

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

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Kashmir's Iconic Handmade Carpets To Grace New Indian Parliament

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: Weavers from Kashmir's Budgam district are presently working to complete an order of dozen carpets gracing Parliament of India by the end of this year when the house will return to its usual business.

The artisans from the remote village of Khanpur—where 70 percent of the population is involved with the carpet industry—in Budgam are working day and night to make Kashmiri silk carpets for the Indian Parliament building in New



A woman from Khanpur village of Budgam weaves a silk carpet on a loom for the new parliament building coming up in New Delhi. KO Photo

THE ICONIC CARPET INDUSTRY OF KASHMIR HAS BEEN FACING a sharp decline in recent years, forcing most carpet weavers to take up odd jobs to earn their livelihood. The weavers say economic losses during the pandemic lockdowns have dealt a big blow to Kashmir's multi-crore carpet industry"

Delhi. These carpets are being made by 50 artisans of the village.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Wilayat Khan, who received an order from Obeetee Pvt Ltd to weave 12 traditional carpets in November last year,

says that it's a privilege for him to be able to make these carpets for the new parliament.

"We're making 12 silk carpets with traditional Kashmiri designs for the new Indian parliament. Our artisans have already made

carpets for several five star hotels, so we hold an expertise in making traditional Kashmiri silk carpets. We received an order from OBT in November 2021 and September 2022 is our final deadline," Khan said.

He said that the process of making a traditional Kashmiri carpet is quite laborious as it involves a lot of time and different steps starting right from the cultivation of silk till the final glow up.

"But, it's all worth it. 90 percent of the work has already been completed and the rest will be completed

by the end of this month," says Khan, adding that the latest order will pave the way for stabilizing the artisan community.

Pertinently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2020 laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament building, nearly a hundred years after the foundation for the existing Parliament was laid by the Duke of Connaught on February 12, 1921. The new building would be a four-storey structure with a seating capacity of 1,224 and cost Rs 970 crore. **More on P6**

India Becomes 5th Largest Economy In The World

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India has overtaken the UK to become the world's fifth-largest economy and is now behind only the US, China, Japan and Germany, according to IMF projections.

A decade back, India was ranked 11th among the large economies while the UK was at the fifth position.

With record beating expansion in the April-June quarter, the Indian economy has now overtaken the UK, which has slipped to the sixth spot.

The assumption of India overtaking the UK is based on calculations by Bloomberg using the IMF database and historic exchange rates on its terminal.

"On an adjusted basis and using the dollar exchange rate on the last day of the relevant quarter, the size of the Indian economy in 'nominal' cash terms in the quarter through March was USD 854.7 billion. On the same basis, the UK was USD 816 billion," stated a Bloomberg report.

With India being the world's fastest growing major economy, its lead over the UK will widen in the next few years.

"Proud moment for India to pip the UK, our colonial ruler, as the 5th largest economy: India \$3.5 trillion vs UK \$3.2 trillion. But a reality check of population denominator: India: 1.4 billion vs UK 0.068 billion. Hence, per capita GDP we at \$2,500 vs \$47,000. We have miles to go... Let's be at it!," Uday Kotak, CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, said in a tweet. India has a population 20 times that of the UK and so its GDP per capita is lower.

"We just became **More on P6**

Stage Set For Azad's First Power Show Today

Observer News Service

Jammu: Ghulam Nabi Azad, who recently broke his five-decade-long association with the Congress, will begin his fresh political journey Sunday from Jammu where he would set up the first unit of his own party.

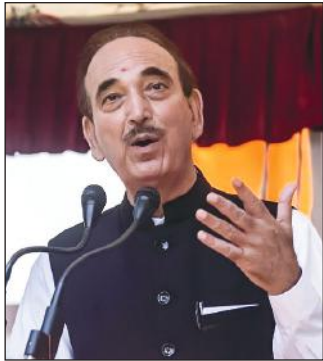
All preparations have been completed for Azad's first public rally in Jammu, a close aide of the former chief minister said on the eve of the public meeting.

Azad would be accorded a grand reception on his arrival from Delhi Sunday morning, and a procession would accompany him to the venue of the public meeting at the Sainik Colony, former minister G M Saroori said.

Saroori is among over two dozen prominent legislators who resigned from the Congress in support of Azad. The 73-year-old Azad is likely to announce the formation of his own political party.

Azad, 73, ended his five-decade association with the Congress on August 26, terming the party "comprehensively destroyed". He also lashed out at Rahul Gandhi for "demolishing" the party's entire consultative mechanism.

Since Azad's resignation, a former deputy chief minister,



eight former ministers, a former MP, nine legislators besides a large number of Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, municipal corporators and grassroots workers from across Jammu and Kashmir defected to the Azad camp.

Hoardings and banners welcoming Azad have been put up at the Satwari chowk along the Jammu-Airport road and in the route leading to the venue of the public rally, where seating arrangements for over 20,000 people have been made.

"All those who resigned in support of Azad will be present at the public meeting," Saroori, who was busy over the past week in making **More on P6**

Azad Defends His DNA

Meeting and talking to political rivals does not change one's DNA, veteran leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Saturday in a swipe at the Congress which had insinuated that he was cozying up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he left the party. After Azad ended his five-decade-long association with the Congress last month, **More on P6**

PDP Leader Joins Azad Camp

In a blow to the People's Democratic Party (PDP), its prominent Gujjar leader Choudhary Gulzar Ahmad Khatana has quit the party to throw his weight behind former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad. Gulzar, who was one of the influential PDP leaders from south Kashmir, has extended his support to Ghulam Nabi Azad-led camp on Friday in presence of former minister Peerzada Muhammad Sayeed. **More on P6**



A nomad woman collects fresh water from a stream in the outskirts of Srinagar on Saturday: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

CEOs Missive To School Teachers Sparks Dress Code Debate

Agencies

Srinagar: A letter shot by an officer of the School Education Department (SED) in Jammu and Kashmir has sparked a debate once again on whether teachers should follow a dress code in schools.

In a circular addressed to all the heads of the schools, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Pulwama has said that all the teachers and staff of the schools and other offices are directed to maintain a dress code and become a role model for the students in particular and public in general.

"It is impressed upon all the HOIs (Heads of Institutions) of the district in the education department to implement proper dress code of their staff. Any laxity in this regard shall be viewed seriously," reads the circular issued by CEO Pulwama, N A Reshi.



File Photo

He said the department of education was also named as Human Resource Development which means all round development of the child including, social, psychological, moral, mental and overall behavioural.

Invoking old day practices, the CEO in his circular has stated that long back teachers were modestly dressed and used to wear Sheerwani, Turban and

Shalwar which in-turn influenced the child's personality in a positive manner.

"Nowadays Teachers opt for casual wear and are wearing Jeans Pant and half sleeves shirts, and this has negatively affected the students' personality, behaviour and sense of thought," the circular reads.

Notably, the circular comes at a time when **More on P6**

Video Shows Students Carrying Cylinder Uphill, Probe Ordered

Observer News Service

Jammu: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Saturday said they were verifying a video purportedly showing students carrying a domestic cylinder to their school located on a hilltop.

The video, which has gone viral, shows the students of Government Middle School Upper Bhatidhar, Mendhar in uniform struggling as they pulled the LPG cylinder with a rope through a narrow track between green fields, passing obstacles along the way.

The person who shared the video questioned the school management for making the students take up such a task.

The sub-divisional magistrate has ordered a probe, a senior official said.

"Strict action as per law would be taken if anyone is



found guilty," he added.

Meanwhile, another video showing some students of Government Higher Secondary School Gali Kalaban pulling a big stone along with some labourers at a playground has also gone viral on social media.

Chief Education Officer, Bishamber Dass told a local news agency GNS that he will look into both the incidents and depute Deputy CEO Headquarters' Mendhar to visit on the spot. (With agency inputs)

S H O R T T A K E S

Couple Injured After Old Shell Explodes

A couple was injured on Saturday after an unexploded shell went off in a remote village of Tangdhar in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. Ghulam Yahya, son of Habibullah and his wife Zulekha Begum sustained injuries when an old shell exploded in Kuth Nard Bahek in Karnah area of the district on Saturday afternoon, reports said. The couple was reportedly on their way to the forest area to graze their cattle when the explosion took place. According to reports, the injured couple was removed **More on P6**

Annual Gangabal Yatra Flagged Off

The annual yatra to high-altitude Harmukh-Gangabal lake, which Kashmiri Pandits consider as the abode of Lord Shiva, was flagged off by district administration in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Saturday. The annual pilgrimage from Naranag temple was flagged off by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir, an official spokesperson said Saturday. He said a group of about 47 Kashmiri Pandits left for the Gangabal Lake from Naranag temple and were accompanied by **More on P6**

Pak Agent Arrested In Kishtwar: Police

A madrassa teacher was arrested in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir for allegedly giving information related to security installations to Pakistan-based handlers involved in "terror activities", officials said on Saturday. Police said the man was working as an "enemy agent" and was booked under section 3 of the Enemy Agents Ordinance Act. On a joint input, police along with 11 Rashtriya Rifles arrested one person namely Abdul Wahid Gujjar of Chergi-Dool, working as an "agent for Pakistan based intelligence agency". **More on P6**

Noted Journalist Muzamil Jaleel Bereaved

Mehmooda Fazli wife of late Atta Mohammad Zia and mother of noted journalist Muzamil Jaleel passed away on Saturday at her native village Gamroo in North Kashmir's Bandipora district. A family member told a local news agency KNO that Mehmooda left for heavenly abode at around 03:00 morning on Saturday. Scores of people attended her Nimaz-e-Janaza. Meanwhile, several journalist associations, politicians and civil society members expressed sympathy with the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul. (Agencies)

J&K Clocks 137 New Corona Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported 137 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus on Saturday, taking the number of people infected since the onset of pandemic to 478220 in the Union Territory. While Kashmir registered 109 new cases of Covid-19, the remaining 28 were recorded from Jammu division, officials said. In the Valley, they said, Srinagar reported the highest 39 new cases of Coronavirus, Budgam 22, Baramulla 18, Kulgam 14, Pulwama 7, Kupwara 4, Bandipora and Ganderbal 2 each and Anantnag 1. Shopian was the only district in the **More on P6**

Isolated Light Rain Forecast In J&K

Parts of Jammu region received rainfall while the weather department on Saturday forecast isolated to scattered light showers and thunders over Jammu and Kashmir in next 24 hours. For the subsequent two days, a meteorological department official said that there was possibility of scattered light rain and thunder. He said while rain eluded Kashmir valley barring Pahalgam which had traces of it, Jammu received 29.4mm in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours, Batote 6.6mm, Katra 3.4mm while Kathua received the **More on P6**



AAC Condoles Demise Of Yaqoob Wakil

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Awami Action Committee (AAC) Saturday expressed grief over the demise of many personalities associated with the organisation, the movement and the Mir-waiz family.

Among the deceased personalities include noted political and social activist Muhammad Yaqoob Wakil of Ghadiyar Zaina Kadal.

In a statement AAC on behalf of its leadership, especially its incarcerated Chairman Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Mirwaiz Umar Farooq expressed condolence and solidarity with all the bereaved families.

AAC said that Muhammad Yaqoob Wakil started his political activities under the leadership of Shaheed-e-Millat Mirwaiz Moulvi Muhammad Farooq. Even in unusual and unfavourable circumstances, the deceased made sincere efforts to carry forward the organ-

isational programmes side by side with the martyred leader. Yaqoob Sahib also worked under the leadership of the current head of the organization Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. He was also associated with Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar and rendered his services for the improvement of the Auqaf as well.

AAC also expressed grief at the demise of mother of Ghulam Mohamad Bhat the Halqa President of Zoonimar, AAC termed her as a virtuous and pious woman.

AAC also paid tributes to Khawaja Abdul Razzaq Lone, the AAC expressed condolence and solidarity with the deceased's sons Ghulam Ali Lone and Farooq Ahmed Lone and his son-in-law Shakeel Ahmad Rather and all the bereaved family members. It prayed to Allah to grant Jannat-ul-Firdous to all the departed souls and forbearance to the bereaved families to bear the irreparable losses.

Body Retrieved From Jhelum After 2 Days

Agencies

Srinagar: The body of a labourer, who had drowned in river Jhelum while extracting sand, was retrieved on Saturday after two days in Rajbagh area of Srinagar.

An official said that the labourer identified as Jaffar Wani (22) of Banihal drowned into river Jhelum while extracting sand in Sonwar area of Srinagar.

He said that after the incident a rescue operation was launched by Srinagar River Police and SDRF to retrieve his body.

"After hectic efforts, the body was retrieved this morning after two days in the Rajbagh area," he said.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and the body has been sent to hospital for medico-legal formalities. (KNO)

Migrant Labourer Dies At under-Construction Site In Rajbagh

Agencies

Srinagar: A migrant labourer died while another was injured while unloading construction material at an under construction hotel in Rajbagh area of Srinagar on Saturday, reports said here.

Reports said that two labourers identified as Rohit Yadav (21) and Ladoo Kumar (19) were critically

injured when they were unloading construction material in Rajbagh.

They said that the injured labourers were shifted to SMHS hospital for treatment, however, Rohit succumbed to his injuries, while Ladoo Kumar was being treated and his condition is said to be stable.

Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident. (KNO)

Donation Boxes Of 'Salesmen' Removed From Shrines: Darakhshan Andrabi

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board chairperson, Darakhshan Andrabi on Saturday said that donation boxes of "salesmen" have been removed from shrines and some people are trying to play politics over it. The records about Qard-e-Hasana given to the people are not available yet, she said.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function Andrabi, said that the order issued about unethical practices at shrines cannot be revoked and some people are trying to play politics over the issue.

Terming Mujavirs at shrines as salesmen, she also said that their donation boxes have been removed, which paved the way for devotees to visit these shrines without facing any harassment.

"The orders cannot be revoked and will be implemented in letter and spirit. The devotees have heaved a sigh of relief after the order was implemented," she said.



She also said that there is no record available about Qard-e-Hasana given to the people so far, while she has made efforts to get the record about it, but it has not been received as yet.

Andrabi said that a new agreement fixed by the Waqf Board is being implemented and the shopkeepers holding Waqf shops are visiting the office to follow the procedure.

"All the shopkeepers are visiting the office simultaneously to follow through the procedure of the new agreement," she said.

On being asked about Eidgah, she said that Masjid is meant for prayers only. "Is it possible to play in the Masjid," she asked, adding that let people come up with the suggestions if there are any with regard to the Eidgah. (KNO)

Moulvi Abbas Discharged From SKIMS

Abdullah, Bukhari Pay Visit To Ailing Maulana

Srinagar: Veteran Kashmiri leader Moulvi Abbas Ansari who underwent an emergency surgery for a hemorrhagic stroke in SKIMS was discharged from the hospital on Saturday.

Moulvi Abbas was admitted in the Sheri Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Friday morning where doctors conducted a successful surgery on him for Chronic Subdural Hematoma (CSDH).

Earlier on Saturday a large number of people visited SKIMS to enquire about the health of



Maulana Abbas. Among them was National Conference President and PM Dr Farooq Abdullah and Apni Party chief Syed Altaf Bukhari.

Dr Farooq Abdullah wished

Maulana a swift and complete recovery, NC spokesman Tanvir Sadiq who was accompanying him along with Nasir Aslam Wani and Salman Ali Sagar said.

Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari also visited SKIMS to see Moulvi Abbas Ansari.

"Bukhari extended his good wishes to Ansari Sahib and prayed for his speedy recovery. Also, expressed his solidarity with his kith and kin in this difficult hour", an Apni party spokesman said.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW
AND RENEWABLE ENERGY





Install Rooftop Solar, Save Money-Save Environment

National Portal for Residential Consumers Launched
It is now easy to install rooftop solar plant and get subsidy


The simplified procedure is as under:

- Register yourself at National Portal www.solarrooftop.gov.in and submit application.
- The application will be forwarded online to the concerned DISCOM for technical feasibility approval.
- After getting technical feasibility approval, install rooftop solar plant through any of the vendors registered on the portal.
- On installation, submit details and apply for net-metering.
- Concerned DISCOM will install net-meter after inspection of the plant and update on the Portal.
- After installation of net-meter, the consumer can apply for getting subsidy by submitting bank account details and uploading copy of a cancelled cheque.
- The Central Government subsidy will be credited directly into the bank account of the consumer within 30 working days.
- Status update for each steps can be tracked online of the portal.

Rooftop Solar Plant Vendors
Expand your business by registering on National Portal


The simplified procedure for registration is as under:

- Get registered by submitting an application at the Division /Circle level office of the concerned DISCOM along with a declaration (format given at www.solarrooftop.gov.in) and depositing a PBG of Rs. 2,50,000/- valid for at least five years.
- Within a period of one month of application, the concerned DISCOM will update the details of the registered vendors on the National Portal and the vendors will receive a registration mail along with login details.
- The vendors can login on the National Portal and enter the contact details as also rates offered by them for rooftop solar plant.
- The details entered by the vendors will be visible to the consumers submitting application on the National Portal and they can contact these vendors.




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

AIRPORTS


SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS




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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

07 Safar
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR

4 :40

ZUHR

12:32

ASR

5:04

Magrib

7:00

ISHA

8: 22

This Day In History

- 1260 - Battle at Montaperti, Tuscany, between rival factions the Guelphs and Ghibellines
- 1682 - English astronomer Edmond Halley observes the comet named after him
- 1862 - General Lee invades the North with 50,000 Confederate troops during Maryland Campaign (US Civil war)
- 1870 - The Third French Republic proclaimed as French overthrew Emperor Napoleon III (who ironically was the elected president of the Second French Republic) after his defeat by Prussia at Sedan.
- 1904 - Dalai Lama signs treaty allowing British commerce in Tibet
- 1914 - General von Moltke ceases German advance in France
- 1914 - France, Russia, and Britain agree in a Pact of London that none will make a separate peace.
- 1919 - Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who founded the Republic of Turkey, gathers a congress in Sivas to make decisions as to the future of Anatolia and Thrace.
- 1936 - Franco's troops conquer Irun & Talavera de la Reina, Spain
- 1939 - Netherlands & Belgium declare neutrality
- 1940 - Nazi collaborator Mussert puts the fate of Netherlands in Hitler's hands
- 1943 - British 8th Army lands at Taranto, South Italy
- 1944 - Finland breaks diplomatic contact with Nazi Germany
- 1951 - US President Harry Truman addresses opening of Japanese Peace Treaty Conference.
- 1964 - NASA launches its 1st Orbital Geophysical Observatory (OGO-1)
- 1967 - 6.5 earthquake of Kolya Dam India, kills 200
- 1968 - Nigerian troops conquer the city of Aba, Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War
- 1975 - The Sinai Interim Agreement relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict is signed.
- 1976 - Palestinians hijack KLM DC-9 to Cyprus
- 1979 - Sunil Gavaskar scores 221 in India's 8 for 429 chasing 438 in drawn 4th cricket Test v England at The Oval; England win series 1-0
- 1979 - Iran army conquers Baneh
- 1982 - USSR performs underground nuclear test

From KO Archives

Officer Shifted For 7th Time, Goes On Leave

Observer News Service

Srinagar - The principal secretary, revenue, Sonali Kumar, has proceeded on leave following the recent transfers and postings in the state administration. The high-ranking bureaucrat has been transferred for the seventh time in the changes announced yesterday.

During the two-and-a-half year tenure of the coalition government, Kumar has been shifted six times from her posts.

Before the coalition government came to power, Sonali Kumar had been made the commissioner secretary, education, on May 1, 2002.

Soon after the new government took over, she was transferred to the technical education department as commissioner secretary in November

2003. In February the next year, she was transferred to industries and commerce, and four months later, in July 2003, to the higher and technical education department

After serving on that post for one year, she was transferred again in July 2004, and made the principal secretary of the forest department. The government shifted her again in April 2005, this time to the health and medical education department.

Yesterday's revamp, which made her the principal secretary of the revenue department, was the sixth time she was transferred in 2-and-a-half years.

Fed up with the repeated transfers and postings, Sonali Kumar, has gone on leave in protest, sources told the KNS. She has asked the government to grant her leave till October.

(Kashmir Observer, September 04, 2000)

Sher-e-Kashmir
University of Agricultural Sciences
and Technology of Kashmir Shalimar
Srinagar, Kashmir - 190025

NOTIFICATION No : 194(Acad.) of 2022
Dated: 31-08 - 2022



The Post-graduate student of the Faculty of Horticulture, whose particulars are given below after having successfully completed all the requirements for award of Doctorate Degree of this University, is declared qualified to receive the said degree:

01.	Name	Beenish
02.	Parentage	
	Father	Gulzar Ahmed
	Mother	Ishrat Gulzar
03.	Registration No.	2017-742-D
04.	Major subject/discipline	Food Technology
05.	Name of the Major Advisor	Dr. Syed Zameer Hussain
06.	Title of Thesis	"Development of Technology for reducing Glycemic Index in rice based products through extrusion and supplementation"
07.	OGPA obtained at 10.00 scale	8.328 (Eight Point Three Two Eight)
08.	Date of Viva-Voce	22-06-2022
09.	Date of completion of degree programme	22-06-2022

By Order

No. Au/Acad/PG/PF/2022/ 4859-66
Dated: 31/-08-2022

Registrar
SKUAST-K Shalimar, Srinagar
Jammu & Kashmir

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KASHMIR
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ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Water Crisis

The valley of Kashmir, otherwise known as the paradise on earth, is reeling under an acute, and perhaps unprecedented, shortage of drinking water these days. The public health engineering department has pressed into service its lousy tanker service in the capital city of Srinagar and may be some major towns to supply bucketfuls of water leaving the millions living in the countryside to fend for themselves as they have been so far. Over the recent weeks, the city witnessed massive demonstrations by irate citizens to protest the scarcity. As is its wont, the government’s response was brutal, to say the least. At places, its policemen resorted to baton charge Batmaloo women injuring a dozen of them when they demonstrated outside the civil secretariat to jolt the callous government out of its deep slumber. Ironically, the water scarcity is being experienced when the administration is otherwise bracing up to meet any eventuality arising out of floods that threaten parts of the valley, Jammu’s Doda and Jammu districts and Ladakh region. Even as the rivers and nullahs are in spate, the abundant water is elusive for those who need the most. The water from most rivers and streams is believed to have become unsafe for human consumption due to inflow of heavy pollution.

According to reports, the heavy rush of Amarnath cave-bound pilgrims via Baltal route is a matter of serious concern as they leave tones of human waste and litter into the Sindh river flowing through Baltal and Sonamarg, which feeds the city’s Rangil water treatment plant. The Dal lake wherefrom water is lifted into the water supply system is no less contaminated.

Rubbing salt into the people’s wounds is none other than the ‘honourable’ minister of public health engineering department, Qazi Muhammad Afzal. Instead of owning the moral responsibility for the prevailing crisis and quitting gracefully, he has the cheek to pass the buck thus: “The government spends huge amounts of money to filter and treat water reservoirs to make the water fit for human consumption. But people waste this water to irrigate flower beds and wash their cars”. Even as his claim of expensive water treatment may be a matter of conjecture, who will ask

the minister to enlighten the public about the total number of car owners or those having lawns? Including the Qazi himself, they certainly must be a microscopic minority. The vast multitude of people, about whom the minister seems to be absolutely clueless, happen to be on the wrong side of the social divide. Going by the reports, the PHE authorities trace the crisis to obsolete pipes and treatment plants. On their part, its employees, allegedly starved of tools and implements, spilled the beans about the problem and held the engineers squarely responsible for it.

Agreed, the government has been spending money not merely on water treatment but primarily on execution of major and minor water supply schemes. It must have spent thousands of crores since the inception of the so-called planned development in the state alongside rest of India. Why then are most water supply schemes defunct? Where has all the money claimed to have been utilized on these works gone? In an era of transparency and ‘good governance,’ it is time the government took the people into confidence on the issue and brought out a white paper on the PHE.

Unfortunately, all the successive governments here have seldom got their priorities right. Drinking water like oxygen is vital for sustenance of life. If the accusations and counter-accusations within the PHE were to be believed, the key sector in dire need of remodeling and upgradation has been starved of adequate funds. Instead, the scant resources available to the state are frittered away on totally irrelevant and frivolous pursuits. A government that wastes a few crore rupees on vandalizing a beautiful footpath along the Dal lake allegedly to benefit some blue-eyed boy or whose chief minister flies along with his elaborate paraphernalia from the winter capital to reach a remote village in his home district to cut the ribbon to inaugurate a small branch of a bank certainly cannot be expected to devote any attention to the critical PHE sector even if more than 50 per cent of diseases are said to be water-borne.

The article is an editorial from KO’s archives and was originally published on July 2nd, 2005

Revise Student Union for
Student Welfare in Kashmir

Nasheem Ashraf & Haris Rashid

Kashmir University has been in the news lately for all the wrong reasons. A local newspaper has been publishing stories on the issues university students have been facing. To begin with, there had been no discussion with students on National Education Policy-2020. The two battery-operated vehicles for specially-abled students and research scholars had been put out of use because the university had failed to maintain the vehicles. These are just some of the issues that were brought to attention by the local newspaper. There are numerous other issues also that didn’t make it to the media.

All these are essentially student issues that make them fundamental to the functioning of a good education system. Not to mention that the students are the primary stakeholders in the university. They should not have to go to media outlets to get their grievances redressed. There should be a mechanism within the university where the collective and individual grievances of students are heard. If students have to make a university hold discussion on NEP-2020 by informing the university authorities through a newspaper, it points out a sad state of affairs within the university. One can only assume that the university administration is not accessible to its students.

Since Kashmir University is a public university, the question raised here is, how does a public university become accessible to its students? One of the time-tested policies followed by universities in India and across the world is student unions. In this case, rather than the media, it is the students’ that act as a bridge between students and the university administration. These unions aid university administrations in better governing the campus and resolving student concerns.

In the case of Kashmir, the state government has always crushed students’ political activities. Student movements in Kashmir began in the early 1960s. It is said that in April 1964, when Sheikh Abdullah was released from prison, members of the Jammu and Kashmir Students’ and Youth League joined the crowds that welcomed him. The league had put up a banner in support of Abdullah that read “Your Lead, Our Struggle”. When he saw it, “he used his walking stick to pull it down as he passed by”. Therefore, after Abdullah’s release from jail, his “first action was this, against the students”. The act says a lot about how Kashmiri politicians view student politics. This move clearly stated that even when in support, student politics should be discouraged.

As far as the contemporary context of student politics in Kashmir is concerned, it was banned after the onset of insurgency in Kashmir. However, after a long battle with authorities, Kashmir University Students Union (KUSU) was finally formed in 2007. After the 2008 agitation, the state pressured the university to curb political activities on its campus. Subsequently, the KUSU office was sealed in 2009. In 2010, Kashmir University demolished the KUSU



A Student Union at Kashmir University would provide the students with a systematic and efficient way of asking for their basic rights as students. These rights are not necessarily always political in nature like the previous governments have feared

office. The varsity made it clear that whatever little student politics existed before would not be allowed to exist on the campus anymore. Ironically, the action came when Riyaz Punjabi was the Vice Chancellor of the university. He had been formerly associated with JNU, which is known to be the hub of student politics in India.

In October 2017, in an RTI reply, the university disclosed that it had not officially banned the student union. No order or circular was ever issued by the varsity to ban KUSU. However, on November 15, 2017, an order issued by the Chief Proctor’s Office ordered students not to hold any political or religious debates inside the campus.

It is often argued that students should focus on education rather than politics. However, the facts point out that universities with solid student unions perform better. Take JNU for instance, which is one of the top-most ranked universities in India and produced brilliant scholars in multiple fields. It’s no surprise that it also has a strong students’ union. The positions its students hold- from ministers in the current ruling central government to the administration, speak for themselves.

A Student Union at Kashmir University would provide the students with a systematic and efficient way of asking for their basic rights as students. These rights are not necessarily always political in nature like the previous governments have feared. But it would at least allow the students to report any sort of exploita-

tion or discrimination at the hands of a superior or at the minimum rightfully demanding of the basic amenities in the hostels and classrooms.

The ban on student politics on university campuses has deprived Kashmir of its rightful share of intellectual mainstream politicians. A look at the list of all the politicians in Kashmir reveals very few of them might have chosen politics for the general well-being of the society. A majority of them are in politics because either their families were in politics (PDP and NC) or because of their “electability”.

The current administration has often repeated that it is working to foster grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir. While it has held elections for the urban and rural bodies of J&K, it would be interesting to see what the government thinks about the grassroots democracy in universities and colleges across Kashmir.

The main goal of Article 370, as stated by the government, was to bring Jammu and Kashmir on par with India. If that is true, the J&K administration should also bring its universities and colleges on par with Indian universities and colleges. It is high time that legitimate forms of student activities be allowed in Kashmir.

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

The Fed Is Overreacting

KAUSHIK BASU

ITHACA – At this year’s Jackson Hole symposium, a major event on the calendars of the world’s central bankers, US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell delivered an uncharacteristically strong message about how the Fed plans to combat today’s high inflation.

The Fed raised interest rates sharply, by 75 basis points, in both June and July, but Powell made it clear that the rate hikes are unlikely to stop there or even to taper off. Instead, he said, “unusually large” rate increases will continue into the near future. The coming hikes will hurt US households and businesses, but “a failure to restore price stability would mean far greater pain.”

Powell’s hawkish remarks caused the S&P 500 to fall by 3.4%, with every sector of the index declining. Many fear that if the Fed continues to raise interest rates in large increments, as Powell suggested, investment will plummet and unemployment will rise. In fact, aggressive monetary tightening would cause the economy, financial markets, and people’s well-being to suffer excessively. Like an overdose of steroids, it may cure the illness but at a disproportionately high cost.

The Fed’s mistake reflects a misreading of the US labor market, which Powell noted “is particularly strong.” And it is indeed true that US wages have been rising sharply. Average hourly wages increased by 5.2% year on year in July, and are rising faster than the prices of many goods.

But it is wrong to equate current strong wage increases with inflation. That is because the CO-

VID-19 pandemic has provided an intriguing twist to a standard economic argument in the form of the “Great Resignation.” This strange phenomenon, whereby many Americans who left the labor market during the pandemic because of workplace and school closures are not returning, even as COVID-19 wanes, has revealed a labor-market equilibrium that

keeps the hourly wage rate low, which in turn means both parents must continue working full-time. The equilibrium persists.

Now suppose there is a major pandemic, and children cannot go to school. Even in low-income households, at least one adult must stay home to look after small children.

Later, as the pandemic eases

Later, as the pandemic eases and children return to school, there is bound to be a lag in adults returning to in-person work. As creatures of habit, many people become accustomed to working from home, or just not working. So, as markets begin to return to normal, there is a shortage of labor and wages are bound to rise

was previously hidden from view. It is like seamount that becomes a visible island only when the water level recedes.

Consider a typical American family, with two adults and some children. When hourly wages are very low, both adults probably must work full-time to earn enough income to meet the household’s basic needs. But if hourly wages were substantially higher, the adults would choose to work fewer hours, so that they could take turns to be at home in order to attend better to their children’s needs. (Alternatively, one adult might stay at home altogether or do some light work.)

Suppose that the economy is settled in the former, low-wage equilibrium in which both parents work full-time. Because all households do the same, there is a large supply of labor on the market. That

and children return to school, there is bound to be a lag in adults returning to in-person work. As creatures of habit, many people become accustomed to working from home, or just not working. So, as markets begin to return to normal, there is a shortage of labor and wages are bound to rise.

Eventually, even after the habit wanes, the economy can end up at the other, higher-wage equilibrium that always existed in dormancy. Once this equilibrium is reached, even though wages are high, the labor market will be tight, with no glut of job seekers, and it will remain there.

Many have noted that relatively few Americans are filing for unemployment benefits. This would be a surprise if the labor market was out of equilibrium, with many people looking for work. Clearly, that is not the case. The economy

has simply shifted to a higher-wage equilibrium, thanks to the big pandemic-induced jolt to the labor market.

Part of the rise in US wages reflects this adjustment. To overlook this and regard current wage increases solely as the result of inflation can lead to an excessive policy reaction. That is the mistake the Fed will make if it persists in raising interest rates sharply.

My argument is admittedly a theoretical one, but it can be easily assessed. The Fed has sufficient data and expertise to work out how much of the wage movement is simply a shift to the new equilibrium, and how much is a part of overall inflation.

My hunch is that, once the Fed completes this exercise, it will want to temper its policy response to today’s inflation. A less hawkish stance would minimize the adverse side effects of the Fed’s medicine and greatly benefit small and large US businesses, workers, and financial markets, and achieve the same results as far as inflation is concerned. Given that US monetary policy has a much bigger effect on other countries than vice versa, this could be a big relief for the global economy, too.

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

The author is a former chief economist of the World Bank and chief economic adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution

PENMAN'S NICHE

Rendition of Ali Sar-dar Jafferi's Urdu poem
Mayrra Sufferr by
S. Sarwar Malik.

MY JOURNEY

Then a day will visit, and
Lamps of our eyes will fade;
And from the leaf of speech
Will fly, the butterfly of sound;
Lotus of hands will wilt
In the depths of a dark sea
The portraits of blooming
buds
And smiling flowers will be
lost;
The racing stream of blood,
Heart throbs and all lyres will
sleep;
And on the lawns of sky
This smiling diamond mine
-My paradise, this land of
mine
At daybreak and evenings
-Without knowing,
- Without comprehending
Will shed dew like tears
On the heap of dust
That is left of me;
Things stored in the idol house
of memory
Will be forgotten, and taken
away...
That time no one will enquire
Is sardar around, anywhere to
night?

But, for sure I will return;
Through the mouth of kids
speak I will
Through bird song I will sing;
When seeds will smile in the
soil
And buds will caress with
their fingers;
In every leaf, in every flower,
I will open my eyes again
And put the dew drops on the
balance
Of the greenery of my palms;
The color of henna, rhyme of
poem
And flow of eloquence I will
become;
Like the face of a new bride
I will pass behind every veil
When the winds of winter
Will bring the crops of au-
tumn;
Beneath the youthful way far-
er's feet
The dry crisp leaves will evoke
Sound of my laughter;
Golden streams of earth
And blue lakes of sky
Will get all filled with my be-
ing...
And then the time shall wit-
ness that
Every tale of love is mine
Here throbs Sardar in every
lover
In every beloved, Sultana lives.

A restless moment I am
In the dungeon of eons;
Uneasy droplet I am
Embarked on an eternal jour-
ney;
From the heart of the casket of
past
Into the cup of future
I sleep and wake up
To relapse back on opening
my eyes
It is the game, centuries old ...
Immortal I become, after
death.

(Ali Sardar Jafferi's
poem Mayrra Suffur

Translated by S.Sarwar)

PAKISTAN FLOODS
WHAT ROLE DID CLIMATE CHANGE PLAY?

“
Pakistan has more
than 7,000 glaciers
in its northern
mountainous
regions. As these
glaciers melt, their
waters contribute
to the flooding. This
melting is driven to
a large degree by
climate change and is
especially prominent
this year as a result of
the heatwave

Ben Clarke
Friederike Otto
Luke Harrington,

Pakistan is experiencing the most
devastating and widespread floods
in its history, with the country's cli-
mate minister saying waters have
reached across a third of the nation.
The growing tally of impacts is dire.
More than 1,100 people have been killed, a
million homes have been destroyed and 33
million people have been directly affected.
Total damage estimates exceed US\$10 bil-
lion (£8.6 billion), and further disruption
to the country's economy and critical food
production is inevitable.
On August 25, the government declared
a national emergency. António Guterres,
the UN secretary-general, said that this is
a signal to the world to step up climate ac-
tion, warning: “Today, it's Pakistan. Tomor-
row, it could be your country.”
At a very broad level, this is certainly jus-
tified. According to the Intergovernmental
Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), extreme
rainfall is becoming more frequent and in-
tense in many parts of the world due to hu-
man emissions of greenhouse gases. And
this effect will continue to increase with
emissions.
However, for individual events that have
such profound impacts on society, it is crit-
ical to investigate the influence of climate
change (or lack thereof) in more detail.
While the IPCC statement holds globally,
its most recent report states it has only
“low confidence” in how much climate
change is to blame for increased heavy
rains in south Asia.
It is vital we better understand cause and
effect in the observed changes, to help us
make best use of our finite resources and

ultimately save lives and money.

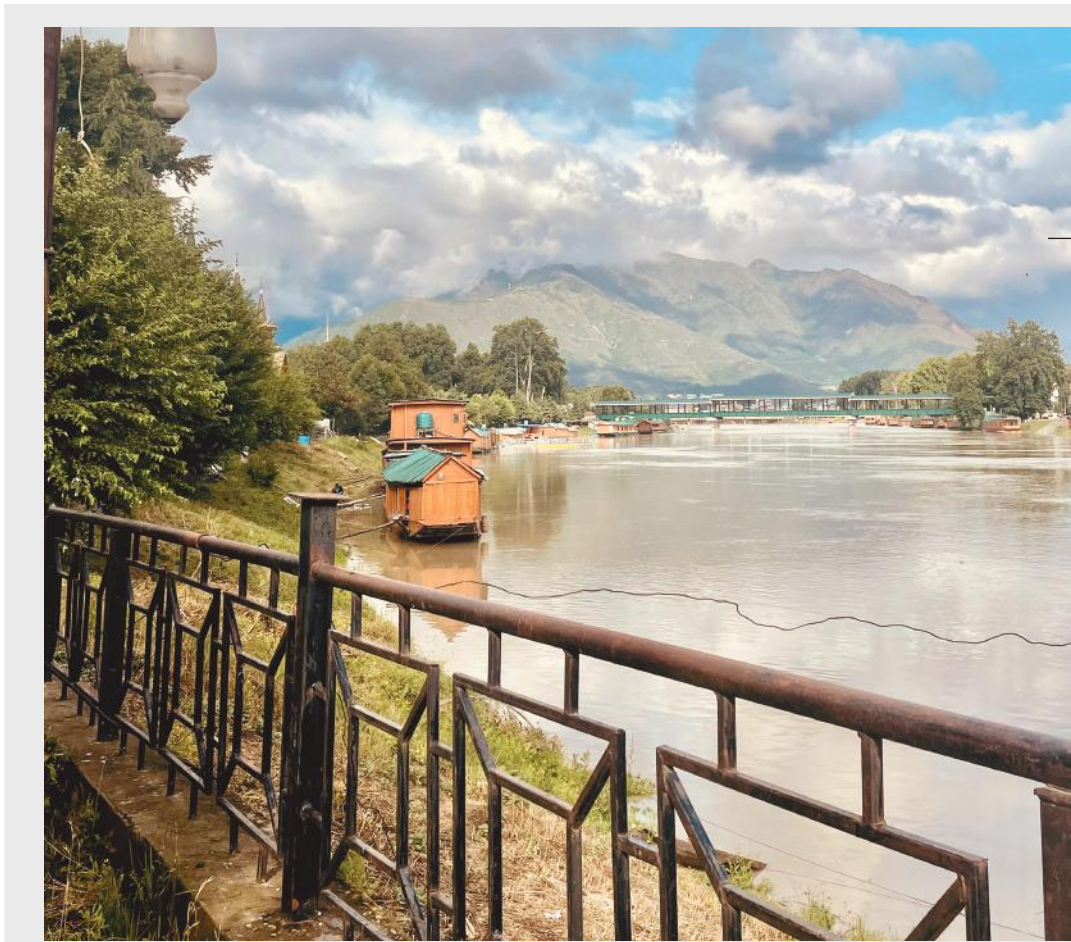
RECORD-BREAKING MONSOON RAINFALL

It is tempting to ask if an extreme
weather event was “caused by” climate
change, but this is often the wrong ques-
tion, at least if you expect a binary answer.
Instead, scientists like us ask whether and
by how much climate change affected the
likelihood and intensity of the event. This
is known as “extreme event attribution”.
In this case, the flooding was caused by
an extreme monsoon season. Pakistan is
on the far western edge of the south Asian
monsoon region, with a mostly arid desert
climate. It is only sometimes affected by an
offshoot of the monsoon, and generally re-
ceives far less rainfall than parts of India at
the same latitudes.
However, record rainfall fell over Paki-
stan in several bursts from mid-June to late
August with large swathes of the country
receiving a completely unprecedented
500%-700% of their usual August rain.
YET ANOTHER COST OF CLIMATE CHANGE?
Officials from the Pakistan Meteorologi-
cal Department blamed climate change for
the unusual monsoon activity and flood-
ing, for a range of reasons.
In 2021, the IPCC reported that there has
been a significant increase in heavy rain-
fall events in south Asia in recent decades.
There is some evidence that this is due to
human-caused climate change.
However, there is limited agreement
between different assessed studies, and
factors other than climate change, such as
irrigation, are known to influence mon-
soons. Confidence is therefore too low to
make any concrete attribution statements
without further investigation.
Before a dedicated study is available,

similar events in the recent past can hold
clues to current events. Pakistan last expe-
rienced flooding on a similar scale in 2010,
which at the time was labelled by Guterres’
predecessor at the UN, Ban Ki-moon, as the
worst disaster he’d ever seen.
Two separate attribution studies as-
sessed this event. Unfortunately, nei-
ther provided evidence that the models
used were up to the task. Therefore, even
though one of them found an increase due
to human climate change, we cannot be
very confident in this result.
Clues as to the role of climate change
can also come from aspects that contrib-
uted to this disaster. There are three main
factors.
First, extreme rainfall. A warmer atmo-
sphere holds more moisture. For every
degree the atmosphere warms it can hold
about 6%-7% more moisture, which often
results in more rain falling during the most
extreme events (south Asia has warmed
around 0.7°C since 1900). Had this event
happened in a world where carbon dioxide
concentrations were instead at pre-indus-
trial levels, the rains probably would have
been less intense.
Second, the monsoon itself, which is
highly complex and variable. It forms in
south Asia in the summer, when air over
land warms faster than air over the sea,
which creates a flow of air onto the land.
The winds bring great volumes of mois-
ture that precipitate into deluges when
they meet higher ground, especially the
Himalayas.
Unusual monsoon rains over Pakistan
have some predictability. They occur when
multiple phenomena coincide, including a
La Niña event in the Pacific and large me-
anders in the high-altitude jet stream, as
was the case in both 2010 and this year.

There is emerging evidence that this
confluence of factors may occur more
regularly as the climate changes. If such
trends continue, then flooding in Pakistan
and other simultaneous extremes across
the northern Hemisphere will happen
more often in the future.
Pakistan also experienced extended and
brutal heatwaves in May and June this year,
which were amplified by climate change.
This heat amplified the monsoonal “ther-
mal low” - a low-pressure system created
by hot air rising rapidly - which greatly en-
hanced the flow of moisture-laden air onto
southern Pakistan.
Third, Pakistan has more than 7,000
glaciers in its northern mountainous re-
gions. As these glaciers melt, their waters
contribute to the flooding. This melting is
driven to a large degree by climate change
and is especially prominent this year as a
result of the heatwave.
PROACTIVE IS FAR CHEAPER THAN REACTIVE
Pakistan is undoubtedly on the front
lines of climate change. In the ongoing
flooding, it is clear that climate change
has at minimum played a role in amplify-
ing this event. At worst, it created a com-
pounding set of circumstances causing
millions of additional people to suffer than
otherwise might have.
Projections are very clear that with fur-
ther climate change, Pakistan is a hotspot
for increases in extreme rainfall. The
country must prepare for future flooding
to avoid similar or even worse disasters.
To do so, international adaptation fund-
ing must increase to match rich countries’
overwhelming contribution to this new
climate.

By Arrangements with The Conversation



KODAK MOMENTS

Jehlum overflow
one summer
afternoon

Picture Credits: Tanya Saeed

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Plea Claims Prominent Mosque In Badaun Is Site Of Shiva Temple, Seeks Permission For Hindus To Offer Prayers

Press Trust of India

Budaun: A plea has been in a court here claiming that Jama Masjid Shamsi in Badaun city is a temple of Lord Shiva and seeking permission for followers of the Sanatan Dharma to offer prayers at the site, a lawyer for the petitioners said on Saturday.

A separate application has been filed in the matter urging the court to appoint a commission for a survey of the site.

Civil judge (senior division) Vijay Gupta took up the

matter on Friday and directed the Intezamia Committee managing the Shamsi Jama Masjid to present its side on September 15, when the court will next hear the matter.

Ved Prakash Sahu, an advocate for the petitioners, said the plea contends that the building is not of Jama Masjid, but an ancient Ishaan mandir of Neelkanth Mahadev Maharaj.

The petitioners are the state convenor of Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, Mukesh Patel, advocate Arvind Parmar, Gyan

Prakash, Anurag Sharma and Umesh Chandra Sharma, who have claimed in the structure is Neelkanth Mahadev temple located in the fort of Raja Mahipal.

One of the petitioners, Arvind Parmar, on Saturday said that the first party is the deity, Neelkanth Mahadev Maharaj, himself.

Parmar said that they have pleaded that the followers of the Sanatan Dharma should be allowed to offer prayers at the temple of Neelkanth Mahadev. Also, police and administration

must be directed to ensure there is no objection, dispute or interference during worshipping.

He said that a separate application has been filed in this matter urging the court to appoint a commission to undertake a survey of the mosque premises.

The petition has mentioned books that, it claims, say that the mosque is the Neelkanth Mahadev Mandir.

The diary published by the information department also contains this information, and

this was also presented by the petitioner, Parmar claimed.

The mosque is built on an elevated area called Sotha Mohalla and is considered the highest structure in the town of Budaun.

It is also believed to be the third oldest existing and seventh largest mosque in the country, having a capacity of 23,500.

There have been several similar suits, including in Mathura and Varanasi, claiming that mosques there were sites of ancient Hindu temples.

Massive Eviction Drive Underway In Assam's Sonitpur Amid Heavy Security

Agenceis

Tezpur: A massive eviction drive to clear 330 acres of land in Assam's Sonitpur district began on Saturday morning amid heavy security, police said.

About 50 excavators, heavy machinery and a large number of workers were deployed for the drive to demolish houses in No 3 Chitalmari area in Barchalla on the northern bank of Brahmaputra river, they said.

The process has been peaceful so far with almost all the illegal residents having already left the place with their belongings after receiving the eviction notice, a police officer said.

"The eviction drive has been incident-free so far. There has been no law and order situation," the officer, who is among those overseeing the exercise, said.

The drive began around 5 am and as most residents had already vacated their houses, the structures are being demolished with the help of excavators and other heavy machinery, he said.

The area to be cleared has been divided into three parts and the demolition in one part has been completed by 9 am, another police officer said.

About 1,200 security personnel, including those of Assam Police and para-military forces, have been deployed at the site, equipped with anti-riot gear.

As per government records, 299 families were living in the

area, but more than 90 per cent of them have already left after receiving the notice around eight months back.

Some of the residents being evicted lamented that no rehabilitation has been provided to them by the government.

"We have been living here for decades. We have no jobs and live off the fields here. We don't know where we will go," a woman said, gathering the last of her belongings as the excavators approached the structure that used to be her home.

A district administration official said that patrolling in the area by security forces was on since August 31, and that prompted the people to vacate the land voluntarily.

"We could not carry out the eviction drive earlier due to various reasons. Now, most of the people have agreed that this is government land and it will be used for developmental work," the official told PTI.

Locals said that most of the people had migrated to the area several decades ago from Nagaon and Morigaon districts on the southern bank of Brahmaputra following massive erosions.

When asked about the demography of the area, the district official said, "It is a mix of several communities. The most number of families are Bengali-speaking Muslims, followed by Bengali Hindus and Gorkhas."

Dalit Student Hit With Metal Rod For Touching Teacher's Bike

Agenceis

Ballia: A Dalit student here was allegedly locked up in a classroom and beaten with a metal rod by his teacher for touching the latter's motorcycle, police said on Saturday.

The teacher, Krishna Mohan Sharma, has been suspended. According to police, the incident was reported from Higher Secondary School, Ranaupur under Nagra police station limits, on Friday.

"The incident took place when the class 6 boy touched the motorcycle of his teacher Krishna Mohan Sharma. Enraged over this, the teacher first locked the student in a classroom. The child alleged that Sharma hit him with

a metal rod and broom, and also choked his neck. The other staff of the school rescued the boy, Devendra Nath Dubey, SHO, Nagra Police station said.

The enraged family members of the student staged a protest outside the school on Saturday.

The block education officer (BEO) along with the SHO reached the school and assured the family members of stern action against the accused teacher.

"On the basis of the report of BEO, the accused teacher Krishna Mohan Sharma has been put under suspension, Basic Siksha Adhikari (BSA) Maniram Singh said.

The SHO said the matter is being investigated.

Fuel Leak Ruins Nasa's 2nd Shot At Launching Moon Rocket

Agenceis

Cape Canaveral: NASA's new moon rocket sprang another dangerous fuel leak Saturday, forcing launch controllers to call off their second attempt to send a crew capsule into lunar orbit with test dummies.

The first attempt earlier in the week was also marred by escaping hydrogen, but those leaks were elsewhere on the 322-foot (98-meter) rocket, the most powerful ever built by NASA, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said repair work could bump the launch into October.

Mission managers planned to meet later in the day to decide on a course of action.

After Tuesday, a two-week launch blackout period kicks in. Extensive leak inspections and repairs, meanwhile, could require that the rocket be hauled off the pad and back into the hangar; that would push the flight into October, Nelson said.

"We'll go when it's ready. We don't go until then and especially now on a test flight, because we're going to stress this and test it ... and make sure it's right before we put four humans up on the top of it, Nelson said. He added: This is part of our space program: Be ready for the scrubs.

NASA wants to send the crew capsule atop the rocket around the moon, pushing it to the limit

before astronauts get on the next flight. If the five-week demo with test dummies succeeds, astronauts could fly around the moon in 2024 and land on it in 2025. People last walked on the moon 50 years ago. Launch director Charlie Blackwell-Thompson and her team had barely started loading nearly 1 million gallons of fuel into the Space Launch System rocket at daybreak when the leak cropped up in the engine section at the bottom.

Ground controllers tried to plug it the way they handled previous leaks: stopping and restarting the flow of super-cold liquid hydrogen in hopes of closing the gap around a seal in the supply line.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir's Iconic

Explaining the designs of the 12 carpets, Abdul Rahim, a carpet weaver from Khanpur village said that size of the design is very different from contemporary ones.

"It starts with less width and goes on to become broader. It's more like a triangle. Five artisans work to make the broader part of design, then 3 artisans work to create the middle portion and finally, two artisans sit together to enhance the design. It's such an exhilarating process. These carpets will help our industry a lot," Rahim told Kashmir Observer.

He said that most of the village has been earning wages through the carpet industry for over 5 decades now. "However, most of the time we've to participate in part-time jobs as the normal wages to make carpets are very low. It ranges from Rs150-200 on a normal day," says Rahim

"But, since this parliament project was assigned, we're earning pretty good. On an average we're being paid 500 rupees per day. This project has helped to lift our fading artisan community," he added.

He further said that it is for the first time that they have received this kind of an order. "We've already given final touches to 9 carpets. As of now we're completing 3 other carpets. They'll be completed by the end of this month," says Rahim, adding that the width of these 12 carpets is 8 feet and 4 inch and the length is 10 feet and 5.5 inch with 24 knots per inch.

Notably, the iconic carpet industry of Kashmir has been facing a sharp decline in recent years, forcing most carpet weavers to take up odd jobs to earn their livelihood. The weavers say economic losses during the pandemic lockdowns have dealt a big blow to Kashmir's multi-crore carpet industry.

Echoing similar views, Shabir Ahmed, another artisan who has been in the carpet industry for the past 3 decades, says that he was on the brink of quitting before the parliament order gave a new lease of life to his career.

"We were facing major losses and not able to earn anything. We were not getting good rates for carpets, so we were about to stop making carpets", Ahmed told Kashmir Observer, adding that this project has saved his skills.

He said that the artisans from his village are hopeful that they'll receive more such orders that will eventually boost this traditional art and weavers' wages.

"There goes a lot of hard work into making this rug as they're very intricate. Imagine a person sitting at one place for over 8 hours. But, if it wasn't for this project we would still be earning a very meager wage. This project has helped to lift our community. We're hopeful that the Government will give us more such projects so that we can live a peaceful life and keep this traditional art alive," Ahmed said, adding that the 12 carpets for the parliament have 12 different colors.

It is pertinent to mention here that the artisans believe that this traditional art needs to be given due attention so that this artwork will live for generations to come, "90 percent of our village is involved with handicrafts. If an economic boost isn't given to our industry then our whole community will cease to exist," says Ahmed.

India Becomes 5th Largest

the 5th largest #economy in the world, surpassing the UK!," tweeted Anil Agarwal, chairman of mining giant Vedanta group. "What an impressive milestone for our rapidly growing Indian economy... In a few years, we will be in Top 3!"

India's GDP expanded 13.5 per cent in the April-June quarter, the quickest pace in a year, to retain the world's fastest growing economy tag but rising interest costs and the looming threat of a recession in major world economies could slow the momentum in the coming quarters.

Gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 13.5 per cent year-on-year compares to a 20.1 percent expansion a year back and 4.09 per cent growth in the previous three months to March, according to official data released earlier this week.

The growth, though lower than the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) estimate of 16.2 per cent, was fuelled by consumption and signalled a revival of domestic demand, particularly in the services sector.

Pent-up demand is driving consumption as consumers, after two years of pandemic restrictions, are stepping out and spending. The services sector has seen a strong bounce back that will get a boost from the festival season next month.

But the slowing growth of the manufacturing sector at 4.8 per cent is an area of worry. Also, imports being higher than exports is a matter of concern.

Additionally, an uneven monsoon is likely to weigh upon agriculture growth and rural demand.

The GDP print will, however, allow the RBI to focus on controlling inflation, which has stayed above the comfort zone of 6 per cent for seven straight months.

The central bank has raised the benchmark policy rate by 140 basis points in three installments since May and has vowed to do more to bring inflation under control.

Besides tighter monetary conditions, Asia's third-largest economy faces headwinds from higher energy and commodity prices that are likely to weigh on consumer demand and companies' investment plans.

Also, consumer spending, which accounts for nearly 55 per cent of economic activity, has been hit hard by soaring food and fuel prices.

The GDP growth in the first quarter of the current fiscal was higher than China's 0.4 per cent expansion in April-June.

Stage Set For

arrangements for the public meeting, told PTI.

He said over 3,000 supporters of Azad, representing different sections of society, have expressed desire to join hands with him at the public meeting.

"It is very difficult to manage such a large number of joinings...we have worked out a formula to make them raise their hands in support of Azad to welcome the new entrants," he said.

He said people from different political parties are also in touch with them and "we are expecting a tsunami of support in favour of Azad in coming times." "People have tested Azad

during his chief ministership (from November 2005 to July 2008) and are eagerly waiting for his return as the next chief minister," he said.

He said the Azad-led party would be a reality on the political map of Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the next Assembly elections which are likely to be held after the completion of the ongoing process of special summary revision of the electoral rolls on November 25.

Azad Defends

the party had alleged that his "DNA has been Modi-fied" and several leaders attacked him citing Modi's speech in Rajya Sabha in February last year in which the teary-eyed prime minister had praised Azad as a "true friend".

"MPs from 22 parties spoke about me (on my farewell) but only what the PM said was highlighted," Azad said at a book release function here.

"If you meet people from other political parties and talk to them, it does not change your DNA," he said and lamented that political parties nowadays seem to be "at war".

Referring to Modi's emotional speech, Azad said it's a tradition that one-third members retire from Rajya Sabha every two years and MPs from various parties give speeches on the occasion.

He further said the composite culture of India has changed over the years.

"Hindus and Muslims stayed together.... It was not unusual for Hindus to study Arabic and Muslims to study the Geeta. This was our country's composite culture," he said.

Earlier, only two occasions were celebrated in Delhi's political circles -- Eid Milan and Diwali Milan -- he said.

"Both (former prime ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee-ji and Indira Gandhi used to come. Now political parties are like they are at war....," he said.

"Unfortunately we have all been divided and it is saddening," he said.

Azad, 73, resigned from the Congress on August 26, terming the party "comprehensively destroyed". He also lashed out at Rahul Gandhi for "demolishing" the party's entire consultative mechanism.

He is set to begin his fresh political journey Sunday from Jammu where he will set up the first unit of his own party.

PDP Leader

"He has joined our camp," Sayeed told a local news agency KNO.

Gulzar is son of Nizamuddin Khatana (former MLC) and he himself was vice-chairman of Gujjar Bakerwal advisory during PDP-BJP government with minister of state (MOS) status. Gulzar's wife was candidate of PAGD from Larnoo DDC seat.

Gulzar's exit is a big setback to People's Democratic Party as he is considered as a serious contender for Kokernag assembly seat after it was reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs).

"It is a setback to PDP. Apart from Congress, the PDP is the major loser in Kashmir because of Azad's plans to float a new political party," a political observer said.

According to the observer, Azad-led camp seems to be more focused on south Kashmir in the Valley.

"Most of the politicians from the

Valley who have joined Ghulam Nabi Azad are from south Kashmir," he said.

So far Peerzada Muhammad Sayeed (former minister), Muhammad Amin Bhat (former MLA) and Gulzar Ahmad (Shangus) have extended their support to Azad-led camp from south Kashmir.

With 34 per cent ST population, Kokernag seat was reserved for the community by the three-member delimitation commission headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice (retired) Ranjana Desai.

Sharma Quits Congress

Meanwhile Congress leader and former legislator Ashok Sharma on Saturday wrote to party president Sonia Gandhi and resigned from the organisation.

The national coordinator of the All India Congress Committee's 'Vichar Vibhag' and a memberof Pradesh Executive Committee, stated that he took the "painful" decision due to the "prevailing situation and unavoidable circumstances".

His resignation came close on the heels of an ex-deputy chief minister, eight former ministers, an ex-MP, nine legislators and a large number of Panchayati Raj Institution members, municipal corporators and grassroots workers from across Jammu and Kashmir left the Congress to join the Ghulam Nabi Azad camp.

Azad, 73, ended his five-decade association with the Congress on August 26, terming the party "comprehensively destroyed". He also lashed out at Rahul Gandhi for "demolishing" the party's entire consultative mechanism.

In his letter, Sharma who had won the assembly elections from Kalakote constituency of Rajouri district in 1996, said, "I loved my party from the core of my heart and fought for building it at the grass-root level for decades together from smaller territorial units to many states of the country."

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party on Saturday expelled a senior leader for "anti-party" activities.

"Farooq Ahmad Khayal, provincial secretary Jammu has failed to fulfil the aspirations of the party despite repeated requests made to him from time to time. On the other hand, he has been found indulging in anti-party activities," provincial president Manjit Singh said.

Expelling Khayal with immediate effect, Singh said the decision was taken in the interest of the party.

CEOs Missive

stress is being given on asking students to wear uniforms in schools.

"Since educational institutions are the best place where such development takes place under the guidance of a Teacher/Guru/guide/builder. Teacher is just like a mirror and a child wants to see his image in this mirror," the circular reads.

Stressing on the attire, the CEO in his circular has said that a broken and a tainted mirror produces a tainted image. "A teacher's dress has a greater impact on a child's personality," he said.

While the circular is yet to be implemented in the schools, the move has found no takers from the department itself as the officials say such instructions can only agitate the teachers.

"Teachers are not some different

species and we will fix a dress code for only them. It can only agitate them. Dress code is not mandatory for only teachers but other officers as well including the bureaucrats," said a top official in the School Education Department (SED) while ruling out replication of such instructions in schools.

"The basic issue is that everyone, be it a teacher or a doctor or any other officer, should be presentable to the public," the official said.

He said it was not possible to implement or replicate such instructions in other schools as part of the department policy.

"CEO Pulwama must have good intentions behind this and maybe the instructions will be followed in his district," the official said.

This is not the first time when a proper dress code was fixed for the teachers. But such initiative was taken in the past as well which however died its own death.

In November 2017, the School Education Department started to focus on the dress code of the headmasters and Principals and asked them to wear a tie as part of dress in their schools.

The move was aimed at making the heads of the institutions and other zonal officers look presentable to the public.

However the directions did not see any implementation on the ground.

Even today the move has triggered a debate within the department, with many teachers seeing it as a move by the CEO to "gain personal attention".

"What's the problem with wearing jeans? What kind of moral policing is this?" asked a teacher, wishing anonymity.

He said there are bigger issues like infrastructural deficiencies, shortage of potable water and toilet facilities in schools which require immediate attention than "these trivial issues"--(KNO)

Couple Injured

to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there referred them to Srinagar hospital for specialized treatment. (ONS)

Annual Gangabal

SDRF team, Police and other officials. "After performing Puja at Naranag temple, devotees set on a 36-km journey on foot to Gangabal Lake, which is located around 14,500 feet above sea level in the Harmukh mountain range," he said.

He said that the pilgrimage was organized under the banner of the Harmukh Ganga (Gangabal) Trust (HGTT) and All Parties Migrants' Coordination Committee (APMCC).

"The District Administration has made all arrangements including accommodation, medical and security arrangements for the pilgrims," the official spokesperson added. (ONS)

Pak Agent Arrested

"He used to provide secret information of various police establishments and security forces to a Pakistan-based handler through various social media platforms, police said in a statement.

The police claimed that he had confessed his involvement and some more arrests are expected in the case in the near future.

Earlier, officials identified the arrested person as Qari Abdul Wahid (25), who was also performing the duties of a maulvi (prayer leader).

Wahid was staying at the madrasa at Dadpeth village along with his wife and a seven-month-old son. He was working as a teacher there, the officials said.

Terming his arrest a "major breakthrough", the officials said initially military intelligence gathered information about the presence of a suspect who was passing information across the border.

Wahid came on the radar of different security agencies that worked together to identify and arrest the accused. He was called for questioning last week, they said.

During interrogation by police, military intelligence and State Investigation Agency (SIA), Wahid admitted to having been working for lesser-known group Kashmir Janbaz Force (KJF) since December 2020 and passing on videos and photos of security installations, the officials said.

Wahid was "inclined towards terrorism" and came in contact with self-styled KJF commander Tayyab Farooqi alias Umar Khatab on social media. He became an active member of the group online, besides offering to be an active terrorist, they said.

He was in regular contact with some unidentified people, possibly Pakistani intelligence operatives, who offered him money and new phones for motivating local youth to join terrorism, the officials said. (PTI)

J&K Clocks 137

Valley with no new cases of Covid-19.

In the winter capital, they said, Jammu registered a maximum of 10 new cases of virus, Samba 9, Kishtwar 4, Poonch and Doda 2 each and Rajouri1. The remaining four districts of Udhampur, Kathua, Ramban and Reasi reported no fresh cases of infection.

Isolated Light

highest amount of it with 57.2mm.

Regarding minimum temperature, a meteorological department official here said that Srinagar recorded a low of 18.2°C against 17.2°C on the previous night. The temperature was 3.2°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 15.0°C against 15.4°C on the previous night. However, the temperature was 1.8°C above normal there, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 12.0°C against 11.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.5°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 15.3°C against 14.8°C the previous night and it was 1.9°C above normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 10.50°C against 10.5°C on the previous night. It was normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 15.6°C against 14.8°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 2.1°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said. (GNS)

5 More Kashmiri Crafts To Get GI Registration

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Taking the GI of Kashmir Handicrafts to the next level, the Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir on Saturday held a detailed discussion with the authorities of Intellectual Property India; Patents, Designs, Trade-marks, Geographical Indications, Chennai to speed up the process of GI registration of five crafts viz., Kashmir Namda, Wagguv, Shikara, Gabba and Kashmir Willow Bat.

The dossier for registration of these crafts has already been submitted to the Intellectual Property India, Chennai which is the apex level organization for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the Assistant Registrar of Trade Marks & GI and Examiner of Trade Marks & GI who were representing Intellectual Property India, Chennai assured that the GI shall be conferred to these five crafts very soon.

"Director H&H also led the discussion regarding submission of three more dossiers for Copperware, Willow Wicker and Chain Stitch crafts of the valley which are already under consideration of the department for GI registration," he added.

Geographical indication tagging has acquired a greater significance ever since the focus has shifted towards Vocal for Local.

According to the spokesperson, the Handicrafts and Handloom Department has been

facilitating the promotion of GI tagged products symbolizing empowerment of the artisans. These initiatives, he said, are aimed to help recognize and promote age-old crafts and methods that are otherwise in danger of being lost due to urbanization and industrialization.

"Pertinently, Kani Shawl, Pashmina, Sozni, Paper-Machie, Walnut Wood Carving, Khatam-band, and Hand Knotted Carpets crafts from Kashmir have already been GI certified," he said.

"The testing and labelling of Pashmina has ramped up from last year and a half besides the department has also introduced the testing and labelling of Hand Knotted Carpets; a significant number of artisans, manufacturers and exporters are approaching the department for testing and labelling of the GI certified products. Moreover, the visitors have also shown much interest in purchasing exclusive GI certified crafts post these efforts of promoting Geographical Indication throughout the country and away," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the department is presently in the final stage of purchasing the Optical-based Fibre Diameter Analyser (OFDA) for accurate measurement of diameter, length, curvature (crimp), mean and distribution of different fibre types with thousands of fibre measurements per minute to speed up the testing process. He further said that the Quick Response (QR) based labelling of the GI crafts is also nearing the adaptation in the certified crafts.

Electoral Roll Revision

CEO To Hold Meeting With Political Parties On Monday

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amid controversy over voting rights to non-locals in Jammu & Kashmir, the Union Territory's chief electoral officer has invited all major political parties for a meeting with him on Monday over special summary revision of electoral rolls.

Ahead of unveiling of draft electoral rolls, J&K's CEO Hirdesh Kumar has sent invitation letters to political parties for a meeting with him on September 5 at Nirvanchan Bhavan, Jammu over the issues related to special summary revision of electoral rolls.

"All major parties including NC, BJP, Congress, Peoples Conference and Peoples Democratic Party have been invited by the CEO's office for the meeting scheduled on Monday at 4:00 PM," an official in the CEO's office told a local news agency KNO.

Pradesh Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool said that they will participate in the meeting. BJP's general secretary (organization) Ashok Koul confirmed that they have been invited for the meeting.

This comes amid an ongoing



controversy over the chief electoral officer's remarks that J&K will get additional 20-25 lakh voters including outsiders after special summary revision of voters.

While political parties have been communicated that the meeting has been convened over special summary revision of voters, sources said CEO may also clear apprehensions and misgivings arising out of his press conference.

After the CEO's press conference,

J&K administration had dismissed reports of a likely addition of 2.5 million voters after the summary revision of electoral rolls and termed the controversy a "misrepresentation of facts by vested interests".

The Election Commission of India would unveil draft electoral rolls on September 15 and claims/objections can be filed upto October 25.

The final electoral roll would be published on November 25—(KNO)

Leh, Kargil Resolves Dispute Over Monastery Construction



Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The representatives of Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) on Saturday finally resolved the decades-old issue of construction of a Buddhist monastery on a piece of land in Muslim majority Kargil.

Both the bodies had several meetings this year and on Saturday after several rounds of deliberations they reached an "amicable solution" to the long pending demand of construction of a Gonpa at Kargil.

Political activist Sajjad Husain (Kargil) told Kashmir Observer that the Buddhists want to construct a temple in Kargil allocated to the LBA, while the residents of Kargil are resisting the demand citing a government notification of 1969,

which has defined its land use as commercial and residential, where a temple cannot be built.

He said that no Buddhist lives in more than 20 km radius of this land mass of less than two kanals in the old town of Kargil.

According to a statement, it was unanimously resolved that the land allotted in favour of LBA in terms of the J&K Govt order of 1969 would be honoured by all stakeholders and that the land in question would be utilized solely for the purpose as mentioned in that Govt order as the land exists on this day on the ground.

The statement further said that, it was agreed by all the parties that a land measuring two kanals shall be allotted at Kurbathang through LAHDC Kargil in favour of LBA exclusively for the construction of Gonpa at the earliest so that

LBA could start construction as early as possible.

The statement further reads that all the parties also agreed to work together in order to maintain and promote communal harmony in Ladakh.

"It was also decided by both the communities to care and respect the religious sentiments of each other to set an example of universal brotherhood globally," it reads.

Earlier, on June 13, a Buddhist monk had called for a "peace march" to Kargil from Mulbekh in support of the construction of a Buddhist temple.

However, the KDA raised strong objections to the "politically motivated walk" of Tibetan origin Monk and maintained that it was an attempt to disrupt the communal harmony of Ladakh.

Union Secy Pitches For 'One Nation One Ration Card scheme'

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Union Secretary Food & Public Distribution Department, Sudhanshu Pandey said on Saturday that India's handling of food security during Covid crisis has been globally acknowledged and applauded at several international fora, including the World Trade Organisation, United Nations World Food Programme and a Ministers' Meeting at international level.

"In addition to serving its own people, the Government also helped people from other nations during these crises," Pandey, who is on a two day visit to J&K, for reviewing the working of Food and Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department in the region, said on Saturday.

In a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat, an official spokesperson said, a detailed presentation was made by Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Zubair Ahmad to present the efforts of the department in making PDS in J&K transparent, credible and dependable, where the Secretary was informed that e-POS machines have been installed at all 6735 sale outlets in J&K, 100 percent Aadhar seeding has been achieved at all levels in PDS and Aadhar drawn transactions have crossed 91.

The Union Secretary, he said, was apprised that J&K stands 9th in India in terms of number of transactions made so far under One Nation One Ration Card scheme.

"He was apprised also that an MoU has also been signed with CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd, to leverage ePoS devices to deliver CSC services. 2633

outlets have been provided IDs and 769 of these are already active," he said.

The spokesperson further said that the Secretary was informed about WhatsApp helpline numbers, 9055224552 for Jammu and 9419600009 for Kashmir, introduced by the Department. More than 1 million bogus and duplicate beneficiaries have been removed from the records, it was informed.

Earlier, Sudhanshu Pandey visited several Fair Price Shops at Katra and Jammu and inspected their setup and facilities. He interacted with locals and took their feedback. The Secretary also inspected the New Food Store at Nagrota and suggested measures for modern management and development of the facility.

Highlighting the need to dispel doubts regarding fortified food grains, the Secretary directed the officers to organise awareness campaigns. The grains have been fortified to provide essential nutrients to the consumers and the same message must be delivered effectively, he underlined.

Elaborating the Government's achievements, the Secretary said, 'The Union Government is spending large amount of money to ensure food security of the public. Beating global trends of food inflation, the Government dispensed food subsidies worth Rs 5,62,000 crore last year'. Similarly, in J&K alone, the Government is disbursing food grains worth Rs 5000 crore and spending Rs 4000 crore as food subsidy under PMGKY and NFSA ration supplies, he added.

Pak Army Returns 'Missing' Poonch Man

Agencies

POONCH: Pakistani army on Saturday evening returned a man from Poonch, who had inadvertently crossed over to the other side of the Line of Control recently.

An official said that a man identified as Mohammad Rashid (30) of Degwar Terwan village of Poonch had crossed over to the other side

of the LoC a few days ago.

He said that a missing report was also lodged in police station on August 30 and searches were also launched to trace him.

He added that today, however, Pakistan army returned the man today evening from Chakan Da Bagh cross LoC point in Poonch.

The official further said that the man is presently being questioned—(KNO)

Migrant Worker Drowns To Death In Pulwama

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A migrant labourer drowned to death in river Jhelum while extracting sand from in South Kashmir's Pulwama on Saturday.

An official said that a group of men were extracting sand from river Jhelum at Badripora Kawini village

today morning.

He said during extraction a non-local labourer slipped into the river, following which a rescue operation was launched.

After hectic efforts, his dead body was retrieved, he said.

The official identified the deceased labourer as Mohammad Aadil (19) of Bihar—(KNO)



Former MP Nazir Laway Calls On LG Sinha



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Former Member of Parliament, Nazir Ahmad Laway on Saturday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhawan.

The former MP apprised the LG about various developmental issues of Kulgam district pertaining to the functioning of AYUSH Hospital at Chawalgam; construction of Brazulu to Chawalgam road and Brazulu Bridge, an official spokesperson said.

Later, he said, Mir Junaid, President Jammu & Kashmir Workers Party (JKWP) also called on

the LG and highlighted various public and youth-related issues including encouraging the participation of youth in political and development process.

Junaid, he said, further projected several development issues of Langate area.

"The Lt Governor, while discussing the demands and issues presented before him, assured the former MP and President JKWP of appropriate action on the same on merit," the spokesperson said.

He further said that the LG urged them to continue their endeavours towards promoting public welfare.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in-----

Gist of e-tender

NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2022-23/90/e-tendering

Dated:-02.09.2022

(Short Term)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K UT Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money (in Rupees.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Providing of proper ventilation system to the DG room & 750 LPM Oxygen Plant Room (New) by way of SITC of heavy duty exhaust fans along with allied jobs at Govt. Bone and Joint Hospital, Srinagar.	2.50	200	5	49 MCS of 2020 Dt:- 28.08.2020	MHCHD/TS/48 Dated 09/22	5000
Various works to be executed at main OT and laundry section of Govt. Bone and Joint Hospital, Srinagar.	0.39	100	5	05-MCS of 2022, Dated: 10-06-2022	34 of 08/2022 (AEE SD-2 nd)	800

- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 02.09.2022(18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 02.09.2022(18.00 hrs).
- Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 03.09.2022(18.00 hrs) to 08.09.2022(14:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 08.09.2022 at 16.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

MHCHD/TS/5069-73
Dt:-02-09-2022
DIPK-9261-22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

SHER-E-KASHMIR UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY OF KASHMIR

Estates Wing, Main Campus Shalimar – 190 025

Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-NIT No. (57) of 2022-23(FRESH) Dated:02.09.2022

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST(K), e-tenders (in double-cover system) are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Civil contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-03-2023 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

S.No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
1.	"Cultivation, Popularization and Commercialisation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Himalayan Region" (By way of Establishment of Nursery including Land Development) at Faculty of Forestry Benihamra Ganderbal SKUAST-K	09.90	19,800	C & D Class	500/-	15 days

- Position of AAA: Accorded
- Position of T.S : Sanctioned
- Position of funds: Available

- The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per following schedule:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	02.09.2022
2.	Date of start of downloading	02.09.2022
3.	Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4.	Bid submission start Date	02.09.2022
5.	Bid submission end date	14.09.2022 (06.00 PM)
6.	Date & Time of opening of Technical bid (online)	15.09.2022 (11.00 AM)
7.	Date of opening of Financial bid of qualifying bidders (online)	16.09.2022

Further information can be had from the office of the undersigned.

No. Au/Estates/e-NIT(57)/565
Dated: 02.09.2022
DIPK-NB-3649/22

Sd/-
Estates Officer/ Chief Engineer

Sportspersons Can Become Crucial Partners In Dev Journey: LG

Observer News Service

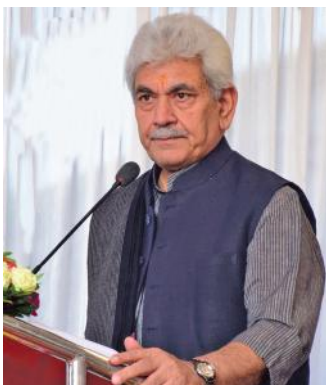
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Singh on Saturday called for concerted efforts to motivate youth to put their best efforts in games so that Jammu and Kashmir benefits through a vigorous and dynamic sporting talent pool and sportspersons can become crucial partners in the development journey.

"Our strong Socio-Economic growth is succeeding in bringing of a qualitative change in sports sector and enabling our sportspersons to demonstrate their excellence," the LG said, according to an official spokesperson.

"The two biggest challenges for us were piecemeal approach towards sports activities prior to 2019 and subsequent disruption caused by the Covid pandemic," he added.

The spokesperson said that the LG highlighted the sporting events organised under 'My Youth My Pride' in 22 disciplines in Kashmir Division and 18 disciplines in Jammu Division and said the programme is turning out to be a solid forum for sportspersons to bring glory to themselves as well as the community.

"My Youth My Pride is dedicated to advancing sports by empowering young men and women. It has inculcated a winner's instinct among youth and kindled hopes of an ascent in sporting performance in national and international games. J&K Sports Council has successfully completed many key infrastructure projects which are playing an essential role in training the youth in different sports," Sinha said.



"Our sportspersons are setting an example by continued pursuit of excellence in various disciplines, high levels of sporting ethics in games and the larger vision of making J&K UT a land of champions," he added.

Lauding the efforts of Sports Associations and Sports Council for regular engagement of athletes and reviving the culture of night football matches in various districts, the LG, as per the spokesperson said that we are proud of the fact that thousands of athletes, coaches and sports officials around the UT are making valuable contributions and ensuring path-breaking achievements.

"Gymnastic Academy, Football Academy, Cricket Academy and Water Sports Centre have a plan to engage around 5 lakh youth and children. This gives us the hope and confidence that by creating the right environment for the young generation, we can produce the best talents and win the prestigious sporting honours. Today our athletes can dream big and fulfill their dreams and ambitions," the LG said.

Gurez Festival Witnesses Horse Polo After Decades



Observer News Service

GUREZ: A day-long Gurez Festival, organised by Department of Tourism in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora and J&K Academy of Art Culture & Languages, witnessed a Horse Polo match after decades on Saturday.

The festival is being held to celebrate the recently awarded best off-beat tourist destination of India and to enhance and promote tourism to this virgin valley.

The Horse Polo match which was played between two teams of local youth, proved to be a major attraction of the event. Elders in the area said that it was after around six decades that they have seen a Polo match being played in Gurez again.

Another special feature of the festival was holding many adventure and water sports activities like Rafting, kayaking, cycling, mountain Biking, trekking besides a spectacular show of All

Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) for the first time in Gurez.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Tourism, Dr. G. N. Itoo said that the Tourism Department has been promoting Gurez through a sustained and coordinated mechanism for the last two years which yielded results recently in the destination being awarded as the best offbeat tourist spot in the country by a national publication.

Dr. Itoo said possibilities would be explored to make Gurez an all weather Tourist destination.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad congratulated the people of Gurez for being awarded the best off-beat tourist destination award recently at a Tourism conclave at the national capital. He said youth are main stakeholders in tourism promotion in Gurez Valley as tourism not only provides enjoyment but also employment to youth.

'My Youth My Pride Attracting Best & Brightest Talents'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Sports Council on Saturday said that its premiere sports initiative 'My Youth My Pride' is attracting the best and brightest talents.

Under the programme, the Kashmir division remained abuzz with cricket activities with several cricket tournaments being played. Cricket matches were played at Sheri-Kashmir Stadium Bandipora, Pattan Cricket Field, and Gani Memorial Stadium Rajouri Kadal in Downtown Srinagar.

Moreover, the 4-day Ice Stock Championship underway in Gindun Sports Complex Rajbagh entered its third day with competitions in the categories of team games for women, men, girls, and boys played on Saturday. While Srinagar and Kupwara districts dominated the day, Bandipora, Baramulla, Pulwama, Poonch, Rajouri also added medals to their vault.

Sheikh Riyaz Ahmad, Administrative Officer J&K Sports Council said that more sporting events under the sports initiative 'My Youth My Pride' are in pipeline across J&K.

Pertinently during Phase-I of the 'My Youth My Pride' more than 8.5 Lakh youth from across the UT participated, while 13.74 Lakh youth shall be part of the program in Phase-II.

In the meantime, two J&K athletes Abhijeet Singh and Ritik Sharma on Saturday brought laurels to the region with their performance in the National Northzone Athletics Championship currently underway in Karnal, Haryana. Abhijeet clinched gold in the 100-meter event while Ritik bagged silver in 5000 meters and a bronze in 1500 meters category.

INDIA vs PAKISTAN: Top Order In Focus As Rivals Meet Again



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: The famed top-order would be desperate for a course correction while the bowling attack could be rejigged as India aim for a Sunday encore against Pakistan in an Asia Cup Super 4s clash.

In the last game against Pakistan, Dravid promoted Jadeja to number four to keep the left-right combination going in the top six, as Rishabh Pant was dropped from the playing XI.

Last Sunday, it was Hardik Pandya's one-man show that got India over the line in a thriller-

ing final-over finish, and Rohit would expect that the intensity is maintained in this game too.

Neither Virat Kohli nor Rohit looked comfortable against the Pakistani attack and as the pitch got slower, their problems seemed to have compounded.

The Pakistan team, on its part, would also like to score more in the first 10 overs.

Mohammed Rizwan and Babar Azam have had all the success while chasing but batting first hasn't exactly been the strong suit for the pair.

Also, the slowness of the Dubai track does create a few

problems for the batters.

Squads:

India: Rohit Sharma (c), KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Deepak Hooda, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, R Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh.

Pakistan: Babar Azam (c), Shadab Khan, Asif Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Usman Qadir, Mohammed Hasnain, Hasan Ali.

Avesh, Dahani To Miss IND-PAK Asia Cup Tie

Agencies

DUBAI: India pacer Avesh Khan and Pakistan speedster Shah Nawaz Dahani have been ruled out of Sunday's Super 4 match up between India and Pakistan.

Dahani is the third Pakistan paceman sidelined with injury after ace fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi missed the Asia Cup because of a knee problem and Mohammad Wasim Junior because of a side strain.

The Pakistan Cricket Board said Saturday that Dahani picked up the injury during Pakistan's 155-run win over Hong Kong at Sharjah on Friday after the fast bowler took 1-7 off his two overs.

Pakistan could bring in either Mohammad Hasnain or Hasan Ali in the playing XI.

Meanwhile, India head coach Rahul Dravid revealed on Saturday that Avesh Khan was unwell.

"Avesh Khan is a little unwell and hopefully, we will get him for the later matches of the tournament," Dravid said on the eve of the match.

Bhutia Shocked By Political Interference In AIFF Polls



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia on Saturday said he was shocked at the "high level" of political interference in the All India Football Federation (AIFF) elections, which didn't pan out as he would have liked.

Bhutia lost to BJP leader and former goalkeeper Kalyan Chaubey in the election for the president's post.

The 45-year-old Bhutia himself has dabbled in politics, having unsuccessfully contested Lok Sabha and state assembly elections on TMC ticket in 2014 and 2016 respectively and founded the Hamro Sikkim Party. But he said, the AIFF elections should have been fought without any "political interference", and purely on football matters.

"I was shocked because I personally did not expect that the political interference (in AIFF elections) would be of such a high level. I thought it's a football president election and I wanted to contribute with sincerity," Bhutia told PTI.

"If they (his opponents) were so confident of victory, why a powerful union minister had to come at the hotel (where the voters were staying) at 9pm (on Thursday) and stay there till 2am in the morning of election day (on Friday) and take all of them to a particular floor of the hotel," he said.

"Out of the 34 members of the electoral college, 33 (except Gopalakrishna Kosaraju) were taken to a floor of the hotel and access was denied to the whole floor. I could not contact any of the voters, the network was down."

"I tried calling the secretary of Rajasthan association, who is a voter and whose president (Manvendra Singh) was my second, but I could not reach him on phone."

"The political interference was a shocking thing to me and it was very unfortunate and a sad thing for Indian football."



World Cup 'Beer Policy' Finally Agreed By Qatari Organisers



Agencies

GENEVA: Organisers of the World Cup in Qatar have finalized a policy to serve beer with alcohol to football fans at stadiums and fan zones in the Muslim-majority country.

FIFA said Saturday fans will be allowed to buy Budweiser beer with alcohol within the eight stadium compounds — though not at concourse concession stands — before and after games, and during evenings only at the official "Fan Festival." That is being held in a downtown Doha park.

Game tickets promising access to Champagnes, wine, liquor and beer for hospitality clients at Qatari stadiums have been on sale since February 2021 as part of corporate packages offering "premium beverages."

The beer policy affecting most fans was announced just 11 weeks before the first game and finally fulfills an expectation since Qatar campaigned 12 years ago to be the first World Cup host in the Middle East.

Budweiser has been the exclusive World Cup beer brand since 1986 and parent company AB InBev renewed its deal through 2022 with FIFA in a 2011 signing after Qatar was confirmed as host.

FIFA said Saturday that Budweiser with alcohol will be sold "within the stadium perimeter prior to kickoff and after the final whistle."

"Inside the stadium bowl

ticket holders will have access to non-alcoholic Budweiser Zero," soccer's world body said. "At the FIFA Fan Festival, Budweiser will be available to purchase from 6.30 p.m."

Qatar's organizing committee and AB InBev declined comment Saturday on the issue.

Alcohol is more available in Qatar than some Middle East states though it is served only in hotel restaurants and bars that have licenses. It is illegal to consume it elsewhere.

Still, Qatar has had to relax its regulation of alcohol for the 29-day tournament starting Nov. 20. It is expected to attract more than 1 million visitors including fans from 31 other nations to the tiny Emirate.

Qatar has tested its alcohol policies at games soccer including the 2019 Club World Cup that featured Europe's then-champion Liverpool, South American champion Flamengo and Mexican club Monterrey.

Qatar is not the first World Cup host to ease its stance on alcohol. Before the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, pressure from FIFA led local lawmakers to pass a special bill exempting the tournament from a ban on selling alcohol at stadiums.

Qatar beat four rival bids, including the United States, to win a World Cup hosting contest where candidates were expected to respect FIFA's deals with commercial partners.

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