Ashutosh Gangal
General Manager Northern Railway

Dear Members of My Railway Family,
Wishing You All 'Happy Independence Day'

India completes 75 years of Independence this year. It has been a phenomenal journey; the vision of our leaders and the contribution of the citizens has placed India shoulder to shoulder with the powerful nations of the world. The country has made rapid strides in every field. Indian Railways has also made its stellar contribution by moving the wheels of the nation in this Vikas Yatra.

The trains had their own role in the freedom struggle. Movement of men and materials, information and communication were greatly facilitated by the rapid expansion of the Railway network. This helped unite the people and lowered the barriers of caste, class, and religion, furthering the national cause. The contribution of Railways in the freedom struggle was celebrated in the run up to the Independence Day from 18-23 July 2022 through an iconic week, called "Azadi Ki Rati Gadi aur Stations" all over the country. Eight stations, namely Meerut, Pt. Ram Prasad Bismil (Uttar Pradesh), Kakinada, Kharakhal, Bhagatpura, Amritsar, Chaurahat & Sunam Lohani Singh Wala and five trains, 12953/4 SGT Express, 1527/8 Satyagrah Express, 1231/2 Netaji Express, 1302/9 Howrah Mail and 12963/4 Frontier Mail were part of the celebrations over NR.

Recently, the Hon'ble Prime Minister interacted with beneficiaries of various public welfare schemes at Garib Kalyan Sammelan in an address to the nation from Shimla on 31st May 2022. Northern Railway also participated in the event by organising the telecast of the address at railway stations and offices. About 1.5 lakh persons watched the programme on NR premises. International Yoga Day was celebrated over NR on 21st June 2022. A Mega Yoga session was held in Kanpur Singh Stadium at Delhi. Chairman & CEO Railway Board, and other Railway Board Members along with many Railway employees participated in the event. The programme coincided with the Hon'ble PM's function being aired from Mysuru. Hon'ble MR, Sh. Ashwini Vashnar joined from Koriya, Odisha. Similar sessions were also held in the Divisions.

Under the guidance and leadership of the Hon'ble PM, the country has led the world in Covid-19 vaccine development, production and universal free vaccination. This has greatly facilitated control over the pandemic. Railway Hospitals have contributed to the vaccination drive and helped control the severity of the disease. Most Railway employees have been vaccinated. Booster doses and vaccines to children are now being provided. Railway hospitals have been revamped. ICUs and childcare facilities have been upgraded. PSA oxygen plants are functional in NRCH and all Divisional Hospitals. HMIS has been implemented. Patient records are now digitized, and tele-consultation facilities are also available.

With the Covid-19 pandemic ebbing, NR has redoubled its contribution to resurgence and rebuilding of the nation. Most of the Mail-Express and unreserved trains have been restored. Bedroll services have resumed, with NR being amongst the first zones to fully cover its trains. Catering services have restarted in trains. More recently, 12 festival specials and 09 exam specials were operated for the benefit of the rail users.

Under the One Station One Product initiative, earmarked stalls have been set up at 34 stations of NR for display of local crafts, artefacts, and food items. This will provide a platform for showcasing, popularising and sale of the signature products and give impetus to local artisans.

The FY 2022-23 has begun on a strong note for NR. The total originating revenue in first quarter (March-June 2022) has been Rs. 6,479 Cr as against Rs. 2,383 Cr during the same period last year, registering a growth of 103%. Over seventeen lakh passengers were first for ticketless travel or travelling with un-booked luggage and total penalty of Rs. 11,173 Cr was realized. Innovations are being made to increase the non-fare revenue. This includes opening of EVs Experience Centres, providing advertisement rights at platforms and within trains, private branded radio service in Shabdaris and Vande Bharat's, parking and EV charging points at various locations across the zone, etc. The Railway Board's policy for e-auction has been implemented over NR and 3,081 assets have been put up in the public domain for auction.

The freight mobilization efforts of the zone, including the BDUs resulted in a total originating freight revenue of Rs. 9,494 Cr last year. More than half of it comes from food grain loading, a significant increase due to PMGSY scheme. Parcel loading increased by 122% in the first quarter of this financial year as compared to the same period last year, generating a revenue of 120 Cr in just three months. Helping NR to top the list in achieving 100 Cr milestone in parcel earnings. To further facilitate freight earnings, Goods Sheds are being upgraded through PPP mode. The work of development of Gati/Shakti Cargo Terminals is also underway.

Asset maintenance and infrastructure upgradation has been taken up in a focussed manner in the zone this year. Our endeavour is to provide world class facilities at the stations. This includes enhancing passenger amenities, extension & increase in height of platforms, providing washable aprons, second entry to stations wherever needed, foot over-bridges, escalators, lifts, facilities for Divyangjans, improvement of station building including circulating area and facade. Major upgradation work of Bikaner and Delhi Satisfaraj railway stations are currently on. Development plans for seven other stations have been finalised. At Ayodhya a new state-of-the-art station building to meet the requirements of anticipated increase in passenger traffic and reassembling the upcoming temple complex is nearing completion.

Multi-tracking works are being done on busy routes. Some of the works recently completed include the bridge over Ravi on the supercritical Kathua - Madhupur, and portions of the Rosa - Sagar, Dhatila - Almagar and Arha - Arerthi critical projects. Electrification work on 63 Km long Shanti - Tapti Railway line was completed last year. On maintenance and safety front in FY 2021-22, complete track renewal of 525 Km was achieved. 43 new Truck Machines were commissioned to expedite track maintenance and renewal. 127 Bridges were rebuilt. 25 RRBs and 75 RRBs were commissioned. NR also earned non-fare revenue of Rs. 162 Cr through rail assets.

To improve mobility, sectional speeds have been increased in 2,045 Km of main track and 1,097 Km of loop lines. To reduce travel time on New Delhi-Mumbai and New Delhi-Howrah routes, measures have been taken to increase the speed of trains up to 160 Km/hr. This year Train Collision Avoidance System KALACHWIL will be installed on 118 Km of Delhi Area and 1,175 Km high density network routes in other divisions.

In order to fast track infrastructure creation for improving mobility of passenger and freight trains, Gati/Shakti Units are being set up. First unit in NR has been set up in Delhi Division. Similar units have also been set up in four other divisions at LKO, MB, UMB & FZR. These shall provide impetus to the Hon'ble PM's National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity.

Maintenance of train rakes, wagons and locomotives is being done as per stipulated maintenance schedules. By implementing six sigma and lean management, Jagadhari workshop reduced the average holding of wagons from 464 to 206. This resulted in availability of 5 additional rakes worth Rs. 90 Cr for loading which will go up to Rs. 80 Cr in the future. Wagon POH cycle time has been reduced from 10.3 days to less than 6 days, which is the lowest in IR. NR is also running 324 CC rakes of 7,500 Km validity and 92 CC rakes of 9,000 Km validity. Almagar Workshop, Lucknow modified, upgraded and dispatched the first rake of Bharat Gaurav Train to Delhi Division. This has a Hamesse party in non-AC 12F coach and a modified SLR equipped with DG set. The train was flagged off by Hon'ble MR on 21.06.2022. 162 LHB primary EDS trains out of 128 rakes have been converted to HDS. This has resulted in savings of Rs. 26.80 Cr in HSD oil consumption between April-June 2022 and earning 18,559 Tones of carbon credits for Railways.

Procurement of Goods & Services through GEM has been an important focus area. The cumulative procurement of Goods & Services through GEM in the first quarter has been Rs. 178.78 Cr. NR also achieved a record sale of scrap worth Rs. 79.20 Cr during April-July 2022.

NR procured power through open access in Punjab, Haryana, UP & Delhi, saving Rs. 40 Cr in power bills for these states last year. 42 pairs of trains have switched to Electric traction, leading to recurring savings of Rs. 1,79 Cr per annum. 45 new electric locos were introduced taking the total holding of NR to 1,007. Solar power plants were set up at Chandigarh Railway station and 25 locations over Lucknow Division to harness renewable energy.

The ongoing rail projects in the northern states have opened new vistas for travel, tourism and socio-economic development. In the Katra-Banhal section of UBSR, national project, the mega structures are in different stages of completion. The Deck laying of the iconic Chenab Bridge is nearly over, and the Arji Bridge is being stabilised by tying it with cables to the pylon. Bridle length of the main 12.75 km, 1-48 tunnel, and escape tunnels 1-48 and 1-13 have been recently achieved. But less track is being laid in the section and S&T works are being carried out. 27 Railway stations are being constructed in the Katra-Banhal section. Some of these stations are partly located in Tunnels or on Bridges or both. The already operational 136 Km Banhal-Baramulla rail line is being electrified and targeted for completion by October 2022.

Safety remains our topmost priority and all-round improvement in this vital sphere is being achieved. 801 named level crossing gates were eliminated by construction of ROB/RUBs in 2021-22. Measures have been taken to minimize human failure in train operation. Extensive monitoring of rail fractures and rail welds has been undertaken by all divisions. Maintenance of locomotives, coaches & wagons, OHE, and signalling equipment is being done regularly.

During the period April-June 2022, vigilant Railway Protection Force teams have arrested 439 criminals, 10,369 convicts and recovered goods worth Rs. 18,95 Lakh from them. 53 Drug peddlers were caught and drugs worth Rs. 6.7 Cr were confiscated. 150 illegal rail ticket sellers were apprehended and charged under various Railway acts. 14,416 calls received on Helpline 139 were resolved. NRPF teams have also been constituted in all the divisions with RPF personnel.

Compensation appointments have been given to family members of the deceased employees affected by Covid-19. The process of CG appointment in 234 out of 272 cases and settlement in all 272 cases have been done. A total of 4,622 settlement cases and 1,531 other compensation cases were completed last year. 1,566 employees were promoted, and 2,387 employees were provided financial benefits under MPDS. HRMS has been implemented for efficient HR management. Employee records, issue of passes, PF claims and retirement cases are being processed through the portal.

For effective account keeping NR is harnessing various digital platforms like IRWMS, WAMS and TAMS. This has brought in transparency and speed up bookkeeping, vetting and payments. 100% online bill clearance has been implemented from July 22. Online PFMS for retirements and PFDS for retired employees are being generated for their benefit.

NR sports persons have again made us very proud by winning laurels for India at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022. 17 persons participated in the various events, athletes and coaches. Ms. Sakshi Malik, Ms. Vinesh Phogat, SK, Bajrang Punia, won Gold Medals and Ms. Divya Kakran got Bronze Medal in Wrestling. SK, Sagar Ahlawat won Silver and SK, Rohit Tokas Bronze in Boxing. There is representation of NR in women's and men's Hockey and women's Cricket teams. The women's Cricket and men's Hockey teams garnered silver in their respective matches. While the women's Hockey team won the Bronze Medal.

On this occasion I would like to express my gratitude to all the recognized Unions, Federations and Associations for their co-operation and support. I would also like to thank the President and members of NRWW for their humanitarian work. Members of Scouts and Guides and Civil Defence also deserve accolades for their selfless voluntary services.

Northern Railway is always committed to provide safe, smooth and efficient services to its customers. We shall with our combined efforts continue to be at the service to the nation and its people.

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Farooq Hoists Tricolour At His Residence

Agencies

Srinagar: The National Conference President and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday hoisted tricolour at his Gupkar residence in Srinagar.

On the country's 75th Independence Day, Dr Farooq Abdullah after hoisting the tricolour at his Gupkar residence said, "Independence Day is significant as it celebrates

the valour and spirit of the freedom fighters including Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and countless others. They fought the yoke of British imperialism with utmost valour and zeal and won independence for the country. Our nation has come a long way since and made fast strides in every sector, there is much more to achieve."

The function was attended by staff and security personnel. (GNS)

Chief Justice Mithal Hoists National Flag At High Court

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Justice High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Pankaj Mithal today hoisted on Monday hoisted National Flag at High Court premises in Srinagar to mark the celebrations of 76th independence Day.

Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Advocate General, DC Raina, Registrar General, Sanjeev Gupta, other Registry Officers, Assistant Solicitor General of India, Tahir Majid Shamsi, Senior Advocates, Additional Advocate Generals, Deputy Advocate Generals, Government Advocates, Central Government Standing Counsels were also present on the occasion.

Officers from Adminis-

tration and Police and the officers and officials of the High Court, also attended the celebrations.

With same enthusiasm, the celebrations were also held in Jammu Wing of High Court wherein Justice Tashi Rabstan hoisted National Flag and Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Puneet Gupta and Justice Mohan Lai also were also present on the occasion.

Besides, the Registrar Judicial, Jammu Wing, other Registry Officers and the officers/officials of the Jammu Wing of High Court also attended the celebrations.

The Independence Day celebrations were also held in all the District Court Complexes of the UTs of J&K and Ladakh where the National Flag was hoisted by the respective Principal District Judges in presence of other judicial officers and staff members.



Arun Haryani from Ahmedabad waves tricolour at Lal Chowk on the 76th anniversary of Indian's Independence. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Working Women Complain Lack Of Prayer Spaces At Workplaces

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: At a time when the number of working women in Kashmir is more than ever before, many women are finding it difficult to practice their faith while in their line of duty.

Working women say they find it hard to offer (Namaz) prayers at workplaces as offices lack prayer halls for women which makes it impossible for women to pray.

City women working in both private and public sectors say most workplaces lack washrooms designed for women which would allow women to make ablution, a necessary wash before prayers.

Saima Shafi aka Kralkoor, a popular female face from Kashmir, who works as a Civil Engineer working in the Public Works Department (PWD) took to Facebook to voice her disappointment over the lack of prayer halls at many workplaces dominated by their male counterparts.

"A Muslim regardless of his or her gender is entitled to pray namaz five times a day but lack of prayer halls at workplaces makes it impossible to pray" Saima said.

She said working women find it difficult to use random washrooms at a public place because of security issues so it is the responsibility of employers to have these facilities at their workplaces.



In Srinagar city, while there is no dearth of mosques in the city, most mosques do not allow the entry of women.

"Providing working women with prayer halls and ablution rooms is more of a social and religious responsibility, I think women should be allowed to pray in mosques if it is in line with Islamic laws" Saima said.

"If a mosque allows entry of women, they can put up a small board so that women come to know about it" she added.

Juveria Javaid, a student pursuing her graduation at Women's college voiced similar views saying in most male dominated professions females find it hard to pray in their offices.

"Prayer halls specifically desig-

nated for women will provide a safe environment for females to pray, it will also allow them to share their ideas on social and religious issues"

"It will allow women to be more active in societal activities" she added. Faakirah, a practicing lawyer, said it is a legal requirement for an employer to provide a separate washroom facility for females at the workplace.

"However, providing a prayer hall is not the mandate of the employer" she added.

As the number of working women in Kashmir increases by the day and some of them defiant to enter mosques for prayers, the response it evokes from Kashmir's civil society remains to be seen.

سید شہنشاہ اندرانی کی دوسری برسی




دو برس قبل آج ہی کے دن یعنی 16 اگست 2020 کو سید شہنشاہ اندرانی ساکت شہید ہوئے۔ وہ بڑا آدمی عالم عابدی سے عالمی داعی کی طرف کوچ کر گئے۔ اس تاریخ کو ہم نے اپنا شفق تو بھٹیوں اور فاقوں سے محروم ہو گئے ہیں۔ انہیں ہم سے جدا ہونے کا ایک برس کا عرصہ گزر گیا لیکن اس ایک برس میں ہر ملہ اور ہر ساعت ہم نے ان کی کمی محسوس کی۔ چتا ہوا ایک سال میں ہر خوشی ہمیں اجھڑی محسوس ہوئی۔ ان کے نقش پا ہمارے ساتھ ہمیشہ چلتے پھولیں اور روشن چراغوں کی مانند رہیں گے۔ ہم ان پر ان اپنی سانس کے ساتھ محسوس کرتے ہیں۔ ان کی یادیں ہماری زندگی کا بیش و بہا سرمایہ ہے۔ ان کے نقش قدم پر چل کر ہم زندگی کے تمام انجمنوں کا مقابلہ کر سکتے ہیں۔

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منجانب
اندرانی خاندان سید پورہ قورو شاہ آباد

سید محمد سید قادری کی دوسری برسی



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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR	4 :21
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	5:22
Magrib	7:21
ISHA	8: 48

HIJRI CALENDAR

17 Muharram
1444

This Day In History

- 1940 - 45 German aircrafts shot down over England
- 1944 First flight of the Junkers Ju 287.
- 1945 Puyi, the last Chinese Emperor and ruler of Manchukuo is captured by Soviet troops
- 1946 - Direct Action Day: Widespread riots erupt in Calcutta between Muslims and Hindus over whether Pakistan should be a separate state, killing over 4,000 and leaving 100,000 homeless
- 1948 - Arabs blow up Latrun pumping station in Jerusalem
- 1948 - Israeli pound becomes legal tender
- 1953 - Shah of Persia Mohammed Reza Pahlavi & princess Soraya flee to Baghdad & Rome
- 1959 - USSR introduces installment buying
- 1960 - Britain grants independence to crown colony of Cyprus
- 1972 - Morocco King Hassan II's B727 shot during failed coup attempt by General Mohamed Oufkir. Reportedly, King Hassan grabbed the radio and told the rebel pilots "Stop firing! The tyrant is dead!", fooling pilots to break off attack
- 1984 - NASA launches Ampt
- 1987 - Astrological Harmonic Convergence-Dawn of New Age
- 1988 - IBM introduces software for artificial intelligence
- 1990 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1990 - Iraq orders 4000 Britons & 2500 Americans in Kuwait to Iraq
- 2003 - Cristiano Ronaldo (18) makes his debut for Manchester United and the Premier League in a 4-0 home victory over Bolton Wanderers
- 2012 - Wikileaks founder, Julian Assange is granted political asylum by Ecuador
- 2012 - 113 people are killed and over 200 wounded in a series of attacks across Iraq
- 2017 - Lebanon parliament abolishes article 522, which exempted rapists from prosecution if they married their victim
- 2017 - Three suicide bombers kill 27 people outside a refugee camp near Maiduguri in Borno state, Nigeria, Boko Haram suspected

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 snail's 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 16, 2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Budgam.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsvr.net

K O V I E W

75th Independence Day

The diamond jubilee of independence was marked by the absence of a shutdown in Kashmir, as has otherwise been the norm over the past thirty years. There were also no protests or stone-throwing. What is more, the day was celebrated in all government offices. The markets were awash with flags. The ABVP led a Tiranga rally from Indira Nagar to Lal Chowk without being stopped anywhere. The government didn't even need to suspend the internet, a testament to the new normalcy in the Valley.

The 75th Independence Day was especially well-publicized in other parts of the nation. It is a huge milestone in the country's march towards progress and prosperity. And Prime Minister Narendra Modi summed it up well in his speech at the Red Fort by laying out his vision of India 2047, as a fully developed and self-reliant economy. The PM spelled out big ideas for the future. In a speech that lasted 82 minutes, the PM urged the nation to prepare for the challenge in the Amrit Kaal, the next 25 years, by committing to fight corruption, dynastic politics and nepotism. The PM didn't make any new announcements but set out the ideas for India to follow going forward. He rose above party politics to address India's challenges and opportunities. The accent on women's empowerment stood out. The speech thus fit into the solemnity of the occasion.

Incidentally, the 75th Independence Day came ten days after Jammu and Kashmir observed the third anniversary of the revocation of Article 370. And that the PM didn't feel the need to mention Kashmir, an otherwise abiding national issue for the past seven decades, shows how far Kashmir has come on the path to normalcy. The union government now sees the problem as good as resolved. And the peace in the Valley on August 15 proves the union government right.

Over the last three years, the situation in Kashmir has gone through a virtual metamorphosis. Leave aside intermittent extended unrests, even routine protests have disappeared. Militancy, although considerably abated, remains a challenge. Over 500 militants, 131 security personnel and 128 civilians have lost their lives in the union territory in militancy-related violence since August 5, 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated. And according to an estimate, there are still 150-200 active militants in the Valley.

That said, the situation in Kashmir has certainly come a long way. And it is acknowledged by one and all. There is a rub though. Despite the prevailing normalcy, people don't feel that they are being trusted with the rights enjoyed by people in other parts of the country, a promise that formed the basis of the rationale for the withdrawal of Article 370. The 75th Independence Day should thus be the occasion that the union government listens to this silent demand in the union territory and takes steps to address it.

OTHER OPINION

Seen Off the Worse

Another reason for comfort is that the RBI had pencilled in an average inflation rate of 7.1 per cent for the second quarter (July, August and September). A 6.7 per cent print in July raises hopes that India might have seen off the worst of inflation for the time being. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das hit the nail on the head when, on August 5 while announcing the latest monetary policy stance, he said: "The inflation trajectory is now poised at a decisive point. While there are incipient signs of a confluence of factors that could lead to further softening of domestic inflationary pressures, there remain significant uncertainties".

The overall print of 6.7 per cent hides wide differences both across commodities as well as geographies. For instance, fuel inflation soared by almost 12 per cent in July. While housing inflation was below 4 per cent, food price inflation came in at 6.8 per cent — down from 7.8 per cent in June. But within this broad rubric, prices of vegetables grew by almost 11 per cent, while prices of spices and edible oils grew by almost 13 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively. Inflation also varied across states. For example, the inflation rate was as low as 4.1 per cent in Delhi and as high as 8.9 per cent in Telangana. Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, and West Bengal are the other states where consumers were still experiencing inflation rates in excess of 7.8 per cent, while Himachal, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka witnessed a sub-5 per cent spike in the price level.

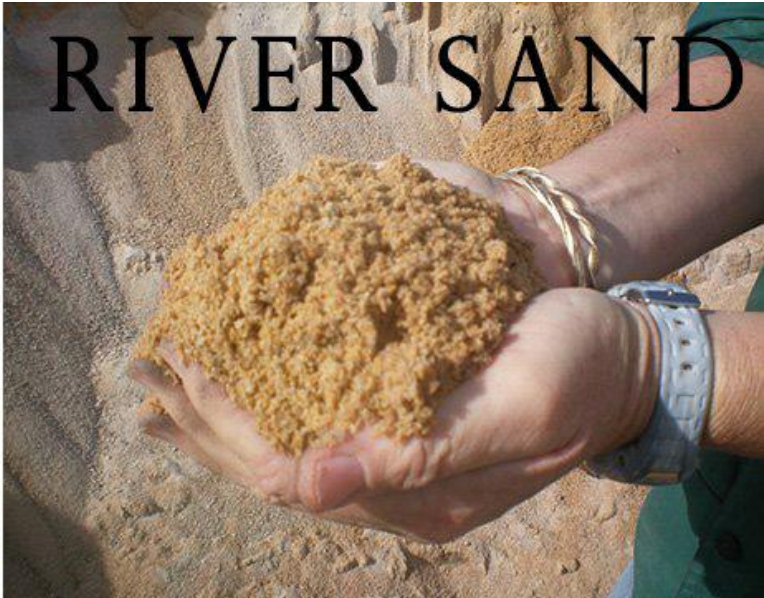
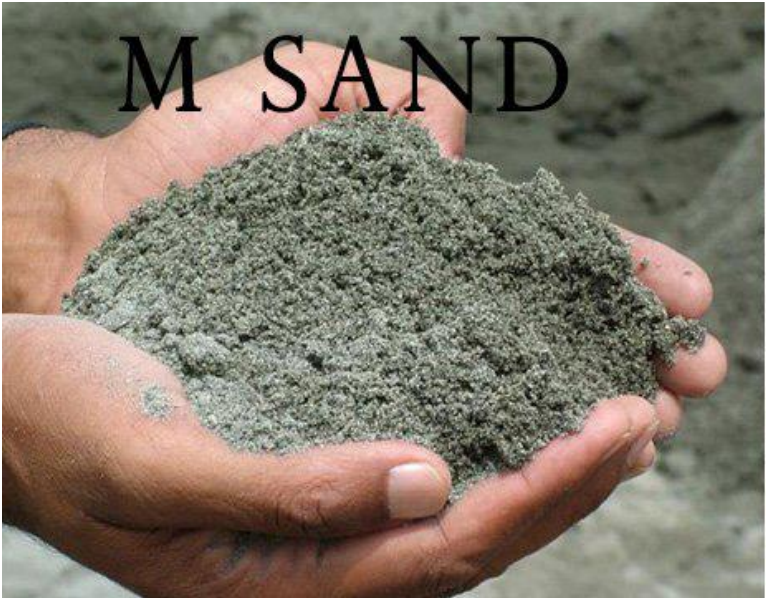
However, policy challenges remain. For one, despite some moderation, inflation is likely to be above 6 per cent for the current financial year; not to forget the fact that it was above 6 per cent in the last quarter (January to March 2022) of the last financial year. Since May, when the RBI reacted to April's inflation spike by calling an unscheduled review, repo rates have gone up by 140 basis points to reach the pre-pandemic level of 5.4 per cent.

Notwithstanding the recent moderation in inflation, steady economic recovery within India as well as a worsening balance of payment situation will likely force the RBI to raise repo rates by another 35 to 60 basis points in the remaining months of the current financial year. However, each effort to bring inflation back to the 4 per cent level will also come at the cost of economic growth.

Indian Express

Unabated Constructions and Alternate Building Blocks

Using ABM, C&D waste is the way out to protect our Rivers from further destruction



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

The increasing demand for sand in the construction sector is causing severe environmental degradation across the world. This is more challenging in Himalayan states as massive destruction of rivers and streams has been caused in recent years due to riverbed mining. The rivers and streams in Jammu & Kashmir have been disfigured and vandalized during the last one decade as large amounts of sand is excavated on a daily basis. This was not as challenging 15 to 20 years back when most of the work was done manually. However, as huge cranes and bulldozers are being used to excavate the sand from rivers, the destruction has increased manifold.

The beautiful streams that had a distinctive landscape a few years back look like bombarded places as huge trucks and bulldozers have not only caused destruction in riverbeds but the river embankments have been disfigured as well.

Unfortunately, this destruction is happening in the name of urbanisation and so called development. Earlier, due to high demand for timber, we destroyed our forests for almost 20 to 25 years especially during the militancy in the 1990s. That has come down to a great extent as imported timber came into our market. Yet, excessive use of sand and other riverbed material (RBM) is threatening our rivers and streams.

Alternative Building Materials (ABMs)

The construction sector has undergone a radical change especially during the last 2 decades. In Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in Kashmir valley, huge houses and shopping malls are being constructed. Not only in cities and towns, we see huge mansions coming up in villages and remote areas of Kashmir. Agricultural land is being sold to make huge mansions and shopping complexes.

The construction sector has undergone a radical change especially during the last 2 decades. In Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in Kashmir valley, huge houses and shopping malls are being constructed. Not only in cities and towns, we see huge mansions coming up in villages and remote areas of Kashmir. Agricultural land is being sold to make huge mansions and shopping complexes.

The non-availability of river sand and its huge cost has resulted in finding a new replacement of sand in concrete. Thus, discovering the substitutes for sand has been of great importance in the field of construction.

Due to the depletion of good quality river sand, the manufactured sand commonly known as M-Sand is said to be the alternative to conventional sand obtained from rivers, streams etc. M Sand is manufactured in industries/quarries by crushing rocks, quarry stones or larger aggregate pieces into sand sized particles. For various construction works, different suitable grades of M-sand are used. The main advantage of M-sand is that it is cheaper than river sand. In many cities of India the price of M-sand is 50 % less than river sand. M-sand is considered to be the best construction material discovered in recent times.

For many years now, cement has been used with shredded plastic waste to make paver blocks. This not only reduces the cost of paver blocks when compared to that of conventional concrete paver blocks. Almost 60 lakhs tonnes of plastic waste is produced in India every year. By putting into use shredded waste plastic, saw dust obtained from construction and demolition waste (C&D waste), we can not only make efficient use of waste plastic but this will also reduce the pressure of landfills. Under C&D Rules 2016, Govt has to provide facilities like land to entrepreneurs who wish to set up C&D waste management units. Moreover 10 to 20 % construction material used in public works has made of C&D waste and this is part of the C&D Rules 2016

ment (PWD) for this. Such cells should be set up in Municipalities and other local bodies.

ABMs are increasingly being used to replace the conventional and traditional building materials like clay bricks, sand etc. In some areas in Africa, earth based materials are modified with plant residues or animal dung to improve the durability and the architectural aesthetics of houses. Depending on the locally available resources and the level of affordability of the residents, industrialised ABMs such as cement and lime are also being put into use in most Sub Saharan African nations.

Alternative for Sand

Concrete is an important material used in the construction sector. It consists of cement and sand. Sand is mostly obtained from rivers & streams and happens to be the primary materials used in manufacturing concrete. River sand used to be found in abundance in Kashmir valley only a decade back and this was available on cheap rates as well. As more and more concrete structures started coming up its demand increased and this led to illegal sand mining or riverbed mining. This has now turned into a mafia as Govt agencies are working in hand and glove with this mafia. A handful of honest officers in Geology & Mining Department, Police, Flood Control or Fisheries Departments who want to curb this menace are feeling suffocated and helpless. This author was forced to seek intervention of National Green Tribunal (NGT) as illegal riverbed mining (RBM) continues in Doodh Ganga and Shali Ganga. The extraction of river sand affects the river ecological and surrounding agriculture land. The other disadvantages of using river sand are given as follows:

- Global scarcity of natural sand
- Growing demands for fine aggregates in construction
- Remotely located sand pits
- Presence of silt and clay in river sand

Conclusion

As discussed above, we are fond of big houses for which a lot of building material is required. Thus, to obtain river sand or rubble or gravel will be a challenging task very soon in the future. It is really unfortunate that people in Kashmir have been going for unnecessary constructions like making huge shopping complexes around residential areas. As per my personal experience, I see most of these shops remain un-utilized and are locked with shutters down since they were constructed. We have to stop these useless constructions which drain our economy and cause environmental destruction. Government and private construction players must go for innovations and opt for alternative construction materials like M-sand or plastic reinforced cement concrete paver blocks made from construction and demolition waste (C&D waste). This is the only way to stop illegal mining and protect our rivers from further destruction. This will also help protect our mountains, karewas as well as a lot of construction material like clay, rubble, silt and sand is excavated from them as well.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He has done his fellowship in Climate Action from Anant National University Ahmedabad

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Online Gaming: A Serious Issue

Many people are shocked given how quickly online gaming is gaining popularity here. Even if it is illegal to gamble in India, it is not against the law to do so online. As a result, players are utilising the convenience of real money gambling sites like Teen Patti, Rummy, snooker, Cricketing & Ludo etc. Due to the platforms' compatibility with mobile devices, a higher number of gamblers play these games on their cell-phones. Indian online gamblers are particularly interested in traditional card games, but they also enjoy fast-paced, graphically appealing games in smartphones. The majority of players prefer live dealer game styles, which assist to replicate a true casino experience. States in India, including Telangana, Orissa, and Andhra Pradesh, have outlawed gambling games due to concerns about addiction and mental health. The bans in some other states, like Kerala and Karnataka, have been overturned by courts. The Supreme Court of India is still hearing some petitions pertaining to the matter from many years.

While many experts have debated the benefits and drawbacks of online gambling, the problem gambling cannot be disregarded. If the sector keeps expanding without stringent guidelines and attention to gambling addiction, it can cause young India more serious issues.

Vijaykumar H K
hkukmech@gmail.com

The 80/20 Rule

Brett & Kate McKay

Have you ever noticed that at your office or church, a small fraction of people do the lion's share of the work?

This is just one manifestation of what's called the "80/20 rule."

Once you understand the 80/20 rule, you'll start seeing it everywhere.

And be able to use it to significantly improve your life.

The Birth of the 80/20 Rule: The Pareto Principle

In the late 1890s, an Italian economist named Vilfredo Pareto observed a curious relationship between wealth and population in Italy. His calculations showed that 80% of the land in Italy was owned by just 20% of the population. He did similar surveys in other countries and found the same ratio.

Pareto kept digging, and he kept finding this 80/20 relationship between landownership and total population. It didn't matter if he looked at a country's land ownership data in 1890 or 1790. No matter the time period, 80% of the land was owned by just 20% of the population.

Pareto didn't pursue or publicize his discovery, so it died in obscurity. It wasn't until after World War II that Pareto's 80/20 observation started to get the attention it deserved, thanks to a Romanian-born U.S. engineer named Joseph Moses Juran. Juran had read about Pareto's 80/20 discovery and thought it could be applied beyond land ownership, including in the manufacturing industry.

In 1951, Juran wrote a management manual called the Quality Control Handbook in which he referred to Pareto's discovery as the "Pareto principle." He observed that the Pareto principle operated in crime, accidents, and as he had suspected, manufacturing. In the book, Juran notes one example of how a paper mill discovered that a small number of defect types — about 12% — created 80% of the costs for the company. When the mill focused on reducing defects in that 12%, they drastically reduced their overall costs.

American companies didn't pay much attention to Juran, but Japanese companies rebuilding after

WWII did. Like the American-born but Japanese-implemented idea of kaizen, Juran's Pareto principle took hold in Japanese manufacturing firms in the 1950s and

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The 80/20 Principle asserts that a minority of causes, inputs, or effort usually lead to a majority of the results, outputs, or rewards

1960s, helping Japan become an economic juggernaut. And just as U.S. manufacturers brought kaizen back to American shores to help slumping sales in the 1970s, U.S. companies eventually started applying the Pareto principle too.

Economists began studying the principle in earnest in the second half of the 20th century and discovered that you could see it across many domains in life.

In baseball, ~20% of a team's players contribute to ~80% of its wins.

In movies, ~20% of films produce ~80% of total box office earnings.

In retail, ~20% of all products generate ~80% of a business's revenue.

In computing, ~20% of software code contains ~80% of its errors.

You get the idea.

In 1997, entrepreneur Richard Koch published The 80/20 Principle in which he explained the Pareto phenomenon and showed how it can be applied not only in business but in your personal life. He's credited with popularizing the Pareto principle, or 80/20 rule.

THE 80/20 RULE IN A NUTSHELL

The 80/20 Principle asserts that a minority of causes, inputs, or effort usually lead to a majority of the results, outputs, or rewards.

In an even tighter nutshell: The 80/20 rule states that about 20% of causes produce about 80% of outcomes.

What this means is that not only does a small proportion of your efforts generate the great majority of your results, the great majority of your efforts are essentially useless. As Koch puts it: "80 percent of what you achieve in your job comes from 20 percent of the time spent. Thus for all practical purposes, four-fifths of the effort—a dominant part of it—is largely irrelevant."

Don't get too hung up on the exact 80/20 numbers. You don't see

everything break down perfectly into that ratio. The big takeaway from this is that, in the words of Juran, "the vital few" produce the lion's share of results in life.

HOW TO USE THE 80/20 RULE TO IMPROVE YOUR LIFE

Every person I have known who has taken the 80/20 Principle seriously has emerged with useful, and in some cases life-changing, insights. —Richard Koch

Like I said, once you understand the 80/20 rule, you start to see it everywhere.

About 20% of my contacts make up about 80% of my texts.

About 20% of the companies I do business with get about 80% of my expendable income.

About 20% of the people in my social network cause about 80% of my personal problems.

Koch argues that by recognizing the 80/20 rule in your life, you can start making decisions to maximize utility and minimize pain.

In implementing the rule in your life, keep these two overarching principles in mind:

If 20% of causes/inputs/efforts create 80% of the good things in your life, increasing the amount of time/energy/attention you give to that 20% will have a disproportionately large effect on increasing the positive quotient in your life.

If 20% of causes/inputs/efforts

create 80% of the bad things in your life, minimizing the time/energy/attention you give to that 20% will have a disproportionately large effect on minimizing the negative quotient in your life.

HERE'S HOW TO PUT THESE PRINCIPLES TO WORK:

TIME MANAGEMENT. You can see which activities provide the most bang for your buck by tracking how you use your time. You'll likely find that just 20% of your work tasks generate 80% of your results. So, spend more time on that 20% which gives you the most ROI while reducing the time spent on other, superfluous stuff.

DECLUTTERING. Just a few of your possessions likely get the lion's share of your use. Pay attention to what you use the most, and chuck the rest. For example, only a handful of items in my wardrobe get used regularly. So once a year, I'll go through my closet and ask myself, "Have I worn this piece of clothing in the past year?" If not, it gets packed off to Goodwill.

MONEY. Start using a money tracking service, like Mint. After a month, review it. You'll likely notice that a small percentage of businesses/services get the majority of your money. Find ways to reduce expenses on those "vital few" to dramatically reduce your overall expenditures.

Personal finance expert Ramit Sethi calls this going for "big wins." Instead of worrying about trying to shave pennies off every single purchase, find ways to shave big chunks off the few categories creating most of your expenses. Eliminate credit card debt, look for ways to save money on rent and groceries, cancel subscriptions you don't use anymore, etc.

RELATIONSHIPS. I bet if you were to do an inventory of your relationships, you'd find that just 20% of your relationships produce 80% of your overall happiness. Spend more time with these vital few.

I bet you'll also discover that 20% of your relationships cause 80% of your interpersonal headaches. Spend less time with these annoying stress-stimulators, curbing your contact not only with people you actively dislike, but those you feel ambivalent about as well.

LEADERSHIP. If you lead people at church or in some other community, you'll see the 80/20 rule in play: about 20% of the members of a group will do about 80% of the overall work. Knowing that, make sure you take care of those vital few. Appreciate them. Publicly recognize their efforts. Check in on them regularly to ensure that they're not burning out or feeling resentful about the disproportionate load they're carrying. If you can't do away with the necessity of that load, at least try to lighten its weight; that is, if a task needs doing or a role needs filling, a 20%-er is probably going to have to do it, but is there a way to make that task/role simpler, easier, and less time-consuming and stressful?

When you're part of an organization, you'll likely also notice that about 20% of its members cause 80% of its problems. Do what you can to mitigate their influence on the community, but don't spend too much time on them. Spending 80% of your time strengthening and encouraging the 20% of awesome go-getters will yield far greater fruit than spending 80% of your time cajoling slackers and putting out fires.

The article was originally published by Art of Manliness

Covid or Not?

Samuel J. White

Philippe B. Wilson

With warm weather in the northern hemisphere, many people will be suffering from pollen allergies. Also called hay fever, this common condition affects millions of people around the world during the spring, summer and autumn months.

Meanwhile, COVID cases are high. Although seasonal allergies are commonplace for many people, there's significant overlap between COVID and hay fever symptoms. This could lead people to mistake COVID for allergies, in turn exacerbating the spread of COVID in the community.

Notably, we're now often seeing milder COVID symptoms compared with earlier in the pandemic. This is due to a combination of factors including increased immunity from vaccines and prior infections, and the evolution of new variants of the virus.

Of course, it's a good thing that people generally aren't getting as sick with COVID. At the same time, this could actually increase confusion between COVID and other illnesses or allergies.

The latest data from the UK's ZOE app, which tracks people's self-reported COVID symptoms, shows the most commonly reported symptoms of COVID are now a sore throat, followed by headache, cough, blocked nose and runny nose. These symptoms can all affect people with pollen allergies. So it's very possible someone might dismiss COVID as the onset of their usual allergies.

COVID SYMPTOMS VS HAY FEVER SYMPTOMS

Although there are several overlapping symptoms, there are a few key symptoms that may help you distinguish between COVID and hay fever.



ITCHY EYES: Itchy, red, watery or puffy eyes are a common sign of pollen allergies, but are not associated with COVID.

FEVER OR CHILLS: A high temperature is not a sign of pollen allergies,

but it's a fairly common COVID symptom. So if you have a fever, in combination with other symptoms, you may have COVID or another respiratory infection.

DIARRHOEA, VOMITING AND

NAUSEA: Diarrhoea in particular can be an early sign of COVID, starting on the first day of infection and often getting worse from there. It's not associated with pollen allergies.

MUSCLE ACHE: COVID-related

muscle pains can range from being mild to quite debilitating, especially when they occur alongside fatigue. Muscle aches and pains are not associated with pollen allergies.

Differences can also be seen with some symptoms of pollen allergies and COVID. For example, COVID-related coughing is commonly persistent and dry, whereas a cough associated with hay fever is more "tickly", due to mucus from the nose presenting in the throat. Similarly, the loss of smell and taste in pollen allergies results from a blocked nose, so if you have this symptom without a blocked nose, it could be more likely to be COVID.

If your pollen allergy symptoms seem worse than usual, or you have one or more of the distinguishing symptoms above, it's advisable to take a rapid COVID test.

PROTECTING YOURSELF

Controlling allergy symptoms can help to prevent absences from work and school, and potentially facilitate earlier identification of COVID symptoms, in combination with testing. Further, although there's no link between allergies and increased risk of COVID, pollen exposure can actually weaken the body's immunity against COVID.

If you have a history of pollen allergies, make sure your treatment plan is current and that you have medications on hand for when you need them. Pollen exposure can be reduced by avoiding outdoor activities when the pollen count is high, keeping windows closed, changing clothes after being outside, and using an air purifier.

The best ways to prevent COVID infection continue to include vaccination, wearing appropriately-fitting face coverings, and physical distancing. If you're looking for the best of both worlds, a particle filter mask can be protective against both pollen and COVID.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Afghanistan Marks 1 Year Since Taliban Seizure As Woes Mount

Agenceis

Kabul: The Taliban on Monday marked a year since they seized the Afghan capital of Kabul, a rapid takeover that triggered a hasty escape of the nation's Western-backed leaders, sent the economy into a tailspin and fundamentally transformed the country.

Bearded Taliban fighters, some hoisting rifles or the white banners of their movement, staged small victory parades on foot, bicycles and motorcycles in the streets of the capital. One small group marched past the former US Embassy, chanting Long live Islam and Death to America.

A year after the dramatic day, much has changed in Afghanistan. The former

insurgents struggle to govern and remain internationally isolated. The economic downturn has driven millions more Afghans into poverty and even hunger, as the flow of foreign aid slowed to a trickle.

Meanwhile, hard-liners appear to hold sway in the Taliban-led government, which imposed severe restrictions on access to education and jobs for girls and women, despite initial promises to the contrary. A year on, teenage girls are still barred from school and women are required to cover themselves head-to-toe in public, with only the eyes showing.

Some are trying to find ways to keep education from stalling for a generation of young women and underground schools in homes have sprung up.

Natalia Kanem, executive director of the UN's sexual and reproductive health agency, said in a statement that Afghan females must not be forgotten.

"As the world faces multiple, overlapping crises, we must not forget the women and girls of Afghanistan. When women's and girls' basic rights are denied, we are all diminished, she said.

A year ago, thousands of Afghans had rushed to Kabul International Airport to flee the Taliban amid the US military's chaotic withdrawal from Kabul after 20 years of war - America's longest conflict.

Some flights resumed relatively quickly after those chaotic days. On Monday, a handful of commercial flights were scheduled to land and take off

from a runway that last summer saw Afghan men clinging to the wheels of planes taking off, some falling to their death.

Schoolyards stood empty Monday as the Taliban announced a public holiday to mark the day, which they refer to as The Proud Day of Aug. 15" and the First Anniversary of the Return to Power.

Reliance on God and the support of the people brought this great victory and freedom to the country, wrote Abdul Wahid Rayan, the head of the Taliban-run Bakhtar News Agency. Today, Aug. 15, marks the victory of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan against America and its allies occupation of Afghanistan.

During a gathering to mark the anniversary, the Taliban deputy prime minister, Abdul

Salam Hanafi, offered congratulations to the entire nation on the day of the conquest of Kabul, which was the beginning of the complete end of the occupation.

In remarks broadcast live by state radio and TV, he boasted of what he described as great achievements" under the Taliban, such as an alleged end of corruption, improved security and banned poppy cultivation.

On the eve of the anniversary, former Afghan President Ashraf Ghani defended what he said was a split-second decision to flee, saying he wanted to avoid the humiliation of surrender to the insurgents. He told CNN that on the morning of Aug. 15, 2021, with the Taliban at the gates of Kabul, he was the last one at the presidential palace after his guards had disappeared.

India hands over Dornier maritime surveillance aircraft to Sri Lanka Navy

Agenceis

Colombo: The security of India and Sri Lanka is enhanced by mutual understanding, mutual trust and cooperation, the Indian envoy here said on Monday, as India gifted a Dornier aircraft to the Sri Lanka Navy to enhance its maritime surveillance capabilities and bolster bilateral defence ties.

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe was present at the handover ceremony which took place on a day when India celebrated its 76th Independence Day and a day before a high-tech Chinese missile and satellite tracking ship docks at the island nation's Hambantota port.

Vice Chief of Indian Navy Vice Admiral S N Ghorade, who is on a two-day visit to the country, accompanied by

Indian High Commissioner in Colombo Gopal Baglay, handed over the maritime surveillance aircraft to the Sri Lanka Navy at the Sri Lanka Air Force base in Katunayake, adjoining the Colombo international airport.

"Ceremonial welcome for #India's latest gift to the people of #SriLanka in the august presence of President H.E @RW_UNP and other dignitaries. Dornier 228 Aircraft which was handed over to @airforcelk will add to Sri Lanka's security," the Indian High Commission tweeted.

"Security of #India and #SriLanka is enhanced by mutual understanding, mutual trust and cooperation. Gifting of Dornier 228 is #India's latest contribution to this cause," High Commissioner Baglay said at the handing over event.

CONTD. FROM FRONT & 5WTH PAGE

Govt Nod To VDGs

in-depth areas of the Jammu division, "with a view to instill sense of self protection and ensure the safety and security of such villages, infrastructural installations in and around them and to check the trans-border movement".

"Under the Scheme, the Village Defence Guards shall be charged with the responsibility of protecting community installations and infrastructure facilities within the defined areas of their village and the Village Defence Guards would conduct night and day patrolling in a systematic manner," the order reads.

As per an SP level official, who also maintains an expertise in anti-militancy operations, VDGs are an important component of the security setup in J&K.

"VDGs are the unofficial first line of defence in J&K to counter militants at initial stages. That's why they'll be trained in the handling of new weapons and drone warfare. Police will also work on improving communication with these members during emergency to reduce delays when responding to militants," the official told Kashmir Observer on the basis of anonymity.

He further said that Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh is personally looking into upgrading VDGs.

"DGP has pleaded this case with the Union Ministry and he's also exploring new opportunities to provide high tech training to the members so that they can tackle any unprecedented situation," the official said, adding that VDG members will be soon provided with new weapons and other technical assistance.

The order further noted that the areas/villages, where the earlier scheme was in operation shall be considered as "more vulnerable areas" for the purpose of the scheme and the arrangements made pursuant to the earlier scheme shall now be governed by the instant scheme.

"Apart from these areas/villages, any other area/village, which may be considered as "more vulnerable area" by the law enforcement agencies, necessitating application of the Scheme to such other area/village, the Government in the Home Department shall by an order declare such area/village as a "more vulnerable area" for the purpose of the instant scheme," the order added.

As per the order, the number of members in each VDG will not be more than 15 in number. The order also said that only those persons who are in possession of a valid arms licence and to whom weapons have been provided by the J&K Police, determined by the District Magistrate or Senior Superintendent of Police, will be included in these defence groups.

As per Government, these groups will be headed by a retired officer of the Army, CPMF or J&K Police. The administration has also set a monthly stipend of 4500 and 4000 for the Village Defence Guards.

"Each Village Defence Group shall function under the supervision and direction of SP/SSP of the concerned District," reads the order.

Notably, one category of the VDG has also been authorized to make use of the police wireless facilities for passing and receiving messages.

As per the order, The Village Defence Guards Scheme is intended to inculcate an attitude of self protection in security matters amongst the local population and also to supplement the ongoing efforts of the security forces in dealing with the acts of subversion and trans-border movement.

"It is a manifestation of the will of the people to actively and voluntarily participate in the efforts to thwart the nefarious designs of the anti-national

elements and to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of the nation," the order observed.

Missing Soldier's

Shanti Devi, originally from Almora, currently lives in Saraswati Vihar Colony here. His body is expected to reach here late on Monday.

Haldwani sub-collector Manish Kumar and tehsildar Sanjay Kumar, who reached Harbola's house, said his last rites will be performed with full military honors.

Shanti Devi said at the time, that they were married for nine years and that she was 28. Their elder daughter at the time was four and the younger one was one and a half years old.

She said Harbola had last arrived home in January 1984, during which he had promised to return soon. However, Shanti Devi said she was proud of her husband as he prioritized his service to the country over the promises made to the family.

According to information available, Harbola, a resident of Dwarahat in Almora, had enlisted in the army in 1975. Reportedly, the body of another soldier was also found but his identity was yet to be ascertained.

NGT Orders Halt

Tatakoti glacier in the Pir Panjal mountain range as a tributary of the Doodh Ganga, a tributary of the Jhelum river.

The appeal was filed by RTI activists, Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat before the NGT who maintained that the grant of ECA for minor mineral block No. 4 spreading 2.90 hectares on the bed of the Shali Ganga stream in Lalgam village in the district is in violation of Jammu and Kashmir Minor Mineral Concession, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016 which prohibits mining within 25 meters from the embankment.

Bhat told Kashmir Observer that he challenged the NOC on environmental clearance (EC), given to the NKC Project Pvt. Ltd from the Environment Impact Authority in the month of May.

Bhat said the NOC was given to undertaking mining in block 4 of Shali Ganga stream.

"In their response to NGT, they (NKC Project Pvt. Ltd) misled the NGT saying that they don't undertake mining during the night time but I spotted a JCB machine extracting sand and gravel from the bed of the Shali Ganga stream in July," he added.

He further said that the company didn't follow Environment clearance (EC) guidelines including use of JCB's, mining during night and 50 percent discount to locals.

NGT chairperson Sudhir Agarwal, while considering an appeal in the matter, held that environmental clearance (EC) was granted without any replenishment study and therefore, in violation of Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020.

"Hence ex facie EC granted to R-4 (NKC Projects) which has been challenged in Appeal are illegal," the green court averred.

The tribunal also noted that the non-preparation of replenishment report is not disputed by the firm and was in the view that no further mining activities pursuant to the impugned EC should be permitted.

"...since it has been prima facie shown that no replenishment study was conducted, till disposal of the Appeal, we restrain R-4 (NKC Project) from carrying out any mining activities pursuant to the impugned ECs," the order from NGT reads.

Strikes, Stone

"Three years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji laid the foundation for modern and equitable socio-economic development in Jammu and

Kashmir. Under his guidance, J&K has been making remarkable achievements for the holistic development of the region.

"Despite many odds and challenges, we have been able to complete a whopping 50,726 projects in the last financial year," Sinha said.

"Let us build a self-reliant Jammu and Kashmir for the coming generations and realise the dreams of our ancestors," he said.

The LG also announced setting up a Gaurav Stambh' in Srinagar the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have decided that a Gaurav Stambh shall be established in Srinagar in memory of the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives defending our beloved motherland. I have full faith that the immortal flame of Gaurav Stambh and the museum of our brave hearts will be the centre of inspiration for the new generation," he said.

Sinha said he is proud of the brave-hearts of Jammu and Kashmir Police who received 125 gallantry medals on the eve of Independence Day.

"Their sacrifices will always inspire us...We must reiterate, today, our resolve to defend every inch of our territory and convert the challenges into opportunities," he said.

Sinha said the sacrifices of the soldiers are invaluable, but concrete measures were necessary for providing enough succour to their families to live a dignified life.

"The government has increased the compensation amount for the families of army personnel of Jammu and Kashmir martyred in the line of duty from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh. The administration has decided to bear the cost of Jammu and Kashmir Police's martyr wards up to class 12th," he said.

I-Day Parade In

radius of the venue. Barricades using concertina wires were set up at all crossings leading towards the venue where Sinha witnessed the cultural programme after the parade.

The Independence day parade and flag hoisting ceremonies went ahead across the valley despite slight drizzle during the entire period of the function.

7500 Sqft Tricolour

Following the clarion call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the LG, as per spokesperson said that people of Jammu Kashmir along with people from all parts of the country have shown great enthusiasm in celebrating 'Har Ghar Tiranga Utsav'.

"The Lt Governor further said that during this Amrit Kaal Khand when we are remembering the journey of 75 years of Independence, we have also resolved to move into a golden future in the next 25 years," he said.

According to the spokesperson, the National Flag was displayed by the team of Himalayan Mountaineering Institute Darjeeling, led by its Principal, Group Capt Jai Kishan, in collaboration with India Tourism, Northern Region, spreading the message of National Unity and Integrity.

The Flag, he said, before arrival in Srinagar was displayed in Darjeeling on 08 August, 2022 on the occasion of 80 years of Quit India movement.

"The team HMI had displayed the same Flag first in Sikkim Himalayas in April 2021, and subsequently at Victoria Memorial, Kolkata on 15th August, 2021 and at the Statue of Unity, Gujarat on 31 October, 2021," he added

Thereafter, the spokesperson said, the Flag was displayed at Antarctica, setting the world record of the largest National Flag of any country displayed for the first time in Antarctica.

"Now, in line with the Government of India's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, the Flag is being displayed in Srinagar. It will travel to other parts of the

country in the coming days," he added.

PM Sets 'Panch

and nepotism are the two main challenges for the nation.

Dressed in a traditional kurta and churidar paired with a blue jacket and a white 'safai' with tricolour stripes, Modi unfurled the national flag amid a 21-gun salute by the indigenously-developed howitzer gun, ATAGS, which he noted with pride was the first from Red Fort in 75 years.

Modi said it was a historic day for India and the completion of 75 years of Independence was a time to move forward with a new resolve and he also spoke strongly for cooperative federalism, celebrating the country's diversity, unity among citizens, gender equality, and research and innovation.

While his 82-minute speech was peppered with several exhortations, including removing the "distortion" in our conduct causing insult to women and the slogan "Jai Anusandhan" to promote research and innovation, but there was no announcement of any new initiative or scheme as has been the case in many of his and his predecessors' Independence Day speeches earlier.

"A distortion has crept in our conduct and we at times insult women," Modi said as he struck a chord with women, and asked, "Can we take a pledge to get rid of this from our behaviour and values?"

Asserting that giving respect to women is an important pillar for India's growth, he said it is important that in speech and conduct "we do nothing that lowers the dignity of women".

The prime minister cautioned the countrymen against complacency over the country's achievements in the last 75 years, and said it has to now focus its strength on fulfilling the "Panch Pran" in the next 25 years in the run up to the centenary of its independence.

He spelt out the five pledges as a resolve for a developed India; removing any trace of the colonial mindset; taking pride in our legacy; our strength of unity; and fulfilling the duties of citizens, which include prime minister and chief ministers as well.

"We have to move forward with these five resolves in mind and take up the responsibility to fulfil the dreams of our freedom fighters in the next 25 years when we attain 100 years of independence."

Modi said in this 'Amrit Kaal', a reference to the next 25 years, every Indian is aspiring to see the fast progress of a new India with enthusiasm and impatience and asserted that he has dedicated himself to fulfilling Mahatma Gandhi's wish to empower the last person in the queue.

"This Amrit Kaal is providing us a golden opportunity to fulfil the dreams and goals of an aspirational society."

A thick security cover was thrown at the main Independence event in the national capital and also in several parts of the country. The Red Fort was also decked up in tricolours, flowers and murals depicting key events that led up to India's freedom.

While Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera took a swipe at Modi over his remarks against nepotism, top BJP leaders and Union ministers hailed the prime minister's speech as "invigorating" and said he set the vision for a "Param Vaibhav Bharat" and reiterated his commitment towards women empowerment and fight against corruption.

Khera claimed that Modi was actually talking about internal politics of the BJP and attacking his own ministers whose sons are occupying high positions in the fields of cricket and politics despite not having expertise.

Underlining the importance for unity, Modi said people have to celebrate the diversity of a big country like India as the country's many faiths and

traditions are its pride.

Gender equality is the first condition for unity, he said, adding that women are now doing very well in different sectors, including science and people's representation.

"Our nation has proved that we have an inherent strength from our diversity and the common thread of patriotism makes India unshakeable," Modi said, as he termed India the "mother of democracy".

He also pushed back sharply against the Opposition's charge that his government was using federal agencies like the Enforcement Directorate to target its leaders over alleged corruption, and also slammed "parivarvad and bhai-bhatjavad" (dynasty and nepotism).

People saw that that some persons do not have enough space to hide their illicit money while many in the country do not have enough space to live, he said in an obvious pointer to the recovery of the huge amount of allegedly unaccounted cash and other assets during raids at premises of some leaders of opposition parties.

"Corruption is eating the country like termites and we have to fight it with full might. It is our endeavour that those who have looted the country have to return it," he said, and also slammed the efforts to "glorify" them, an apparent reference to the opposition parties defending those accused of corruption.

"This mindset is not going to end unless there is a feeling of 'nafrat' (hatred) for corruption and the corrupt and people are forced to look down upon them socially."

Though the prime minister took no names, the BJP has often slammed the Congress for its nationwide protests against the ED's questioning of its leaders Sonia and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald money laundering case.

Under his government, he said, over Rs two lakh crore which would have gone in wrong hands earlier has now been invested in the country's development using direct benefits transfer.

"We are trying to bring back those who ran away after looting banks in the previous governments. We have seized their assets. Many people have been forced to live in jails. Our effort is that those who have looted the country pay back and we are creating conditions for it."

"Even the big people will not be able to escape," Modi said.

Also hitting out at dynasty politics and nepotism, he said their presence in politics nourished this evil in all other institutions of the country. This must be ended, he said.

"This nepotism harms India's talents and capabilities. This is also a reason for corruption as people resort to it when they see no other option," he said, seeking awareness against this to rid India's institutions of these evils for their bright future.

He said he considered it his constitutional and democratic responsibility to fight these evils and sought people's support.

"In politics too, the dynasty has done the most injustice to the country's strength. Dynastic politics is aimed at a family's welfare and has no interest in the country's welfare," he said, asking people to join him in purifying Indian politics and institutions to rid the country of this to take the country forward.

Otherwise, everybody feels frustrated because they believe they did not get their

due because they had no relatives to promote them, he said. This mindset is not good for any country, he added.

With his government often accused by the Opposition of weakening states' rights, Modi underlined his faith in cooperative federalism and the spirit of "team India", saying this is what he practised when he was Gujarat chief minister and a different party (Congress) was in power at the Centre.

"We may have different programmes and working styles but our dreams for the nation are not different," he said in an apparent appeal to opposition parties to work together to develop the country.

"The need of the hour today is cooperative competitive federalism along with cooperative federalism. We need competition in development," he said, noting that many states are doing good work.

At the start of his address, he paid tributes to freedom fighters and leaders from across the political spectrum for their contributions to the independence struggle and nation-building, including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, V D Savarkar, Ram Manohar Lohia, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Babasaheb Ambedkar and Mangal Pandey among others.

Cop Injured In

#martyrdom. We pay rich #tributes to the #martyr for his supreme #sacrifice made in the line of duty," Kashmir Zone Police tweeted.

273 Cases, Two

districts in the Valley reported no fresh cases of Coronavirus.

In the winter capital, officials said, Ramban registered a maximum of 14 new cases of infection, Jammu 11, Udhampur and Rajouri 3 each, Kathua 2 and Samba 1. No new cases were detected in the four districts of Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch and Reasi.

Also, they said that two more people succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours, raising the fatality count to 4779 in J&K—2347 in Jammu and 2432 in the Valley.

"Moreover, 580 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 62 from Jammu division and 518 from Kashmir division," the officials added.

Shooting Stones

Mughal road through for vehicular movement," said a traffic police official.

Missing Man

gone missing for several days now. "The body is being handed over to the legal heirs for last rites", added the official. (GNS)

Mysterious Blast

technical details are been investigated."

Policeman Among

follow," a police spokesman tweeted.

"#Terrorists hurled #grenade at Police Control Room Kashmir, resulting in minor injuries to one policeman. Area #cordoned off," he said in another tweet.

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

NOTICE

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he has lost his University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s- Name: SHAHID HUSSAIN KEEN S/O : ABDUL LATIF KEEN Residence: PATNAZI KISHTWAR Reg No.: 141-PRPG-2009 Certificate/s Lost: M.A Ist/Ind sem (Persian) Roll No. 5664 Session/Year: 2010

Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of the notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled.

No. F(Dup)/MC/PG/JKU
Dated: 08/08/2022

SD/- Asstt. Controller of Examinations
(PG/UG/Prof)



LG Hosts Independence Day 'At Home'

Meets Family Members Of Security Personnel Killed In Line Of Duty



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha hosted an 'At Home' at the SKICC, here on Monday afternoon, to celebrate the 76th Independence Day.

The LG interacted with the invitees and exchanged Independence Day greetings with them, an official spokesperson said.

On the occasion, he said, the LG handed over appointment letters on compassionate grounds to the Next of Kins of security personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

While meeting the family members of the martyrs of Jammu Kashmir Police and Security Forces who were among the special invitees, he said, Sinha expressed his deepest gratitude and saluted the sacrifices of the family members of the gallant security personnel.

"The nation will forever be indebted to the bravery, courage & supreme sacrifice of the

brave hearts who laid their lives in the service of the nation," the LG said.

According to the spokesperson, the LG also enquired about the well-being of the family members of the martyrs and assured them that J&K Government will always stand by them.

The customary 'At Home' was attended by Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh; KK Sharma, State Election Commissioner; Judges of the High Court; Chairpersons of District Development Councils; Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dilbag Singh, DGP; Lt General Amardeep Singh Aujla, GOC 15 Corps; Vice Chancellors of the Universities; former legislators; PRI representatives; leaders of various social and political organizations; eminent citizens; National Awardees; prominent artists; sportspersons; media persons; besides senior Civil, Police and Army officers, ex-Servicemen and senior government officials.

Doctor Electrocuted While Hoisting Tricolour

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A doctor on Monday died due to electric shock while hoisting a national flag on the roof-top of a hospital in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said.

The doctor, identified as Pawan Kumar of Chadwal area,

died of electric shock when he came in contact with 11KV power line at the roof top of the government primary health center (PHC) at Haria Chak while hoisting the tricolour, they said.

A police team reached on the spot and shifted the body to Hiranagar hospital, the officials said.

Class 12 Pass Outs With Top Percentage Eligible For INSPIRE: BOSE

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir, only those students who have qualified annual regular results of 12th standard within top one percent would be eligible for Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) scholarship," BOSE said.

It also said that the students will be eligible provided they are pursuing Higher Education in Basic and Natural Science courses at B.Sc, Integrated M.Sc or BS, MS-level within the specified subjects of INSPIRE SHE Scheme, (Not Medicine and Engineering).

"The scholarship amount is Rs 5,000 per month and mentorship Rs 20,000 per annum," it reads—(KNO)

lar examinations held during the academic session Nov-Dec 2021 and March-April 2022, and whose performance is within top 1%, are eligible for Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Scholarship," BOSE said.

According to reports, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) has said that these students will be getting Rs 5000 monthly.

"All such students who have passed class 12th under Science Stream from Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education under the Annual Regu-

IAF Rescues Two From Flashfloods In Kathua

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Indian Air Force personnel rescued two persons trapped in flash-floods in river Ujh in Kathua district on Monday evening, officials said.

After getting information that two persons along with dozen of animals were trapped in the river, the army and district administration launched a rescue operation, they said.

The administration called for IAF choppers, who speedily launched a rescue operation,



they said. However, the animals were washed away in the flash-floods, they said.

Grand Celebrations Held Across Kashmir On I-Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 76th Independence Day was celebrated on Monday with great fervour and enthusiasm across all the districts of Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

This year several campaigns including 'Har Ghar Tiranga' under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' were celebrated to commemorate 75 years of Independence. The programme aimed to invoke a feeling of patriotism among the citizens and promote awareness about the Indian National Flag.

Under 'Har Ghar Tiranga', citizens were encouraged to hoist the National Flag of India (Tiranga) atop their homes to celebrate the 75 glorious years of a progressive Independent India.

Apart from the main function held at SK Cricket Stadium Srinagar, the celebrations were held in all districts where the District Development Council (DDC) Chairman/ Chairperson hoisted the tricolour and addressed the participants.

At Baramulla: The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safaena Beigh hoisted the tricolour, inspected the parade and took salute at the march past presented by the contingents of J&K Police, CRPF, Home guards, Fire and Emergency services, NCC and students from different schools.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC Chairperson reiterated that Baramulla has shown inclusive growth in all the fronts and the need of the hour is to make involvement of all stakeholders in the progress of the district by utilizing their potential in all the sectors.

DIG North Kashmir, Uday Bhaskar Billa; Principal District and Sessions Judge Baramulla, Mohd Yousuf Wani; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar; SSP Baramulla, Rayees Mohammad Bhat; DDC members, BDC Chairpersons, MCB President, Officers of Judicial administration, Officers of Army and Police, District and sectoral officers, heads of different departments were present at the event besides a huge gathering of people and students witnessed their also attended the celebrations.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar unfurled the tricolour and took Salute at the event in a function organized at DC Office here.

At Anantnag: The 76th Independence Day function was held at GDC Khanabal (for Boys) where Chairman District Development Council Anantnag, Mohammad Yousuf Gorsy unfurled the national flag and took salute at the parade presented by



the contingents from CRPF, J&K Police, IRP, J&K Home Guards, JK Police Band and NCC besides, school children also took part in the march-past.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC Chairman said that the nation is paying rich tributes to the leaders, freedom fighters and martyrs for the freedom of the country.

Gorsy highlighted the efforts besides achievements made by the district under various priority areas besides creation of durable and sustainable assets.

On the occasion, colourful cultural programmes on patriotic themes were presented by students and artists of the district.

At Budgam: The main Independence Day function was held at Sports Stadium Budgam, where Chairman DDC, Nazir Ahmad Khan Chief Guest on the occasion unfurled the tricolour and took salute at the march past.

Contingents from JKP, JKAP, CRPF, Home guards, NCC Cadets besides Contingent of students from different schools participated in the march past.

The Independence Day function was also attended by DDC & BDC Members, Deputy Commissioner Budgam Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza, SSP Budgam Tahir Saleem, other senior civil, police and military officers and other concerned.

During his address, Chairman DDC Budgam extended his greetings to the people and paid rich tributes to martyrs who sacrificed their precious lives to secure freedom from the British Colonial regime.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Budgam Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza also unfurled the National Flag at DC Office Budgam during a function held there.

Similar functions were also held at all Sub Division, Tehsil, block level, all 296 panchayats and all educational institutions

where designated authorities unfurled the tricolour, inspected the march past.

At Ganderbal: The District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq unfurled the National Flag and took the salute at the 76th Independence Day function celebrated at Qamaria ground, here.

In her address, while congratulating the people of Ganderbal, DDC Chairperson lauded the importance of Independence Day celebration and highlighted the various developmental achievements registered by district administration in different sectors in the district besides implementation of welfare schemes.

Highlighting the developmental activities in the district, she said that a new era of development has begun in Jammu and Kashmir as well as in Ganderbal district and new paths are being paved for all-round development.

The event was witnessed by Deputy Commissioner, Shyambir Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jeema Bashir, SSP Ganderbal, Nikhil Borkar, President Municipal Council Ganderbal, ADDC, ADC, DDC members, BDC Chairpersons, Municipal Councilors besides various officers and officials from Police and District Administration.

At Pulwama: A grand function was organized at DPL Pulwama, where Chairman District Development Council, Syed Abdul Bari Andrabi unfurled the National Flag and took salute at March past comprising of the contingents from Police, CRPF, JKAP, JKP Womens wing, Fire & Emergency, Home Guard, IRP, NCC and school children of various educational institutions.

In his address, the DDC chairman congratulated the people on 76th Independence Day and

recalled the great personalities for their contribution for the country's freedom.

While highlighting various developmental works, the Chairman DDC said that Pulwama has become synonymous with Industrial growth, excellence in education and entrepreneurship adding that the District has also potential to become economically vibrant and self-sufficient in various products.

Later, a variety of cultural programmes were presented by artists and school children on the occasion.

Flag hoisting ceremonies were also held at various venues including at Sub Division, Tehsil, block, panchayats level and all educational institutions where designated authorities unfurled the tricolour, inspected the march past.

At Shopian: The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Shopian, Bilkees Jan hoisted the national flag, took salute and inspected the parade presented by the contingents of CRPF, J&K Police, Home Guard, Forest Protection, Fire Services & Emergency, IRP and students of various Educational Institutions in a ceremonial jeep at District Police Lines, here.

On the occasion, Bilkees Jan said that this auspicious day offers us an occasion to commemorate the sacrifices of freedom fighters while offering our sincere tribute and gratitude for their contribution.

Bilkees Jan highlighted the achievements and developmental activities under-taken by various executing agencies in the district. She said that the District Administration is committed to the holistic development of the district and called for coordinated efforts at all levels of the Administrative set up in this regard.

She said that the district has

achieved tremendous results in some of the programmes and schemes during the last one year. She also said that the District Administration will and is trying to come up to their expectations and take the district forward on the vision and mission of making the district a model to emulate.

DDC Vice-Chairperson, Irfan Manhas; Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya; SP, Tanushree; ADDC, Manzoor Hussain; ADC, Mush-taq Ahmed Simnani; DDC Members, PRIs, ACR and other District/Sectoral officers besides Civil Society members, students, and large number of people and employees were present.

Officers of Army, CRPF and para military were also present. Cultural programmes were presented by the District Information Centre Shopian and students of various Educational Institutions.

Prizes and certificates of appreciation were distributed among the officers/officials and students for showing best performance in various activities.

At Kulgam: The main Independence Day function was held at District Police Lines Kulgam where Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, Mohd Afzal Parrey hoisted the national flag and took the salute at the march past presented by the contingents of CRPF, JKP, JKP Ladies Police Group, District police band and Home guard, NCC besides school children.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC Chairperson gave a historical background of the day and said that Independence Day is the most significant day in the history of the country.

He also highlighted the developmental scenario of the district and achievements registered by district administration in different sectors besides implementation of welfare schemes.

Colourful cultural programmes were also presented which enthralled the audience.

Later, a prize distribution ceremony was organized in which officers, officials, sports persons and students were felicitated.

VC Chairperson, Shazia Jan, DDC members and PRIs, Deputy Commissioner, Dr.Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat; SSP Kulgam, Dr.GV Sandeep; Commandant CRPF and officers and officials from civil and police administration were present at the event besides, a large number of people also attended the celebrations.

The National-flag was also hoisted by Deputy Commissioner, Dr.Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at mini-secretariat Kulgam where all officers and officials of mini secretariat were present.

Moderate To Heavy Rains Lash J&K, MeT Predicts More



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Heavy rains lashed Jammu and Kashmir, causing water logging at several places on Monday.

Reports said that widespread moderate to heavy rains lashed most parts of Jammu and Kashmir, mostly from this morning. There was waterlogging at several places due to the heavy rainfall in Srinagar and elsewhere.

A meteorological department official here said that in last 24 hours till 0830 hours, Jammu district recorded 84.2mm of rain followed by Batote 59.0mm, Katra 55.2mm, Qazigund 37.2mm, Banihal 13.3mm, Bhaderwah 11.7mm, Pahalgam 2.9mm, Kokernag 1.4mm and Gulmarg 0.4mm. There were heavy rains at most places after 0830 hours in Kashmir, he said,

as per new agency GNS.

About the forecast for next 24 hours, he said widespread light to moderate rain/thunderstorm was expected over J&K. For the subsequent two days, the MeT department predicted "fairly widespread light to moderate rains and thunderstorm."

Regarding minimum temperature, the MeT official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 20.6°C against 19.8°C on the previous night. The temperature was 2.3°C above normal during this time of the year for the summer capital, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 18.2°C against 16.8°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.7°C above normal there, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 17.2°C against 13.8°C on the previous night and it

around 4.2°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 18.7°C against 17.0°C previous night and it was 2.9°C above normal for the place, he said.

Popular tourist resort Gulmarg recorded a low of 12.8°C against 12.0°C on the previous night. However it was 0.7°C above normal for the north Kashmir place.

Kupwara town saw a low of 19.6°C against 18.0°C on previous night and it was 2.3°C above normal for the place during this time of the season, the official told Global News Service.

Jammu recorded a low of 22.1°C against 26.5 °C on the previous night. It was 3.0°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 20.0°C, Batote 17.0°C, Katra 22.2°C and Bhaderwah 18.4°C.

I-Day Celebrations

JKP Bikers Perform Daredevil Stunts At SK Stadium Bandipora



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: In a first of its kind at S.K Stadium in Bandipora, the Motorcyclists from J&K Police showcased their skills, leaving the spectators stunned during an Independence Day celebrations, here

The performances were organised with the efforts of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed and SSP Bandipora Mohd Zahid.

The 76th Indian Independence Day was celebrated with much fanfare and vibrant cultural performances. There were many attractions for viewers and visitors, including a jhanki and however the performance by JK Police Daredevils team

took the celebrations to an entire different level and left the entire gathering enthralled.

A sense of pride and jubilation among participants of August 15 celebrations and the general public was observed during the function held at S.K stadium Bandipora.

A group of highly trained professional motorcyclists of J&K Police usually referred as J&K Police Daredevils performed stunts.

They showcased Beti Bachao Beti Padhao banners and Tiranga while performing stunts like the kneeling position, reverse riding position, double back riding and also the opposite-direction-side riding double among others which thrilled viewers immensely.

Keen To Make Impact: FC Goa Head Coach Cardozo



Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Deggie Cardozo, the head coach of FC Goa, says his players are determined to make an impact when they begin their title defence with a match against Mohammedan SC in the Durand Cup opener here on Tuesday.

The Gaurs arrived for the tournament on Sunday ahead of the club's third campaign at the tournament, having previously played in the 2019 and 2021 editions.

So far, the team has remained unbeaten in the tournament and would look to extend its solid run, but it is easier said than done considering the number of tough opponents.

Cardozo said the squad is upbeat about their chances in the competition.

"Our players have trained well and are in good spirits. They are

aware that playing in the prestigious tournament is a good opportunity for them, and are hence keen to create an impact," he said, ahead of the team's clash against the Kolkata-based club.

"Our training session on Monday was quite fruitful. The whole squad worked in unison and we were able to discuss some key areas as far as preparation for the games are concerned."

The Boys in Orange, coming to the tournament with the tag of the defending champions, are expected to play out their campaign opener in front of packed stands rooting for the home team. Cardozo added that this serves as extra motivation for the team.

The clash between FC Goa and Mohammedan SC will take place at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan.

Nooyi To Recuse Herself From ICC Media Rights Process



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Indra Nooyi, the only female representative in the ICC's Board of Directors, has decided to recuse herself from the upcoming sale of its media rights process as she is also a member of potential digital rights bidder Amazon's board.

The ICC's TV and digital rights bundle for the Indian sub-continent will be up for sale with sealed tenders being submitted on August 22.

If there is a tie between the bidders, then an e-auction will be held to decide the winner.

Some of the potential bidders include Star, Viacom18, Sony and Amazon. Amazon, owned by Jeff Bezos, had pulled out of the IPL media rights auction with Star and Viacom winning the TV and digital rights, respectively, for record amounts.

Nooyi, a former CEO cum chairperson of global cola giant PepsiCo, is the ICC's first independent director, and she has decided to abstain herself from the process to avoid allegations of a potential conflict of interest.

"Indra Nooyi's appointment to the Amazon board was declared to the ICC when she took up the role," an ICC spokesperson said when asked about Nooyi's status in the whole process.

"As a result, she has recused herself from any ICC Board discussion on the ITT (Invitation To Tender) process since then. She has not been involved in any capacity and will not be part of the final ICC Board decision on the ITT," the spokesperson added.

Nooyi, apart from being in the Board of Directors, is also a part of the ICC's powerful financial and commercial affairs (F&CA) committee.

Tuchel May Be Punished For Referee Comments After Conte Feud



Agencies

LONDON: Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel can expect to receive more than just a suspension in the fallout from the latest feisty match with Tottenham in the Premier League.

Tuchel is set to find himself in trouble for some incendiary comments about the referee, too.

Most of the post-match focus after Sunday's 2-2 draw at Stamford Bridge was on the angry exchanges between Tuchel and Tottenham manager Antonio Conte during and after the game. Both coaches were shown red cards after squaring up to each other following their aggressive hand shake after the final whistle, and are likely to be banned from the dugout for their teams' next game.

However, Tuchel also turned on referee Anthony Taylor in his post-match news conference, saying "maybe it would be better" if Taylor

no longer officiated games involving Chelsea.

Asked about a view held by some fans that Taylor has a history of decisions against Chelsea, Tuchel said: "I don't think just some of the fans think that. I can assure you the whole dressing room of us, every single person, thinks that."

The Football Association will look into those comments and even Tuchel raised the likelihood of being "punished" for speaking out against Taylor.

Tuchel was unhappy that an apparent foul by Tottenham's Rodrigo Bentancur on Chelsea's Kai Havertz was missed by the officials prior to Tottenham's equalizer. He also was surprised Tottenham defender Cristian Romero wasn't penalized for pulling the hair of Chelsea's Marc Cucurella at the corner before Harry Kane's second Tottenham equalizer in the sixth minute of stoppage time.

Nepotism Affected Indian Sport In The Past: PM



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India has come a long way on the front of transparency in national selection of athletes and that has been key to country's success at the multi-sporting events.

Modi said nepotism's negative influence was not just restricted to politics but the menace, at one time, also affected the sporting arena.

"Just like bhai-bhatijawad (nepotism) in politics, there was a lack of transparency in the selection of players for sports competitions. This was a huge factor due to which our players' talent was wasted," Modi said while addressing the nation on country's 76th Independence Day.

"They used to struggle all their lives against such difficulties. But the situation has

changed now and players are touching the sky. The shine of gold and silver medals is boosting the confidence of our youngsters.

"This is just the beginning because India will neither get tired nor stop here. Days are not far when we will win several gold medals," Modi added.

Modi has been consistent in meeting and interacting with sportsperson before and after the big-ticket events.

He had hosted the Indian contingents after the Tokyo Olympics and the Commonwealth Games.

During his address, Modi stressed on the need to weed out corruption and dynasty politics from all institutions of the country, including the sports federations.

"The shadow of parivarvaad lies on several institutions. Our many institutions affected by

family rule, it harms our talent, nation's capabilities and gives rise to corruption.

"We have to develop an intolerance for this to save institutions. The welfare of the family has nothing to do with the welfare of the nation. Let's cleanse India's politics and institutions from the shackles of parivaarwad," he said.

"We need to discourage this in institutions, in sports. We need to start a revolution against it. This is our social responsibility. We need transparency."

The Sports Authority of India's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) has been a game changer when it comes to support to and development of athletes.

SAI keeps a track of supported athletes' performances throughout the year and ensured that the selection in TOPS is transparent.

'Test & T20 Cricket Can Sit Together'

Press Trust of India

Test cricket and T20 can comfortably co-exist despite the mushrooming of franchise-based leagues, said former England captain Andrew Strauss.

Strauss, who is currently the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board's cricket committee, took into consideration the expanded two and half months window for the IPL while making the assessment.

"One thing we know in other countries, Test cricket doesn't pay the bills, like it does here," Strauss told the Daily Telegraph.

"The T20 format is the way that a lot of people get introduced to the game in the first place. I still maintain that they can sit together comfortably, Test and T20 cricket.

"But the challenge we have is (to provide a) manageable schedule that allows players to do both. That is really complicated. It's multi-dimensional," Strauss added.



Man City's Mendy Labelled 'Predator' As Rape Trial Starts



Agencies

CHESTER: Manchester City defender Benjamin Mendy was described by prosecutors as a "predator" who could not take no for an answer as the trial began Monday of the French soccer player accused of eight counts of rape.

Mendy also has been accused of one count of attempted rape and one count of sexual assault. He is alleged to have committed the offenses against seven young women between October 2018 and August last year.

He denies the charges.

Timothy Cray, the lawyer for the prosecution, opened the trial at Chester Crown Court in northwest England by telling the jury: "The prosecution case is simple. It has little to do with football. Instead, we say, it is another chapter in a very old story — men who rape and sexually assault women, because they think they are powerful, and because they think they can get away with it."

Mendy is standing trial with Louis Saha Maturie, who denies eight counts of rape and four counts of sexual assault relating to eight young women.

The alleged offenses span from July 2012 to August last year.

Cray said Saha was Mendy's friend and fixer, and one of his jobs was "to find young women and to create the situations where those young women could be raped and sexually assaulted."

"The acts that the defendants did together show callous indifference to the women they went after," Cray told the court. "In their minds, and this could not be clearer, the stream of women they brought to their homes existed purely to be pursued for sex."

Cray told jurors they will hear from 13 different women.

CA Targets Cricket's Inclusion At 2032 Olympics



Agencies

MELBOURNE: Cricket Australia have targeted the inclusion of the sport at the 2032 Brisbane Olympics as part of a strategic plan to expand participation and maintain the game's position at the heart of the country's sporting culture.

The ambitious "Where the Game Grows" plan released on Monday aims to double the number of children aged five to 12 playing the game to 210,000 over the next five years, with girls making up 60,000 of that tally.

Another of the targets is to get cricket back into the Olympics for the first time since 1900 — if that goal has not already been achieved at the 2028 Summer Games in Los Angeles.

Cricket has been shortlisted

for possible inclusion at the 2028 Olympics along eight other sports and the International Cricket Council (ICC) will make a presentation to organisers later this month. The host city can include any sport but needs the approval of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Women's Twenty20 cricket made its Commonwealth Games debut in Birmingham last month with Australia beating India by nine runs in the final to claim the inaugural gold medal.

The inclusion of cricket in the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics is part of the "sustainable future" strand of the plan, which also aims to improve fan experience, expand the grassroots and continue Australia's success on the world stage.

Ian Chappell Calls Time On Commentary Career

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Former Australia cricketer Ian Chappell, who spent 45 years explaining the game from behind the microphone, has decided to call time on his commentary career.

With Richie Benaud, Bill Lawry and Tony Greig, Chappell formed an incisive and unmatched quartet for Channel Nine. In 2019, he was diagnosed with skin cancer and underwent five weeks of treatment to overcome the disease.

"When it comes to commentary, I've been thinking about it," he told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"I had a minor stroke a few years back and I got off lucky. But it just



makes everything harder. And I just thought with all the travel and, you know, walking upstairs and things like that, it's all just going to get harder."

"Then I read what Rabbits (legendary rugby league commentator Ray Warren) said with retirement and it really struck home when I read the bit where he said, 'you're always one sentence closer to making a mistake'."

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