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 685 Mohammad Areeb Classroom Course Rajbagh	 680 Abdul Mateen Classroom Course Nigeen	 675 Zaid Bin Mushtaq Classroom Course Rajbagh	 672 Madhi Ul Haq Classroom Course Rajbagh
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 670 Nihayet Farooq Classroom Course Rajbagh	 670 Owais Ahmad Classroom Course Rajbagh	 670 Simrah Sikander Classroom Course Rawalpura	State Topper (Girls)
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20+ Students secured more than 650 Marks

 669 Fatima Rashid Classroom Course Rajbagh	 667 Saleh Bashir Classroom Course Rawalpura	 664 Shakir Mushtaq Classroom Course Rajbagh
 662 Maseeha Classroom Course Rawalpura	 660 Sania Mushtaq Classroom Course Rajbagh	 660 Ubair Yaqoob Classroom Course Rawalpura
 659 Suhaib Bhat Classroom Course Rajbagh	 657 Nehal Classroom Course Rajbagh	 656 Hadeeqa Aejaz Classroom Course Rawalpura
 650 Aisha Pandit Classroom Course Rajbagh	 650 Peer Momin Classroom Course Rajbagh	 650 Sheikh Farhan Classroom Course Rajbagh
 650 Andleeb Farooq Classroom Course Nigeen	 650 Huteebah Sheikh Classroom Course Nigeen	

80+ Students secured more than 600 Marks

 648 Mohsin Ibrahim Classroom Course Rajbagh	 647 Ishan Bashir Classroom Course Rajbagh	 646 Rizwan ul Islam Classroom Course Rajbagh	 646 Danish Mumtaz DLP Rajbagh	 645 M. Sami Classroom Course Rajbagh	 645 Muskaan Hussain Classroom Course Nigeen	 643 Suhana Majeed Classroom Course Rajbagh
 642 Zeeshan Ismail Classroom Course Nigeen	 640 Basharat Farooq Classroom Course Rajbagh	 640 Aiman Amin Classroom Course Nigeen	 640 Fiza Amin Classroom Course Rawalpura	 639 Kifayat Muzaffar Classroom Course Rajbagh	 636 Talib Farooq DLP Rajbagh	 636 Bausir Yousuf Classroom Course Rajbagh
 636 Mehwish Manzoor Classroom Course Nigeen	 636 Shaista Manzoor DLP Nigeen	 633 Tabin Dilshad Classroom Course Nigeen	 632 Malik Zain DLP Rawalpura	 631 Sahil Farooq Classroom Course Rajbagh	 630 Moonis Mehraj Classroom Course Rajbagh	 630 Rahil Shabir DLP Rawalpura
 629 Anas Mushtaq DLP Rajbagh	 626 Basit Nabi Classroom Course Rajbagh	 626 M. Hamzah Classroom Course Rawalpura	 625 M. Ifham Classroom Course Rajbagh	 624 Muneeb Ul Hassan DLP Rajbagh	 624 Shafaqat Rashid Classroom Course Nigeen	 623 Malik Munazah Classroom Course Rajbagh
 623 Areej Arshad Classroom Course Rajbagh	 622 Shahid Rashid Classroom Course Rajbagh	 622 Abdul Muied DLP Rajbagh	 620 Faiza Zahoor Classroom Course Rajbagh	 620 Farhan Showkat Classroom Course Rajbagh	 618 Bilal Iqbal Classroom Course Rajbagh	 618 Imran Mushtaq Classroom Course Rajbagh
 616 Owais Nazir Classroom Course Rajbagh	 616 Aisha Ashraf Classroom Course Rajbagh	 616 Majid Ahmad Classroom Course Rajbagh	 616 M. Kaif Classroom Course Rajbagh	 616 M. Hamza Classroom Course Nigeen	 615 Sabat Umar Classroom Course Rajbagh	 615 Nadeem Classroom Course Rajbagh
 615 Hilal Ahmad Classroom Course Rajbagh	 614 Shahid Nazir DLP Rajbagh	 613 Bazil Manzoor Classroom Course Rajbagh	 611 Muzamil Yousuf Classroom Course Rajbagh	 611 Shahid Mohiuddin DLP Rawalpura	 610 Mutaf Bashir Classroom Course Rajbagh	 610 Mohammad Ashraf Classroom Course Rajbagh
 610 Rayan Hassan Classroom Course Rajbagh	 605 Syed Tajamul Classroom Course Rajbagh	 604 Taha Farooq Classroom Course Rajbagh	 604 Raashmi Jan DLP Rajbagh	 602 Kamran Hilal Classroom Course Rajbagh	 602 Raqib Rafiq Classroom Course Rajbagh	 602 Umar Salroo Classroom Course Rajbagh
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Are Airbnbs More Cost-Effective Than Hotels?

If you're booking travel in 2022, reconsider your strategy

Associated Press

Remember the days when one of the best money-saving travel tips was booking an Airbnb versus a hotel? Not only were nightly rates almost always far cheaper, but the Airbnbs and hosts themselves often shaped up to be the most memorable aspects of a trip. These days, staying at an Airbnb rarely involves big savings or friendships with the hosts. For better or for worse, features like self-check-in make it so hosts and guests never even meet. Meanwhile, many listings are not managed by owners, but by corporate property management behemoths - without the convenience of on-site, full-time staff. And the cost? A June 2022 NerdWallet analysis looked at 1,000 US Airbnb reservations for 2022 or 2023. Although there's no way to compare the costs directly since every Airbnb is different, some key indicators provide clues as to when Airbnbs are better or worse than a hotel. In some cases, Airbnb rentals are still a good deal compared to hotels. Other times, they're far from it.

LENGTH OF TRIP

For short stays, Airbnbs are rarely a good deal for two reasons: discounts and cleaning fees. Savings get bigger with trip length: The nightly rate for the average seven-night Airbnb stay was 32% cheaper than a one-night stay, according to NerdWallet's analysis.



- One-night stay: \$314 median nightly price.
- Seven-night stay: \$213 median nightly price (32% cheaper per night versus staying one night).
Why are longer stays cheaper? One reason is multiday discounts. Hosts offer these incentives because they'd prefer having fewer book-

ings to manage and ensure occupancy. Another reason is cleaning fees. While not all listings have them, the median cleaning fee is \$75, according to NerdWallet's analysis. Since it's a one-time fee, the cost is reduced by longer stays. A \$75 cleaning fee stings more on a one-night stay versus a three-week stay, where it would amount to only about \$3.50 per day.

Since hotels typically don't have cleaning fees, travelers staying a night or two might be better off with a hotel if Airbnb cleaning fees are steep.

SIZE OF GROUP

For solo travelers and couples, Airbnbs are typically more expensive (though NerdWallet's study only looked at entire place properties, so people sharing a room or home might still save). NerdWallet compared the price per head for Airbnbs with a max capacity of two adults against a hotel room in the same city. It also compared the cost of an Airbnb with a max capacity of six people against the cost to book three hotel rooms (assuming two adults per room). The average Airbnb for six was 33% cheaper than booking three hotel rooms. But the average hotel was 29% cheaper than booking an Airbnb for two.

Here's how median costs broke down, per person:

- Small Airbnb (fits two adults): \$125.
- Large Airbnb (fits six adults): \$60.
- Hotel room (fits two adults): \$89.

OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Of course, every traveler's situation is unique, and other costs go into a trip beyond just sticker price. Ask yourself about:

TRANSPORTATION: Does the hotel charge for

parking? Is there a free airport shuttle? Is the hotel downtown and walkable, whereas your Airbnb might necessitate a rental car?

STAFF AVAILABILITY: For Airbnbs, you might never meet the host or interact with any sort of staff. If you prefer to speak to a human (or simply need personal assistance for anything from getting directions to helping clean a mess), a hotel might have better offerings.

Then again, even hotels are still understaffed. The American Hotel & Lodging Association forecasts that hotels will end 2022 with 1.97 million employees, which is 84% of pre-pandemic levels, and a May 2022 AHLA survey found that 97% of hotels indicate that they are experiencing a staffing shortage.

FOOD: Can you skip restaurants by cooking in the Airbnb kitchen? Is the free hotel breakfast more convenient?

OTHER AMENITIES: Does your Airbnb include laundry? Are daily activities included with your hotel, making it so you can skip paying for other entertainment if you'll spend all day at the pool?

For remote workers, what about office space? A Deloitte spring 2022 survey of 4,200 Americans asked what factors go into their lodging decisions. Space to work saw a 19% increase in 2022 versus 2021 - and an Airbnb with a separate office or backyard might be a more enjoyable workspace than being cooped up in a small hotel room.

Babies Given Antibiotics May Develop Gut Problems As Adults: Study

Press Trust Of India

Babies given antibiotics may grow up to experience gastrointestinal issues, a study conducted in mice suggests.

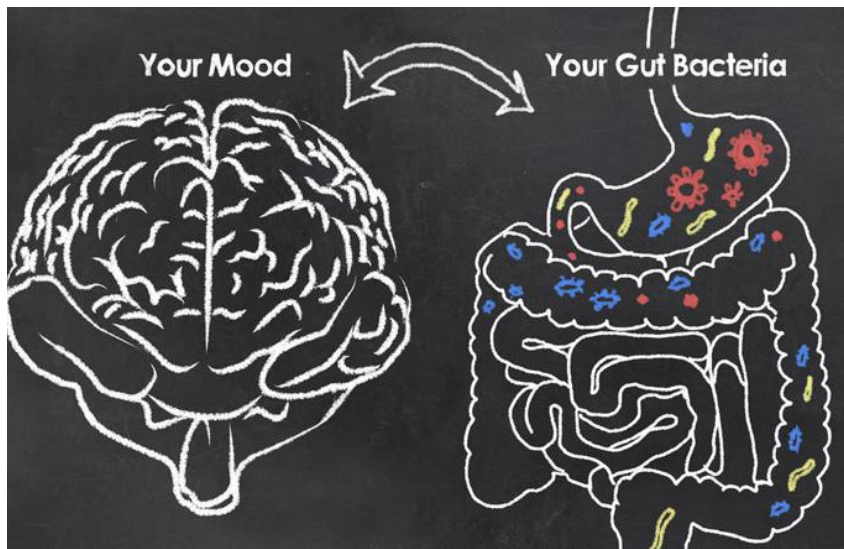
Preterm and low birth weight babies are routinely given antibiotics to prevent, not just treat, infections, which they have a high risk of developing.

The study, published in The Journal of Physiology, found that early life exposure to antibiotics in neonatal mice has long-lasting effects on their microbiota, enteric nervous system, and gut function.

The team at the University of Melbourne in Australia is the first to show that antibiotics given to mice have these long-lasting effects which result in disturbed gastrointestinal function, including the speed of motility through the gut and diarrhoea-like symptoms in adulthood.

"We are very excited about the findings of our study which show that antibiotics given after birth could have prolonged effects on the enteric nervous system," said study lead Jaime Foong.

"This provides further evidence of



the importance of microbiota on gut health and could introduce new targets to advance antibiotic treatment to very young children," Foong said. The researchers gave mice an oral dose of vancomycin every day for the first ten days of their lives. They were then reared normally until they were young adults, and their gut tissue was looked at to measure its structure, function, microbiota, and nervous system.

The researchers found that changes were also dependent on the sex of the mice.

The study found that females had long whole gut transit -- a measure of how long it takes food to move through our system -- and the males had lower faecal weight than the control group. Both males and females had greater faecal water content, which is a diarrhoea-like symptom, according to the researchers.

The researchers noted that although mice have many similarities to humans, they are born with more immature guts than us and have accelerated growth due to their shorter life spans. Their gutA microbiota and nervous systems are less complex than humans, so the findings cannot yet be directly associated to human children and infants, they said.

The researchers will do further studies on the mechanisms of antibiotics on the gut and the causes of the sex specific actions, and if early life antibiotic use has effects on metabolism and brain function.

We are very excited about the findings of our study which show that antibiotics given after birth could have prolonged effects on the enteric nervous system

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LG Asks Revenue Dept To Repeal Obsolete Rules

Emphasizes On Streamlining Online-Revenue Services To Make System More Transparent & Accountable



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday asked the revenue department on streamlining of online-revenue services to make the system more transparent & accountable to the common people, besides mapping of forest land and creating a dedicated IT cell in the department.

Reviewing the functioning of the revenue department at the Civil Secretariat here on Friday, the LG was appraised implementation of several initiatives

undertaken by the department for ensuring smooth delivery of services to the public, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said, was briefed about 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani' Digitization of Land Records; Change of Land Use; issuance of Land Passbooks and Property cards; SVAMITVA Scheme etc.

"Obsolete rules should be repealed and replaced with a more people-oriented regulatory system for ease of living, ease of governance and overall improvement of the efficiency of the Revenue department."

OBsolete RULES SHOULD BE REPEALED AND REPLACED with a more people-oriented regulatory system for ease of living, ease of governance and overall improvement of the efficiency of the Revenue department."

8 More JKAS Officers To Get Into IAS Club: MoS Singh

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh on Friday said 16 officers from the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) have been inducted into IAS and another eight vacancies will be filled up shortly after a long gap of 12 years.

The minister said the Centre has also relaxed deputation rules to encourage IAS and other All India Service Officers as well as officers of central services to get posted in Jammu and Kashmir, according to a government statement.

In an interaction with the media on the steps taken to address the officers' shortage in the newly created Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir, Singh



said due to the relaxation in deputation rules, 22 officers belonging to various services and different cadres have been posted in the UT at various levels at a crucial time, the statement said.

He said the DoPT played a major role in facilitating induction of JKAS officers into the IAS by coordinating with UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Ministry of Home Affairs and the UPSC.

"As a result, recently 16 officers from JKAS **More on P10**

Govt Transfers Six More Officers

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday ordered transfer of five IAS and a JKAS officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect. According to the order, Mohd Yasin (IAS) Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, has been transferred and posted as **More on P10**

Govt To Engage PIA To Reduce T&D Losses, Smart Metering

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Administrative Council (AC) under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday approved the engagement of project implementation agency (PIA) for the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Administrative Council (AC) authorized both the DISCOMs i.e JPDCL & KPDCL to execute smart metering works under Totex model and loss reduction works, sanctioned under RDSS by engaging the central public sector enterprise-RECPDCL/PGCIL as the project implementing agency, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the decision is aimed at improving the

quality, reliability and affordability of power supply to consumers through a financially sustainable and operationally efficient power distribution sector.

"It will further reduce the AT&C losses to pan-India levels of 12-15% and ACS-ARR gap to zero by 2024-25 by improving the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of all DISCOMs/ Power Department," he added.

Under the RDSS scheme, the spokesperson said, conditional financial assistance shall be provided to the DISCOMs for strengthening of supply infrastructure based on meeting pre-qualifying criteria and achieving basic minimum benchmark. He further said that the decision aims **More on P10**

How Self-Belief Sparked NEET Success Of Kashmiri Vendor's Son

Zaid Bin Shabir

The crowd that surrounded Gulistan Khan's food-cart in Pattan area of Baramulla district on September 8 wasn't there for his smoky-cum-spicy delicacy, but for the staggering NEET success of his son.

The proud father selling barbecue for living could only respond with his beaming face amid the showering praises.

Away from his marketplace cart, the festive footfall was uplifting the mood of his modest house nestled in a small hamlet of Guira, Pattan.

Women arrived, in twos and threes, and showered candies



on the boy being celebrated as a difference-maker in Kashmir's competitive exam. The elders took turns to kiss his feted forehead, while his mother Haseena—watching the

6 MY FATHER HAS A VERY NOMINAL EARNINGS AND THAT'S WHY he wanted me to focus more on my studies and earn a better life for myself and obviously for my family. Except during my Class 11th, I've never attended any coaching center."

budding life shuttling between his father's cart and his study room. "It's hard to strike a balance between the two," said the boy with a humble sense of achievement. "But then, hard-ship is another name of life."

With this resilient bent of mind, Mehraj was able to achieve what thousands of students despite taking the high-end coaching—mostly from the branded coaching centres mushrooming in urban pockets of the valley—could not do.

"Last three years have tested my patience but I can proudly say that I defeated all the hurdles which came my way," Mehraj said with **More on P10**

celebratory scenes from sidelines—wasn't able to conceal her gushing emotions.

Mehraj Ud Din Khan, 18, sat in a corner where he recalled the endless hours of his



Jai Anusandhan

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— Narendra Modi

Promoting an ecosystem of science and innovation, first of its kind 'Centre-State Science Conclave' to be inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 10th September at 10.30 am (via video conferencing)

- **Atal Innovation Mission:** More than **75 Lakh** students connected with nearly 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs

- **PM Research Fellowship** connects high-quality research and innovation with the best talent in the country; fellowship and research grants of more than **₹50 lakh** to complete PhD

- India is home to world's leading start-up ecosystem; **more than 107 unicorns** and **77,000 start-ups**

- Emphasis on technology and service-driven innovation. India jumps to **46th position** from **81st** in the **Global Innovation Index** in the last six years

- Record **50% increase** in **patent registrations** over the last seven years. Number of patents filed increased to 66,400 in 2021-22 from 42,700 in 2014-15

- Progressive **Drone Policy** to bring positive change in people's lives through technology; **space sector** strengthened by allowing private sector participation

Have made my decision, will reply when poll is held: Rahul

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said he has made his decision on whether he will become the next party president and will reply only when the elections are held.

Responding to questions on whether he will lead the Congress once again after he resigned from the post in 2019

ply when Congress president election takes place."

"It will become very clear whether I become president or not when the party elections take place. Please wait for that day," Gandhi told reporters.

He said he was not leading this yatra ("Bharat Jodo Yatra" from Kanyakumari to Kashmir) and was only participating in it.



taking moral responsibility for the party's poll drubbing in the Lok Sabha elections, he said, "I've made my decision; I'm very clear and I'll re-

Gandhi also said it is the responsibility of everyone in the Opposition to work for the country.

Iran, Iraq Interior Ministers Discuss Efforts to Facilitate Arbaeen Pilgrimage

AGENCIES

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran's Interior Minister held talks with his Iraqi counterpart on boosting coordination between the two countries to facilitate the Arbaeen pilgrimage.

In their meeting in Baghdad on Thursday, Vahidi and

Pakistani nationals through Iran's borders.

The Iraqi top diplomat promised in the telephone conversation to follow up on the affairs of the Arbaeen pilgrims, saying the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran's interior minister in Baghdad on Thursday is a good opportunity to closely



the Iraqi interior minister exchanged views of ways to serve Arbaeen pilgrims and remove problems they are facing in border crossings between the two countries.

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdo-lahian, in a phone conversation with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, expressed gratitude and appreciation for the generous hospitality of the Iraqi government and people to the pilgrims.

Amirabdoollahian called for further arrangements and coordination for the arrival of Iranian pilgrims via land and air routes and also for facilitation of entry of Afghan and

check the affairs and make the necessary coordination in this regard.

The Arbaeen mourning ceremony is one of the largest religious gatherings in the world.

It marks the 40th day after the martyrdom anniversary of the grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), Imam Hussein (AS).

Each year during the Arbaeen season, pilgrims, mainly from Iraq and Iran, travel long routes on foot to Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) is located.

Arbaeen will fall on September 17 this year.



SC Seeks Entire Record Of Bilkis Bano Case Proceedings

AGENCIES

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Gujarat government to file the entire record of the proceedings in the Bilkis Bano case, including the remission order given to the 11 convicts who had gang-raped Bano and murdered her family members during the 2002 Godhra riots.

A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and BV Nagarathna granted two weeks to the Gujarat government to produce all relevant records in the case.

The bench also issued notice to the Gujarat government and convicts on a plea filed by TMC MP Mahua Moitra against the release of the convicts.

Earlier, the top court had issued notice to the Gujarat government on the plea filed by Communist Party of India (Marxist) member Subhashini Ali, journalist Revati Laul, and social activist and pro-

fessor Roop Rekha Verma. It asked the petitioner to impede convicts in the petition.

The plea has sought setting aside of order granting remission to 11 convicts and directing their immediate re-arrest.

"It is submitted that it would appear that the constitution of members of the competent authority of the Gujarat government also bore allegiance to a political party and sitting MLAs. As such, it would appear that the competent authority was not an authority that was entirely independent, and one that could independently apply its mind to the facts at hand," the plea stated.

The plea filed by the three women said they had challenged the order of competent authority of the government of Gujarat by way of which 11 persons who were accused in a set of heinous offences committed in Gujarat were allowed to walk free on August 15, 2022, pursuant to remis-

sion being extended to them.

"The 11 persons were sentenced to life imprisonment for commission of the offences of, among other things, gang-rape and murder of multiple people during the large-scale communal riots in Gujarat in 2002 on January 18, 2008, passed by the Sessions Court in Greater Mumbai and the conviction was upheld by way of Judgment dated May 4, 2017, passed by High Court of Mumbai," the petition stated.

The petition said the case which led to the conviction of the 11 convicts was investigated by the CBI, accordingly, the grant of remission solely by the Gujarat government without any consultation with the Central government is impermissible in terms of the mandate of Section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

The remission in this heinous case would be entirely against public interest and would shock the collective

Marital Rape SC To Hear Plea Arising Out Of High Court Verdict

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court today said it would hear on September 16 the pleas arising out of the Delhi High Court's split verdict on the issue of criminalisation of marital rape.

The high court on May 11 delivered a verdict with one of the judges favouring striking down the exception in the law that grants protection to husbands from being prosecuted for non-consensual sexual intercourse with their wives, the other refused to hold it unconstitutional.

However, both the judges had concurred with each other for granting the certificate of leave to appeal to the Supreme Court in the matter as it involves substantial questions of law that requires a decision from the

Supreme Court.

Two petitions arising out of the high court's May 11 verdict came up for hearing before a bench comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi and BV Nagarathna on Friday.

The counsel appearing for one of the appellants said they are seeking that the top court decides the substantial question of law involved in the matter.

The counsel said both the judges of the division bench of the high court had granted the certificate of leave to appeal to the top court.

"Otherwise also, this matter has to be heard," the bench observed, adding one more plea on the issue that was earlier mentioned before it.

"Let the other matter come, we will tag all of them," the bench said. Justice Rajiv Shakdher, who headed the division bench of the high

court, had favoured striking down the marital rape exception and said it would be tragic if a married woman's call for justice is not heard even after 162 years since the enactment of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Justice C Hari Shankar, who was part of the high court's division bench, had said the exception under the rape law is not unconstitutional and was based on an intelligible differentia having a rational nexus with the object of the exception as well as section 375 (rape) of the IPC itself.

The petitioners before the high court had challenged the constitutionality of the marital rape exception under section 375 IPC (rape) on the ground that it discriminated against married women who are sexually assaulted by their husbands.

What are King Charles III's views on the Middle East?

Agencies

London: King Charles III, as he is now known, automatically became the head of the monarchy the moment his mother Queen Elizabeth II died.

Aged 73, he is the longest-serving heir apparent in British history.

The British royal family are constitutionally obliged to stay out of political issues, but when it comes to the Middle East region, it is no secret that Charles has cultivated close relations with the ruling families of the Gulf states for decades.

He has also expressed sympathy for Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Here is what we know about his thoughts on the key issues in the region.

Role in promoting UK arms exports to Middle East

According to a report, Charles has played a crucial role in advancing 14.5 billion pounds (\$16.8bn) worth of United Kingdom arms exports to monarchies in the last decade.

Since the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings, Charles has held 95 meetings with eight Middle Eastern states whose power and control were briefly threatened by the protests.

However, according to a 300-page book titled Charles At Seventy: Thoughts, Hopes and Dreams, published in 2018, Charles allegedly told UK ministers that he no longer wants to use his Gulf connections to sell arms on behalf of British companies in the Middle East.

Sympathy for the Palestinian people

In his first official trip to the occupied West Bank in January 2020, Charles expressed his heartbreak over witnessing the "suffering" and "hardship" endured by the Palestinian population under Israeli occupation.

During his speech from Bethlehem, Charles said: "It is my dearest wish that the future will bring freedom, justice and equality to all Palestinians, enabling you to thrive and to prosper."

Sky News TV at the time said the speech constituted "the biggest show of support that a member of the Royal family ever has [expressed] for the Palestinians".

According to Jobson, Charles believes that the Israel-Palestine conflict is "the fundamental reason for the hostility and all the 'pent-up poison' throughout the Islamic world".

Close relations with Gulf Arab



states

Charles III's important connections to Gulf states have been bolstered by decades of longstanding and respectful relationships between the British royal family and the Gulf ruling families.

But he has often found himself mired in controversy when it comes to accepting cash donations.

This year, it was revealed that between 2011-2015, he was personally given three million euro (\$3m) in cash by former Qatari prime minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al-Thani, some of it in shopping bags.

Charles' office said the money was handed over to one of his charities, which carried out appropriate governance and gave assurances that all the correct processes were followed.

UN Chief In Pakistan To Boost Flood Aid For Millions Affected

Islamabad: United Nations chief Antonio Guterres began a two-day visit to flood-hit Pakistan Friday that officials hope will boost global support for a humanitarian crisis affecting millions.

A third of the country is under water - an area the size of the United Kingdom - following record rains brought by what Guterres has described as "a monsoon on steroids".

Pakistan officials say it will cost at least \$10 billion to rebuild and repair damaged infrastructure -- an impossible sum for the deeply indebted nation -- but the priority, for now, is food and shelter for millions made homeless.

"Everything is drowned, everything washed away," said Ayaz Ali, suffering from fever as he reluctantly took his place Thursday on a navy boat rescuing villagers from flooded rural communities in southern Sindh province.

In a tweet en route to Pakistan, Guterres said he wanted to "be with the people in their time of need, galvanize international support and bring global focus on the disastrous repercussions of climate change."

Pakistan receives heavy -- often destructive -- rains during its annual monsoon season, which are crucial for agriculture and water supplies.

But a downpour as intense as this year's not been seen for decades, and Pakistan officials blame climate change, which is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather around the world.

SC Refuses To Entertain Plea Seeking Arrest Of Nupur Sharma

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking the arrest of suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma over her remarks on the Prophet made during a TV debate.

A bench of Chief Justice U U Lalit and Justices S Ravindra Bhat and P S Narasimha said the courts should think carefully while passing orders in such matters.

"This may sound simple and innocuous but it has far-reaching consequences. The court should be circumspect while issuing directions. We would suggest you withdraw your plea," the bench remarked.

The petitioner then withdrew the plea and the matter was declared dismissed as withdrawn.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by lawyer Abu Sohail seeking directions for an "independent, credible and impartial investigation" into the matter.



The top court had earlier provided relief to Ms Sharma by clubbing all the FIRs lodged across the country and transferring them to Delhi Police in connection with her remark on the Prophet.

The telecast dated May 26, 2022, on a news channel has led to the registration of various FIRs and complaints against the petitioner in different parts of the country.

Ms Sharma's remark on the Prophet during a TV debate had triggered protests across the country and drew sharp reactions from many Gulf countries. The BJP subsequently suspended her from the party.

American Man Wins \$1 Million Lottery After Trying To Claim A \$600 Prize

When a Virginia man went to the state lottery office to claim a \$600 prize, he was surprised to learn that his ticket was actually worth \$1 million.

Jose Flores Velasquez of Annandale told Virginia Lottery officials that he purchased a '20X the Money scratch-off ticket' at the Annandale Safeway while shopping for a soda drink.

The Virginia Lottery will award the supermarket store a bonus of \$10,000 for selling the winning ticket.

Mr Velasquez claimed he believed the winning ticket was worth \$600, so he went to the Virginia Lottery's Woodbridge customer care office to collect his meager award.

The gamer claimed when centre staff members examined



his ticket and informed him that it was a \$1 million winner, he was shocked.

Mr Velasquez took home the second-largest prize in the latest version of the scratch-off game.

He chose the one-time lump-sum cash prize of \$759,878 over the 30-year prize of \$1 million.

Mr Velasquez intends to use his winnings to support his family and, possibly, to start his own business.

As a result of multiple reports of winning prizes, Americans are flocking in good numbers to gas stations and convenience stores to buy a ticket.

4 Men Open Fire At Street Dogs In Madhya Pradesh, Case Registered: Cops

Indore: Four unidentified persons allegedly opened fire at street dogs using air guns at a locality in Madhya Pradesh's Indore, police said on Friday. A case was registered after the video of the incident went viral on social media, Bhanwarkuan police station in-charge Shashikant Chourasia said.

The video shows unidentified men firing shots at street dogs. No canine was injured in the firing, he said, adding that efforts are on to identify the accused.

Indore unit president of welfare organisation 'People for Animals', Priyanshu Jain said locals had informed him about the firing that took place in Vishnupuri area on Thursday.

Activists of the organisation are trying to find out if any animal was injured in the incident, he said.



Two Day Capacity Building Program For Artisans Concludes At Kashmir Haat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The PHDCCI-Kashmir in association with Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir and Department of Commerce-Ministry of Commerce & Industry Government of India launched a series of two Day Capacity Building Programmes for the Artisans of Traditional crafts of Kashmir. In this series the first Capacity Building programme for the Artisans of Sozni Embroidery Work was conducted on 8th-9th September at Conference Hall of Numaish (Kashmir Haat) Srinagar.

The programme was attended by 42-Artisans of Sozni Embroidery Work from various areas and craft clusters of Srinagar District. The programme was inaugurated jointly by Vicky Shaw, Co-Chair PHDCCI, Riyaz Kawoosa Assistant Director (Publicity & Exhibitions). The resource person Amina Asad, Chief Designer School of Designs highlighted on topics, importance of design in crafts, creation of refined design for export quality, New & Innovative Design Development & Quality Improvement. She also showed design motifs and demonstrations on various crafts that were shown to Artisans at Craft Museum. She emphasized to the artisans that the Design of a handicraft product should be in accordance with the tastes and preferences of customers. She told them that the young independent designers are actively collaborating with artisans to transform the



aesthetic of traditional crafts to appeal to global consumers.

Amina gave a detailed presentation covering all aspects of Sozni Art design development. While concluding her session she said that the Craft is quite literally a spiritual journey that can lead to the development of skills, confidence and the joy of being someone who can create. It's very tempting to see craft as a skill and skill alone, after which you go out and get a job. In fact, to engage in a craft is to take on a practice and a lifelong journey.

Dr Danish Assistant professor Department of Management Studies IUST University made an attempt to highlight the role of E-commerce in the development of artisans in India and Kashmir by illustrating

some efforts of Government and Non-Government agencies.

"the growth of e-commerce platforms, particularly online marketplaces, has activated avenues for artisans to connect with patrons", Dr Danish said.

He gave examples how in other parts of the country artisans upload their products online with pictures on various social media platforms, along with pricing details and design specifications.

He further said that the seasoned artisans may hesitate to embrace technology but do not lack will as they take assistance from younger family members. Many craftsmen took advantage of the difficult times to reinvent themselves online, enlisting the help of their families' younger

generations to market their goods on social networking platforms. In the post-pandemic setting, modern technologies and social media platforms might be critical in assisting these traditional artisan businesses. Many craftsmen took advantage of these platforms to tap into previously untapped opportunities, such as robust internet connections and smartphone usage, as well as increased demand from a more conscious buyer.

Mohammad Sayyed, Assistant professor Food technology IUST University in his lecture to the artisans made them understand the importance of packaging for Handicraft particularly for Sozni. He explained how the new Generation of packaging is developed where you need not to worry

about how to pack your handicrafts or your product to prevent it from damages which comes at the time of shipment. In his lecture he said that an artist or manufacturer should not underestimate the power of good packaging. Whether that's recycled packaging that conveys your eco-credentials or a custom-made box featuring your logo, illustrations and mission statement, packaging can communicate your values, make a memorable first impression, offer marketing opportunities, build brand loyalty. He told the artisans that an initial impression goes a very long way in how we humans perceive just about anything. For example, the first handshake with someone that's overly strong is more than likely going to affect your overall opinion of them. And that's what your product packaging is - it's the first greeting, the initial handshake that says "hey, nice to meet you". Not only is your packaging the only part of your craft that reaches 100% of its customers, but it's also the first time that your customers are physically in contact with your craft.

While applauding the role of the Handicraft Department and PHDCCI for arranging such a wonderful awareness workshop the Artisans, said that they have gained and enriched a lot through the two-day program and will adopt the techniques learnt in the packaging, designing and Marketing of their products.

Allen Career Institute Felicitates NEET (UG) Toppers

Nouman Javed Bhat of Allen Srinagar achieved AIR-920 with 679 Marks in NEET (UG)-2022

SRINAGAR: Students of Allen Career Institute have once again proved their excellence in NEET-UG 2022, the country's most prominent medical entrance exam. AMIT MOHAN AGARWAL, Mentor Allen Srinagar said that in the NEET-UG results, students of Allen Career Institute have achieved records in just the second year of its establishment.

Nouman Javed Bhat, a student of Allen, has secured AIR-920 and scored 679 marks out of 720. Nouman has been Allen Srinagar's classroom student for Two year. Along with Nouman Javed Bhat other students Mohd. Mohsin Sheikh with 648 Marks, Muzammil Feroq with 646 Marks and many more students achieved the milestone.

"Students of Allen Career Institute have once again registered historic success in NEET-UG 2022 which is the country's most prominent medical entrance exam" Dr. Brajesh Maheshwari, Chairman, Allen Career Institute said.

"Tanishka, a Classroom student of Allen Career Institute, has secured AIR-1 in the NEET-UG 2022 results. Tanishka has



scored 715 marks out of 720. Tanishka prepared for NEET-UG from Allen Career Institute for 2 years in Kota. Along with this, Ashish Batra secured AIR-2, and Hrishikesh Gangule secured AIR-3. Both the students have scored 715 marks and are associated with Allen's Distance learning program. As per the result compiled so far, 33 students are in the top 100".

Maheshwari informed that 18,723,43 students got themselves registered for this examination conducted by NTA. Out of this, 1764571 students appeared in the exam. 107772 students remained absent. 1064794 female and 807538 male

students were registered. At the same time, 1001015 female and 763545 male students appeared in the examination. The examination was conducted at 3570 examination centers in 497 cities, including 14 cities outside India. In abroad, the exam was conducted in Abu Dhabi, Bangkok, Colombo, Doha, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, Manama, Muscat, Riyadh, Sharjah, Singapore, Dubai, and Kuwait. The exam was held on July 17 from 2 to 5.20 pm. Apart from this, re-examination was conducted in Kollam, Sriganganagar, Nagaur, Kushinagar, Bhiind, Hoshangabad, Begusarai, and Thane.

DE&CC, S.P. College Organize Camp For Registration Of Unemployed Youth



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir District Employment and Counseling Centre (DE&CC), Srinagar in association with the Career Counseling Cell and Dean Students Welfare of S.P. College Srinagar on Friday organized a 'One day Camp for Registration of Unemployed youth on employment portal' and also raised awareness among students about

various self-employment schemes in the college auditorium, here.

The session was chaired by Dean Academics, Prof Bashir Ahmad Mir and Dean Students Welfare Dr. Khailda Hassan and Dr. Shazia Mushtaq.

The officers from the Employment Department were welcomed by Prof. Zarka Malik member Career Counseling Cell S. P. College. The Career Counseling Of-

ficer, Manzoor Ahmad Rather and Employment Officer Ishfaq Ahmad Wani from DE&CC, Srinagar demonstrated the convenient and user friendly online registration on J&K employment portal. They also deliberated upon the multiple services and schemes offered by the employment department.

Prof Falak Naaz member Career Counseling Cell S. P. College, presented a formal vote of thanks.

Srinagar Youth Dies In Road Accident

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A youth from Srinagar city died on spot in a road accident in the Magam area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Sources said that three brothers were on a bike moving towards Baba Reshi when a truck hit them near Magam resulting in the on-spot death of the biker identified as Rahil Firoz Khan-day of Bilal Colony Qamarwani area of Srinagar (at present Parimpora).

Sources added that two brothers received minor injuries and were discharged from the hospital after first aid. Meanwhile, police have registered a case and launched a hunt to trace the erring truck driver.

Aijaz Hussain Reviews Macadamisation Work At Balhama

Agencies

SRINAGAR: BJP leader and DDC member for Khonmoh, Srinagar, Er Aijaz Hussain along with the R&B Officials on Friday visited Balhama area of the city outskirts to take stock of the macadamisation work in the area.

Er Aijaz expressed his satisfaction over macadamisation work in the area and also thanked the R&B officials for completing the left-over patch of road that was yet to be macadamised. Speaking on the occasion, Er Aijaz said that the J&K administration is committed to provide better roads in Srinagar and his constituency Khonmoh will have quality roads in future. He said that R&B officials have conducted an extensive survey of roads of Balhama, Zafran Colony, Zewan, Zawarora, and other adjoining areas and in future not just the macadamisation but widening of roads will also take place.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 30.09.2022 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type		Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open		Works	Single Bid System	
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
06.09.2022		16.09.2022	30.09.2022 / 15:00 Hrs.	
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender		
1.	168-2022-23-BDGM-DRM-FZR	Construction of boundary wall with 8 feet height with concertina wire at Quazigund, Anantnag, Bijbehara, Panjgam & Sadura Railway Station & Raising of boundary wall 2 feet height with concertina wire around Railway colony at Sadura, PGJM, SINA, BRML Railway station & 10 Nos. Morcha at Quazigund, Anantnag, Bijbehara, Panjgam and Sadura Railway station on BAHLL - BRML section under ADEN/BDGM.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest Money	Validity of offer	Period of completion
11241095.85/-		206200/-	60 Days	08 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work."				
Note : 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.				
No. 770-W/169/WA/FZR/2022-23 Date : 06.09.2022				
2344/22				
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE				

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2458883
- 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)



PRAYERS

FAJR	4:47
ZUHR	12:31
ASR	4:58
Magrib	6:53
ISHA	8:15

This Day In History

- 1547 - Battle of Pinkie, Midlothian: English beat the Scots
- 1785 - Prussia signs trade agreement with US
- 1910 - Great Idaho Fire destroys 3 million acres of timber
- 1919 - Treaty of St Germain: Austria ends incorporation with Germany
- 1919 - China becomes a member of the League of Nations
- 1926 - Allies-German treaty of Koblenz drawn
- 1926 - Germany joins League of Nations
- 1939 - Canada, under the leadership of Mackenzie King, declares war on Germany
- 1942 - British troops land on Madagascar
- 1942 - RAF drops 100,000 bombs on Dusseldorf
- 1943 - British 8th army occupies Tarente
- 1943 - German troops occupy Rome and take over the protection of Vatican City
- 1951 - British begin economic boycott of Iran
- 1965 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1972 - West Germany beats Pakistan 1-0 to become first European nation since 1920 to win the field hockey Olympic title; marred by disgraceful behaviour of Pakistani players, fans & officials after losing the Munich final
- 1973 - Muhammad Ali defeats Ken Norton
- 1974 - Portugal recognizes independence of Republic of Guinea-Bissau
- 1990 - Iran agrees to resume diplomatic ties with Iraq
- 2007 - Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif returns to Pakistan after seven years in exile, following a military coup in October 1999.
- 2019 - Alibaba chairman Jack Ma steps down, succeeded by Daniel Zhang
- 2019 - Malaysia's National Disaster Management Agency deliver half a million face masks to Sarawak state, after more than 930,000 hectares (about 2.3 million acres) burnt in Indonesia cause hazardous levels of air pollution

From KO Archives

Cable Operators Threatened, Suspend Functioning Temporarily

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Most of the cable television operators in the Srinagar city have decided to block music and movie channels following threats by unidentified persons.

"We have collectively decided to stop feeding of moral and unethical television channels like MTV, Star Movies, Star World etcetra to our customers," a press release of Cable Net-work Association said here on today.

There have been reports of threats to Cable operators in certain areas of Srinagar city by unidentified persons, asking them to close down their businesses. "We have been receiving let-ten from unidentified persons asking us to close down the cable networks," the press release said. The association appealed the separatist political amalgam, Hurriet Conference to intervene in the matter. "It is our humble appeal to Freedom Conference and militant groups to direct us what we have to do," the statement said.

The association urged the separatist leaders to take a sympathetic view of their case as they have invested huge sums in establishing their businesses in Srinagar, after selling off their land and property.

"We are unemployed youth and will be turned jobless if we are forced to close our business," the release said.

Till the militants and the Hurriet Conference decide on the future of over two dozen cable operators in Srinagar, and many more in other towns, the Association has decided to close down their operations upto September 13.

The association has also decided to block the transmission of national and international music and movie channels. "We will not be providing obscene channels," the release said, "but only those channels which will provide moral and developmental programmes."

In early 1990 militants had banned the use of dish antennas and forced the closure of cinema halls and bars in Kashmir.

Cable networks started their operations in Kashmir since early this year. This month most of the cable operators said they have received threatening letters. However, no militant group has openly asked for the closure of these networks.

At various places in Srinagar the cables running through lanes and by lanes of Srinagar were damaged by unknown persons and at-least two grenade attacks were reported on structures housing cable television networks in Srinagar this month.

(Kashmir Observer, September 10, 1998)

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Implants

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Implants

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Mountain Moorings of
Mainland Kashmiris

SAUMY TRIPATHI

“Hukkus Bukkus Telyi wan tsch kus
Onum Battoukh loddoum deygye
Hukkus Bukkus Telyi wan tsch kus
Onum Battoukh loddoum deygye
Shwaas Kichh Kichh Waamgano
Bramman Zaaaran poyein chhokum
Teykes tyakkha banyti kyohow...”

This song is akin to Ring-Aring-A Roses, says Sakshi Mattoo as she tells me about Kashmiri Pandits and their culture.

Mattoo is the spokesperson of India 4 Kashmir, a pan Indian movement whose aim is to rehabilitate Kashmiri Pandits in the valley.

Although many stories have been done on the plight of the Kashmiri pandits, few have tried to bring attention to their culture which is unique and is a treasure in itself.

“Our community believes in the Trika philosophy which is the comprehensive system of Kashmir Shaivism and Agama,” she says. “The Shaiva shastras is an integral part of our lifestyle and all rites and rituals from childbirth to marriage to death are confined to this system.”

Indulekha Wanchoo left Kashmir in the 1950s but still carries some tradition to this date.

“There is a tradition in Kashmiri marriages called Posh Pooja in which the bride and groom are covered in a pashmina shawl and are worshipped as Lord Shiva and Parvati. It is one of the most unique traditions and one which is alive to this day,” says Wanchoo.

“When I left the valley in the 1950s after my marriage and migrated to Delhi, people were shocked to know that no dowry was given in my marriage. They refused to believe that there was a whole Hindu community that did not adhere to this social evil.”

Several practices of the Kashmiri Pandits are uncommon in other parts of the country.

“We consume meat even though we are Pandits but we also don’t use any onions and garlic which made our habits more peculiar wherever we went especially in South India where people were shocked to know that we ate meat and the first time I ate garlic I spat it out and I have never tried it ever since,” Wanchoo says.

But after more than three decades of staying away from their homeland, the culture has to some extent diluted due to multiculturalism.

Sanjay Kaw is a veteran journalist who works in the Asia Age and was the first journalist who predicted that the Babri Masjid would fall. He spent his youth in Kashmir before the exodus.

“What I imagine when I hear Kashmir and what my children imagine are two completely different images,” Kaw says. “They don’t know the language, they don’t know the land. Now, we are also facing issues after staying away from home for long.”

Mattoo tells me that due to efforts of the community the younger generations have been apprised of the issues of the community. She said that the Indian government for years was indifferent to the pain of the Pandits making them even more determined to uphold their traditions for making their tribe a distinctive in the overall play of the Sanatan Dharma.

But, as Kaw says, several other facets of the Kashmiri culture are now declining or amalgamating into other cultures.

During Maha Shiv Ratri, every year, poojas were conducted and the Pandits were so busy that these poojas used to go on till 2 in the night. “But now the availability of a pandit preacher has declined,” he says. “People now use cassettes to conduct those poojas. Even the last rites are now converted into a religious package of 12 days where you can perform all the rituals.”

Another cultural shock for the community has come from the waning number of authentic Kashmiri cooks who used to add delight to their special occasions. “With the special Kashmiri bakeries, we used to gather in the morning for breakfast,” Kaw recalls. “But now, those bakers are no longer there. There was one shop in Vasundhara enclave where people would come from long distance to eat. We also have a shortage of Kashmiri foods such as Kashmiri Saag, Ganth Gobhi which are not easily available.”

Festivals are also an important part of any Hindu culture, and so is the case with Kashmiri Pandits. There were several festivals like Nav Himpot Utsav, also known as sheen and Madan Triyodasi which is dedicated to Karna Deva, the god of love. “Kashmiri Pandit is intellectually a very rich community and so many of them who were forced out of the valley have settled abroad and so it is hard for the new generation there to adhere to the Kashmiri culture,” Wangnoo says.

Even Kaw says that it will be very difficult for the younger generations to return to Kashmir as they have been raised in a culture where remnants of the Kashmiri culture are only present in the homes.

Among other things, Mattoo says, the Indian government should preserve the Sharada script which was used to write Kashmiri and is an integral part of their culture.

The three people have three different takes on the questions raised but they all have a distinctive point that is based on their experiences.

Indulekha Wanchoo may have left Kashmir half a century ago but she will never eat garlic as Sakshi Mattoo will continue to raise her voice for the betterment of the community and preserve a culture that should be read more.

Kashmiri Pandits practised a culture with no dowry, absence of casteism, and where girl education was prioritized—something that the majority in India has still not managed to achieve.

“Let me tell you a funny story,” Wanchoo says. “In 1956, I went out to the market in Mumbai wearing my Kashmiri earrings [Dejhihur]. Two Gujarati women began following me until one of them asked, ‘What is this?’ The other women answered, ‘Oh! Don’t you know it’s a hearing aid device.’ So, yes, being Kashmiri makes us different.”

On 8th Flood Anniversary
Kashmir Ecosystem Bearing Brutal Brunt

By SWATI JOSHI

Dominated by the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges, Kashmir is home to perennial rivers, pristine lakes, clear streams, grand meadows and many unexplored places. With the increasing population, the encroachment on the natural resources has increased creating many environmental problems in the valley.

Melting of glaciers: Kolahoi, the largest glacier in Kashmir and the originating point of two significant tributaries of the river Jhelum - Lidder, and Sindh is melting rapidly. A new research paper has revealed that the largest glacier of Kashmir has further reduced in the area over three years. The research compares the recent findings to that of a 2017 study.

“Kolahoi Glacier has rapidly receded due to climatic changes prevalent over the Kashmir region. The glacier has lost 23% area since 1962 and has fragmented into smaller parts,” the paper published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health of April 19, 2020, revealed.

Irfan Rashid one of the authors of the research told Kashmir Observer that besides climate warming they have also observed that aerosol concentrations especially black carbon is among the highest reported from the Himalayan glaciated landscapes.

Black Carbon is organic carbon that is wind-driven and deposited on the glacier surface. It is mostly from fossil fuel (automobiles, factories, brick kilns, etc) and firewood burning (charcoal making in autumn, firewood for burning, ham-mam’s in winters).

While the research only took Kolahoi glacier as a point of the study, there are other glaciers in Kashmir like Thajiwas group of glaciers, Nehrhar, Hoksar which are in a much worse condition, stressed Rashid.

“The Kashmir valley glaciers are showing accelerated retreat as compared to the rest of the Hindukush Himalaya,” said Ulfat Majeed co-author of the research. Small-sized glaciers, clean glaciers (glaciers without debris), and the glaciers associated with proglacial lakes are showing greater retreat rates in the valley added Majeed.

Land Conversion: Many farmers in Kashmir have converted their agriculture land into orchards as they earn better in horticulture.

According to research, irrigation-intensive agriculture in the Lidder watershed area has shrunk by 39%, whereas the orchards have expanded by 177% from 1980 to 2017.

“The conversion of irrigation-intensive agriculture lands (rice paddy) to less water-intensive orchards is attributed to economic considerations and depleting streamflow,” the paper mentions.

Though economically beneficial, the production of horticultural crops creates many environmental problems. In paddy fields, the static water helps to recharge the groundwater. With fewer paddy fields, Kashmir may face scarcity of groundwater in the coming time.

The rapid conversion is also one of the causes of the Kashmir floods. The paddy fields along the Jhelum acted as a temporary reservoir during the flooding which prevented the sudden overflow of floodwater.

Timber Smuggling: The recent pandemic lockdown may have helped the air to get cleaner but not the looting of the green gold of Kashmir. According to reports hundreds of trees are chopped off and systematically transported by smugglers with the help of horses and trucks from Shopian, Kulgam, Bandipora, Baramulla, Anantnag, Ganderbal, Budgam and Kupwara areas of Kashmir.

According to the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) spokesperson, “The plunder is doing irreparable damage to forests and the lucrative profits seem to have drawn unscrupulous elements from all sections.”

Since the implementation of Indian Forest Act in the valley, smuggling of timber has become a bailable offense which has left the Forest Department’s hand-tied. With the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019 coming into effect, the Jammu & Kashmir Forest (Conservation) Act, 1997 was scrapped due to which the Public Safety Act which allows officials to book timber smugglers is no more applicable in the



As Kashmir floods turned 8 this year, there is a need to prevent rapid conversion of land for keeping the nature in check. But the dwindling eco-balance tells some other story.

valley, giving a free hand to illegal logging and smuggling.

“Between August and October 2019 the Forest Department has reportedly filed 59 cases of alleged timber smuggling,” mentions the KCCI spokesperson.

The KCCI requested the Lt Governor of J&K G C Murmu to take stringent actions against officials of the concerned Departments for not taking proper action to save the green gold of the valley. “The government should not shy away from even dismissing senior officials from service for criminal misconduct and gross negligence,” said the spokesperson.

Endangered Hangul: While the pictures of 10 Hangul in Shikargah Tral might seem to make people appreciate their beauty but the population of this critically endangered species is decreasing at an alarming rate in the valley.

Also known as the Kashmir stag, it is the only Asiatic survivor of the European red deer. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red Data Book, Hangul is being declared as critically endangered in Jammu & Kashmir along with Markhor (wild goat) and Tibetan antelope.

According to a research paper by Riyaz A Bhat, Kashmir’s shikar map prepared by Maharaja Hari Singh showed that Hangul was

Though economically beneficial, the production of horticultural crops creates many environmental problems. In paddy fields, the static water helps to recharge the groundwater. With fewer paddy fields, Kashmir may face scarcity of groundwater in the coming time.

distributed in a radius of 40 km spreading from Karen in Kishenganga to Dorus in Lolab valley, Erin catchments in Bandipora to Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh.

With continuous encroachment of land, this wildlife species loss their habitat and are confined to Dachigam National Park and adjoining protected areas in the Greater Dachigam landscape, mentions the paper.

The latest population monitoring survey of Hangul conducted by the Wildlife Department in 2019, revealed that the number of Hangul in Dachigam and nearby areas is 237. According to earlier population estimates the number of Hangul was 197, 186, and 182 in 2004, 2015, and 2017 respectively. The report also mentioned a sharp decline in the fawn-female and male-female ratio of Hangul.

Encroachment of water bodies: Dumping of waste in water bodies has degraded the quality of water bodies in the valley. Wular lake, a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site) is one such water body which is dying a slow death due to constant dumping of Municipal Solid Waste. According to official reports, 27 sq m of the lake has silted up and turned into a landmass.

In 2017 thousands of fishes were found floating on the surface of the Jhelum river due to oxygen depletion and high pH levels in the water. The Jhelum river originates in south Kashmir and passes through Srinagar before entering South Asia. Heaps of plastic, household waste, and sewage water is a common sight on the river.

Many water bodies in Kashmir are facing the same fate as Wular and Jhelum. “Water from industries and laboratories is dumped into the water bodies directly,” says Suhail Bashir, an environmentalist who is researching on the encroachment of water bodies in Kashmir.

The Mughal Gardens were made keeping the environment in mind, says Bashir. “Trees were planted to maintain the flow of water and preserve soil from erosion.”

According to a study by Urfan Ali, the machines used for the removal of nutrient-rich sediments and aquatic plants from the Dal Lake, Wular lake, Anchar Lake and Manasbal Lake resulted in the loss of biodiversity. Due to the use of mechanical de-weeder, many species of zooplankton have been lost in the mentioned water bodies, suggests the study.

“The Dal Lake, Wular Lake, Anchar Lake, and Manasbal lake water is alkaline, moderately hard, and nutrient-rich in NO3-N and P-PO4.”

Eco-Activist’s Campaign

JYOTSNA BHARTI

Before and after the Kashmir floods of 2014, only a few people have fought their way out to save Kashmir’s deteriorating ecosystem. Among them is Mushtaq Pahalgami.

Born as Mushtaq Magrey, Pahalgami is an eco-activist who hails from the southern hill resort of Pahalgam. He’s a founding president of Himalayan Welfare Organisation—an NGO working for the cause of environmental conservation and protection.

Despite his activism, Pahalgami pains to see the plight of the “Paradise on Earth” and its environmental deterioration. However, he’s glad to see the growing tribe of eco-warriors, including him,



who’re trying their best to save the ecosystem.

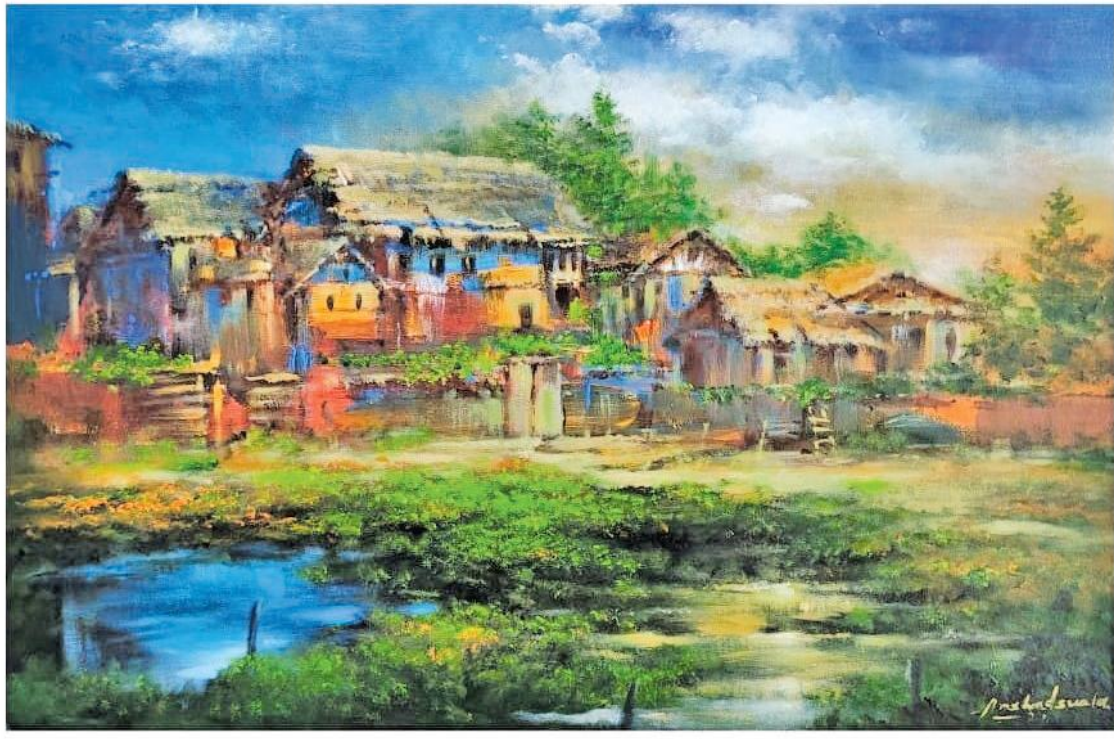
Pahalgami’s work has been acknowledged widely and also hon-

oured by the Ministry of Tourism.

His organisation even organised a month-long free medical and information camp for pilgrims and tourists at Nunwanan, Pahalgam. He has also been trying to bring media attention to the environmental issues in the valley.

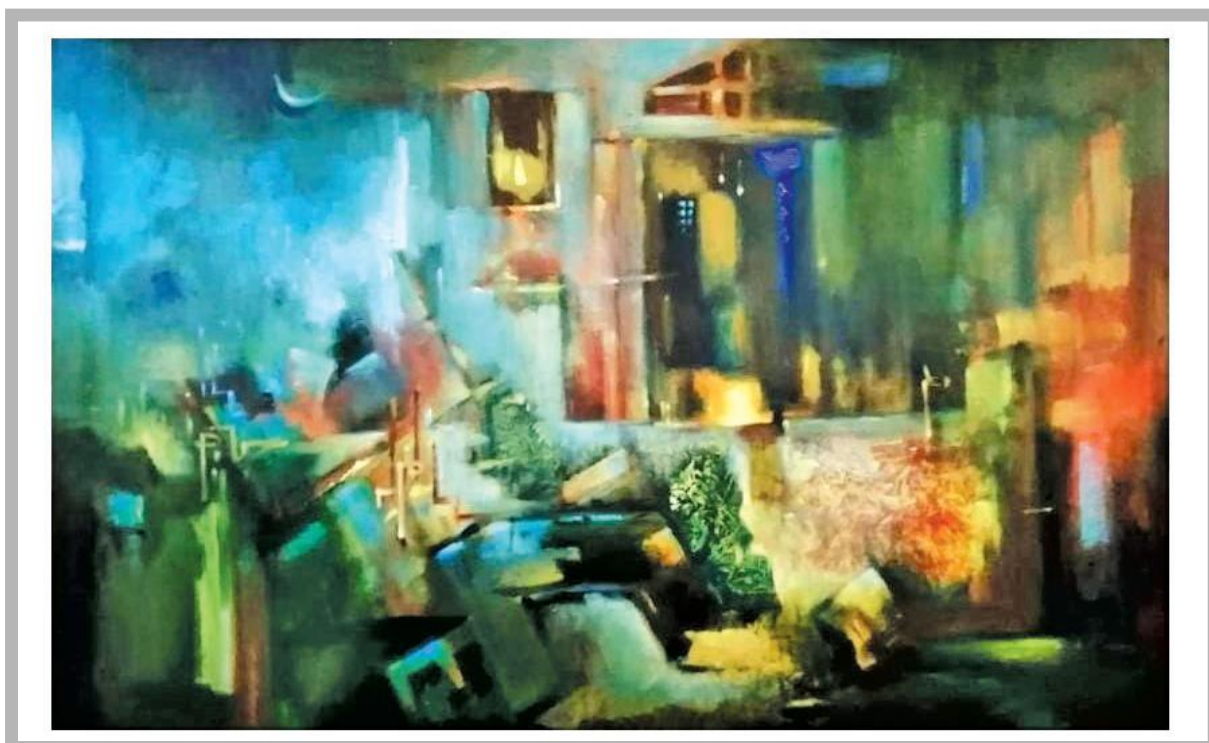
Pahalgami has written several letters to various government departments seeking intervention to stop the timber and land mafias from exploiting the region’s natural resources by taking undue advantage of the situation.

Pahalgami and his team have filed and fought more than 250 RTI and PSGA cases, particularly concerning land grabbing, illegal construction and illegal land-use in and around Pahalgam.



The Calligrapher's Canvas

Arshad's paintings are displayed all over European countries and USA.
More than thirty of his original paintings and reproductions are at display in private collections there.



By Syed Mohammad Burhan

Arshad Sauleh is sitting on a traditional wood-carved sofa talking to a fellow artist from abroad. His portrait overlooks the room full of creative canvases. The man had his brushes with some top artists of the world, like Jatin Das and Jay Jarotiya, and yet he sounds humble and keeps a low profile.

Arshad who teaches Art in Srinagar's Government College of Education recently took part in the Indo-Iran International Art and Calligraphy Competition held on the 43rd Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution where his artworks were awarded by the Iran Cultural House Mumbai.

"My art is my legacy as my father was an artist of high caliber," the artist says.

His father was a Paper Mache artisan and had created more than three hundred designs and mentored more than 250 artisans in Kashmir.

Soon after his birth in Khankah locality of Srinagar in the year 1971, Arshad followed his father's footsteps and became master of the art.

In his early childhood days, Arshad had realized that he had tendency towards drawing objects and paintings. "I was only five-year-old when I realized that I can paint or draw," he recalls in his room full of art. "I used to sketch on every surface, be it a paper, wall or any other surface. I tried to sketch on everything possible."

Drawing was an expression of his keen observation as well as an expression of his DNA. "My father had high-degree of aesthetic taste and aesthetic sensibility," he remembers with a glint in his eyes. "He had realized that I had the talent to sketch and draw and he gave me freedom as I desired. I think there were instinctual forces within me which always forced me to paint and draw."

As a self-taught artist in the beginning, he would draw landscape, portraits, figurative art, and symbolic landscape. His father did not leave any stone unturned and provided him with everything he needed to pursue his career.

"There was no dearth of painting material at our house because my father's Papier Mache art workshop," he says. "The tools only gave wings to my imagination."

Back then, cloth merchants of his locality would throw their mound boards after selling the cloth. He used to pick up the white boards as it was a good surface to work on.

"Until then I was self-taught," he says. "Later, I used to draw portraits using oil medium, acrylic medium and canvas paintings before joining the college."

When he used to see signboard painters painting in enamel paint, he would get inspired to draw portraits. He remembers seeking answers from his teachers from Kashmir and abroad.

Having joined Institute of Music and Fine Arts in 1992, he does not shy away from remembering his tributes to his mentors and teachers.

"I was mentored by M. A. Mehboob and Shuja Sultan," he recalls. "During those times our college was headed by valley's prominent sculptor, late Gayoor Hassan."

The college faculty appreciated his work and realized that he had interest and talent to opt for painting as a subject. "I had a choice to make between commercial art, sculpture, painting or arts," Arshad says. "I took Painting."

Arshad's date with Calligraphy started after he saw an artwork at New Delhi's Iranian Embassy in 1992 and drew inspiration from it. He calls it a turning point of his life.

"Although I was inspired by that art-piece, Calligraphy passed onto me from my grandfather," he says. "He was a calligrapher of high repute and I realized it was in my genes."

After working on some of his artworks he thought of doing something different and started doing calligraphic works in landscape paintings.

"I thought of instilling calligraphy in landscape paintings," Arshad says. "I realized it was doable."

Recalling his first calligraphic painting of circa 1992, he says, it was a Quranic calligraphy, with a verse: "Wama Arsalnaaka Illa Rehmatil Lil Aalameen."

The Quranic calligraphy with landscape is something he never wants to give up.

Today, Arshad's calligraphic paintings with verses from the Quran are in display in many European, Gulf and Central Asian countries.

"I've been successful in making this model of paintings successful," he says. "It's so popular that some people think that this is the only subject I work on. But I work on other subjects as well, such as realistic landscape, surrealist landscape figurative paintings."

For his creative work, Arshad has been bestowed with the state award three times by the Cultural Academy. He has been honored by awards by N.N Vohra and S.S.Bhagat who was president of All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi.

"I was awarded National Award by Raskala Manch, Haryana and Masters of Award Honour by Artistry international at Jaipur," he says.

On the International front, Arshad was selected for Tenth International Artists' Exhibition in Tehran in 2002. "Twenty six countries were participating in that event and I was representing India. I was awarded by the then Iranian president Syed Mohammad Khatami," he recalls.

Few years back, the artist participated at event held at Lal Qila for Guinness book of world records. He was awarded a certificate and a medal from the team of Guinness book.

To showcase his paintings and find customers for his artworks, Arshad has been working on a creative space for himself and for art lovers.

He has been successful in establishing an Art Gallery at top floor of his house. It is a collection of wide range of paintings across different genres. Elaborating on the Sauleh Art Gallery which he has named after his late father, he says, "I've put my hundred paintings at display in the gallery. Art lovers flock to my place and purchase my paintings to hang in their homes."

Arshad has also been trying to guide students who show their interest in arts. "I teach more than fifty students at the moment," he says. "This includes both the students pursuing a degree and those doing art as a hobby."

An artist, he says, uses art as a means to express himself and is less concerned about bread and butter issues. But if someone is hardworking, Arshad says, he will find way to sustain.

But sadly, the artist avers, there're very few art-lovers in Kashmir who purchase paintings.

"If there would've been a government art gallery in Srinagar, Art lovers would through the place and purchase paintings from there," he says. "It would also serve as an opportunity for them to see different paintings but unfortunately this is not the case."

The political unrest and suffering in all these years has greatly impacted Arshad's work, creating – what he calls – the "atmosphere of sadness" that engulfed his artworks.

"I could not resist drawing turmoil because I was affected by the agony and sadness of the people and I canvassed the crisis," Arshad says.

But despite brushing the brethren pain, the art scene of Kashmir remains poor, he rues. "Unlike in Kashmir," he continues, "artists are appreciated in Europe, France, Austria, Germany, Italy, Belgium and USA where an artwork will fetch fifty to hundred times more money than here. Artists can display their works very easily in the West and can be compensated handsomely for it."

Europeans, Arshad says, purchase an art-piece for a good price. "They need not to be persuaded," he says. "Similarly, in central Asia, Dubai is a good place for an artist. Similarly, Iran is a center of art and Iranians appreciate art but there are fewer opportunities there."

Arshad's paintings are displayed all over European countries and USA. More than thirty of his original paintings and reproductions are at display in private collections there.

"For going global," Arshad says, "artist should be different and should have individuality so that the people like him."

But without government intervention, the artist doesn't seem much hopeful about Kashmir's artistic future.

"First and foremost we need an art gallery in Srinagar and the government needs to start appreciation courses so that young talent brought forth," Arshad says.

"The art should become a corporate social responsibility and people should come forward and work for the promotion of Art and Artists in the valley. There should be art exhibitions. If the talent of youth is channelized in a proper manner, we will be able to create great artists."

2 Maharashtra Business Groups Raided, Rs 100 Crore "Hidden Income" Found

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The income tax department has detected "unaccounted income" of more than 100 crore after it recently raided two Maharashtra-based business groups, the CBDT said Friday.

The searches were launched on August 25 against the two groups that have not been identified by the authorities and are engaged in business of sand mining, sugar manufacturing, road construction, health care and running of medical college, officials said.

More than 20 premises located in Solapur, Osmanabad, Nashik and Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra were covered as part of the action, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement.

Seized documents and digital data shows the "modus operandi of tax evasion adopted by the group, including booking of bogus expenses, undisclosed cash sales, unexplained loans/



credit entries," the statement issued by the administrative body for the tax department said.

In case of the group engaged in sand mining and sugar manufacturing, documentary evidences of "unaccounted" cash sales of sugar exceeding

15 crore have been found and seized, it said.

The group has introduced its unaccounted income in the form of bogus unsecured loans in its books of accounts, the statement said.

"Several lenders to the group, as

well as promoters have admitted that unaccounted cash generated by the group exceeding 10 crore was routed in its books of account in this manner." "Evidences of capital gains of about 43 crore on sale of assets by a non-filer corporate entity have also been seized," the CBDT said.

In the case of the group engaged in the business of healthcare and running of medical college, as also road construction, "evidences of undisclosed cash receipts representing capitation fee and refund of salary and stipend paid to the doctors/PG students have been found." Instances related to booking of bogus expenses and contractual payments have been found and preliminary estimates of such undisclosed income of the group is to the tune of 35 crore, it said.

"So far, the search action has led to detection of unaccounted income of more than 100 crore," the statement said.

Also, undisclosed assets of more than 5 crore have been seized, it added.

FM Outlines Steps To Check Operations Of Illegal Loan Apps

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has discussed various issues related to illegal loan apps in a meeting and decided to take a host of measures to check operations of such apps, amid rising instances of digital fraud.

Most of the digital lending apps are not registered with the central bank and operate by themselves. There have been increasing cases of alleged suicides of borrowers due to harassment by a few of the operators of digital lending apps.

The meeting, chaired by the minister, was held on Thursday and it was decided that RBI will prepare a whitelist of all the legal apps and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will ensure that only these are hosted on app stores. The RBI will monitor the

mule/rented' accounts that may be used for money laundering and to review/cancel dormant NBFCs to avoid their misuse.

The central bank will also ensure that registration of payment aggregators be completed within a time-frame and no un-registered payment aggregator be allowed to function after that, the finance ministry said in a statement on Friday.

As part of measures to check the proliferation of such apps, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) will identify shell companies and de-register them to prevent their misuse.

Besides, steps should be taken to increase cyber awareness among customers, bank employees, law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders about these apps.

India, US To Soon Hold Trade Policy Forum Meet

Press Trust Of India

Los Angeles- India and the US will "very soon" hold the next ministerial-level meeting of the Trade Policy Forum (TPF) in America to discuss ways for promoting trade and investment between the countries.

India and the US held the 12th TPF in New Delhi on November 23 last year.

The forum is an inter-agency collaboration led by the US Trade Representative (USTR).

It is the principal trade dialogue between the two countries. It has five focus groups: Agriculture, Investment, Innovation and Creativity (intellectual property rights), Services, and Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers.

"We will be having the next trade policy forum very soon in the US and in the TPF we are hoping to add further deliverables and newer areas of engagement being discussed, for which both teams have been tasked to start engaging with each other," Goyal told reporters here.

al told reporters here.

The minister held a bilateral meeting here with USTR Katherine Tai and US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo.

When asked about restoring the trade benefits under GSP(Generalized System of Preferences) programme of the US, the Indian minister said :I don't think that's an issue anymore. None of our exports have been affected by the GSP. So I think that's not an issue; that we have even discussed in recent times, including today".

Talking about other meetings, the minister said he discussed ways to increase trade and economic relations with his counterparts from Vietnam and Japan.

"Areas of mutual interest were discussed, particularly with the view to expanding our exports to both these countries," Goyal said adding there is a huge potential, particularly with Japan to further expand bilateral trade.

India Bans Export Of Broken Rice Amid Likely Kharif Output Fall Of 10-12 Mn Tonne

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- The government has banned export of broken rice to check rising retail prices and boost domestic supply after a fall in sowing area is projected to lower the country's production by 10-12 million tonne this kharif season.

A 20 per cent export duty has also been imposed on non-basmati rice except for the par-boiled, to discourage exports.

Explaining the rationale behind the ban, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey told reporters that there has been an "absolutely abnormal" rise in shipments of broken rice and the broken grains were also not available in sufficient quantity for animal feed as well as ethanol blending programme.

India, the world's second-largest rice producer after China, commands a 40 per cent share in the global trade. The country exported 21.2 million tonne of rice in 2021-22, of which 3.94 million tonne were basmati rice.

"Export policy of broken rice ...is amended from Free' to Prohibited," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification dated September 8, 2022.

The notification comes into effect

from Friday, September 9, 2022.

Pandey said the country exported 3.89 million tonne of broken rice in 2021-22, a sharp jump from 1.22 million tonne in 2018-19. China imported 1.58 million tonne of broken rice last fiscal year.

In April-August period of this fiscal year, the export of broken rice increased to 2.13 million tonne from 1.58 million tonne in the year-ago period and mere 51,000 tonne in 2018-19.

"It (export) has multiplied almost 42 times. So this is not (just) abnormal increase in exports. This is absolutely abnormal," Pandey said.

India's total rice exports rose to 21.23 million tonne in last fiscal year from 17.78 million tonne in the previous year and 9.51 million tonne during 2019-20.

In April-August period of FY23, the country has already exported 9.35 million tonne rice as against 8.36 million tonne in the year-ago period.

"During April to August this fiscal, the export share of broken rice increased to 22.78 per cent as compared to the 1.34 per cent in the corresponding period of 2019-20," the secretary said.

Besides sharp rise in exports, Pandey said the domestic wholesale and

retail prices of rice are showing increasing trend.

"The variation is more than what was the MSP (minimum support price) increase," he told reporters here.

The wholesale prices have risen by 8 per cent to Rs 3,291 per quintal as on September 7 from Rs 3,041 per quintal a year ago, while the retail prices have gone up by 6.38 per cent to Rs 37.5 per kg from Rs 35.25 per kg.

Pandey said the animal feed prices have also gone up. Maize price increased from Rs 19 per kg on January 1, 2022 to Rs 24 per kg on September 8, 2022. Broken rice price has also increased from Rs 16 per kg to Rs 22 per kg during the same period.

Further, he said the imposition of export duty on all non-basmati rice except par-boiled, would help prices to cool down.

International price of Indian rice (non-basmati and others) is around Rs 28-29 per kg, which is higher than the domestic price.

No change of policy is done in par-boiled rice so that farmers continue to get good remunerative prices, according to a government presentation made during the briefing.

Pandey said that there is neither a ban nor customs duty on exports of

Economic Losses In Flood-Hit Pakistan Touches USD 18 Billion: Reports

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad- The cataclysmic floods in Pakistan has caused economic damages to the tune of around USD 18 billion to the country's teetering economy, wiping out more than 8 million acres of crops and displacing more than 33 million, media reports said on Friday.

Record monsoon rains and melting glaciers in northern mountains brought floods that have killed at least 36 people in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 1,391 as of Friday, according to the National Disaster Management Authority.

The rapid assessment cost on projected economic losses following Pakistan's worst food floods as calculated by the government and endorsed by the provinces has gone up further to the tune of around USD 18 billion, according to The News International newspaper.

The devastating floods have inundated a third of the country, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif saying on Wednesday that parts of Pakistan seemed like a sea.

360info

Together, satellite data, atmospheric-chemistry modelling and ground-based monitoring could help mitigate the South Asian air-pollution crisis.

Each year, South Asian countries vie for a bleak distinction: having the world's most polluted air.

India scooped the pool in 202122, with New Delhi the most polluted capital and Bhiwadi the most polluted city overall. Air pollution represents the region's third-highest risk for premature death (compared to the ninth highest in Western Europe).

Tackling the problem starts with monitoring the pollution to identify its main sources, so they can be regulated. And the best way to monitor the pollution is to track it from all sides, bringing together ground-based observations, satellite data and atmospheric-chemistry modelling. Pollution causes and effects vary over time and across locations, so a one-size-fits-all approach is not helpful.

Surface-monitoring networks have provided valuable air-quality data for decades. They can monitor compliance with local or national air-quality standards, but they are costly to set up and maintain. There is less than one ground-based monitor per million people in most low- and middle-income countries, so this method cannot routinely track air quality and provide enough relevant information to develop policies and guidelines.

Surface monitoring is also hampered by large data gaps, data-quality concerns and limited access to data. For instance, there are inconsistencies in the units of air-quality measurement data hosted on India's Central Pollution Control Board website. In recent years, low-cost sensors to monitor air quality have been used more often, but these are also susceptible to technical biases and need regular calibration.

The eyes in the sky, satellite instruments provide long-term coverage of air quality. Satellite observations help assess the impact of economic development and policy measures on air quality over time.

Science Can Clear The Air For Pollution Policymakers



Satellite data on atmospheric components helps identify pollution hotspots, especially in regions with limited surface-monitoring capability.

Space-based instruments monitor air pollution from the ground up, and this data is evaluated against the ground-based observations before it is used to investigate changes in surface air pollution. Satellites can show long-range transport of pollutants across political boundaries, especially plumes from forest- and land-clearing fires, a dominant source of air pollution in South Asia.

They have also been extensively used to monitor changes in air quality since the onset of COVID-19. But it is important to use this satellite data carefully. The air-quality improvements observed during the lockdown were not just because of lockdown-induced emission changes but also because of changes in meteorology and chemistry.

Satellite observations of pollutants from 200518 show a significant increase over Delhi. Space-based measurements of hazardous nitrogen dioxide show a significant increase in all South Asian cities. The largest increases are observed for cities in Bangladesh, with nitrogen dioxide doubling in Dhaka and tripling in Chittagong.

Like ground-based monitoring, the eyes in the sky have their limitations. Their viewing path may be obscured by clouds and so the measurements may not reproduce the variability in surface air pollution. Instruments that have been in space for over a decade provide measurements at a resolution of tens of kilometres, similar to sampling a large city. Recently launched instruments provide measurements at a finer resolution of a few kilometres, enabling monitoring of air pollution at sub-city level or along the tracks of large ships.

Almost all the satellite instruments

Surface-monitoring networks have provided valuable air-quality data for decades. They can monitor compliance with local or national air-quality standards, but they are costly to set up and maintain. There is less than one ground-based monitor per million people in most low- and middle-income countries, so this method cannot routinely track air quality and provide enough relevant information to develop policies and guidelines.

are in low-Earth orbit, around 750 kilometres from the Earth. They provide global to near-global coverage, typically making one or two measurements over each location daily. This limits their ability to observe how air-pollution levels change during the day. As technology advances, there will be an increase in satellites being launched in geostationary orbit, around 36,000 kilometres from the Earth. These satellites will be able to focus on a certain geographic region and provide multiple

observations for the region each day. A geostationary satellite focusing on East Asia was launched in 2020. Two more satellite missions, over North America and over Europe, will be launched in the next two years.

Both ground-based and satellite observations provide information about pollution from all existing emissions sources. This makes it tricky to use either of these observations alone to identify the relative contribution of pollutant sources, which is useful information for policymakers as they decide which sources to target and where. That's where chemical transport models come in. These models represent our best understanding of atmospheric chemistry and transport, and use information about meteorology and emissions to simulate pollutant concentrations. These simulations have been used to answer important science questions ranging from quantifying the air pollution resulting from burning fossil fuels to quantifying the contribution of COVID-19 lockdowns to air-quality improvements.

Data from chemical transport models is used with health risk-assessment models and population demographics to estimate the health burden from long-term exposure to air pollution. In this way, more than 10 million adult premature deaths worldwide have been linked to air pollution from burning fossil fuels. In South Asia, Bangladesh and India had the largest share of total premature deaths attributed to fossil-fuel combustion: 36.5 percent in Bangladesh and 30.7 percent in India.

Satellite observations, a chemical transport model and a health risk-assessment model were integrated to estimate an increase in premature mortality from long-term exposure to air pollution from 149,000 in 2005 to 275,000 in 2018 in emerging South Asian megacities.

This doesn't mean chemical transport models are perfect. They are heavily dependent on recent updates in the emissions inventory to simulate pollutant concentrations accurately. Updating emissions inventories can take a few years, and sometimes these updates have restricted access.

Scattered Light Rain Forecast In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Weather department here on Friday forecast scattered light rain and thunders in for next 24 hours in Jammu and Kashmir.

A meteorological department official here said that "scattered light rain/thunders" were also expected for subsequent two days.

Regarding night temperature on Friday, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 17.6°C against 16.8°C on the previous night. The temperature was 3.9°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said. Qazigund recorded a low of 15.6°C against 14.6°C on the previous night. The temperature was 3.9°C above normal there, he said.

In Pahalgam, he said, the mercury settled at 12.7°C against

10.7°C on the previous night and it was 3.5°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 14.9°C against 13.8°C the previous night and it was 2.8°C above normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 10.7°C against 10.5°C on the previous night. It was 1.5°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 15.6°C against 14.7°C the previous night, the official said. It was 3.5°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 20.7°C against 25.1°C on the previous night. It was 2.7°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 17.8°C, Batote 18.2°C, Katra 21.6°C and Bhadarwah 16.6°C. (GNS)

J&K Reports 64 New Covid-19 Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 64 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus on Saturday, taking the number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 478626.

According to officials, 49 new cases of Covid-19 were detected in Kashmir Valley and the remaining 15 from different parts of Jammu division.

In the Valley, they said, Srinagar reported the highest 17 new cases of virus, Baramulla 11, Pulwama 7, Budgam 6, Kupwara 4, Shopian 2 and one each in Anantnag and Bandipora. The districts of Ganderbal and Kulgam detected no new cases on Saturday.

In the winter capital, offi-

cials said, Jammu detected a maximum of 11 new cases of Coronavirus and one each in Udhampur, Rajouri, Doda and Kathua. No new cases were reported from Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban and Reasi.

Also, the officials said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4784 in J&K—2351 in Jammu division and 2433 in the Valley.

"Moreover, 154 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 46 from Jammu division and 108 from Kashmir division," they added.

Soldier Shoots Self Dead

SRINAGAR: An army man on Friday allegedly committed suicide at his camp in Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Bhupinder Singh of army's 53 RR committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle at his camp in Nagam area of the district on Friday morning, reports said. A resident of

Makshoorpur in Punjab, Singh was removed to Army's 92 base hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead, reports said.

The reason behind this extreme step could not be ascertained immediately.

Meanwhile, police have started proceedings in this regard.

Training On Special Summary Revision Held At Shopian



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: A day-long training programme on Special Summary Revision and SVEEP activities for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) of Shopian was held on Friday at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, here.

The training session was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who is also the District Election Officer, an official spokesperson said.

He said that ERO/SDM Zainapora, Mushtaq Ahmad and Dy.DEO Shopian were also present in the training sessions. He added that the training was attended by ENT Bashir Ahmad, Master Trainers, officials of Election Department and BLOs of Shopian District.

Speaking on the occasion, the spokesperson said, that the DEO asked BLOs to work with dedication and enthusiasm to ensure effective registration of new voters besides take maximum benefit of training sessions and get acquainted with requisite knowledge of election processes for better outcomes.

"Dy.DEO on the occasion explained the process of prescribed forms under ongoing Special Summary Revision. He said the objective of the programme was to sensitize the BLOs regarding their role in the upcoming special summary revision being undertaken from

15th of September 2022 to 25 October in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The spokesperson said that the master trainers briefed the participants regarding updation of the data via Form 6, 6A, 6B, Form 7 and Form 8.

He said it was informed on the occasion that Form 6 is exclusively meant for registration of new electors, Form 6A for inclusion of name in electoral roll by an overseas elector, Form 6B for capturing Aadhaar no. by existing electors.

"Similarly Form-7 is meant for objection to proposed inclusion/deletion of name in existing electoral roll with a slight modifications that a provision of attaching death certificate has been incorporated and Form 8 for correction in electoral roll, shifting of residence (within or outside constituency), replacement of EPIC and marking of a person with disability," he said.

"They also explained the role of BLOs in checking the prerequisites before processing the prescribed forms," he added.

According to the spokesperson, it was stressed upon BLOs to undertake the task of spreading awareness along with the current Special Summary Revision exercise.

"An interactive session was also held to clear the doubts regarding enrollment process and other relevant queries," he added.

Rajouri Tense Over Land Dispute Between Two Groups

Restrictions Under Section 144 Of CrPc Imposed In Town



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri town on Friday imposed restrictions under section 144 of the CrPc in the area and advised people to stay indoors.

The restrictions were imposed on orders of District Magistrate Vikas Kundal, officials said.

Official sources said the move was a precautionary measure taken in the wake of a land dispute between two groups of people.

Residents of the area were made aware of it using speakers mounted on police vehicles. "We inform people that restrictions under section 144 of the CrPc have been imposed in Rajouri

town. People are advised to remain indoors," the message said.

Barbed wires were also placed in some sensitive areas to prevent movement of people, besides deployment of additional police forces.

Section 144 of the Code Of Criminal Procedure prohibits the assembly of four or more people.

SC Slaps Cost Of 50K On IIT-B Graduate For Pitching Manmohan-Musharraf Formula Over Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on a petitioner who sought implementation of Manmohan-Musharraf 4-point formula for resolving the Kashmir imbroglio.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli said it is not inclined to entertain the plea filed by Prabhakar Venkatesh Deshpande, an IIT-Bombay graduate, who underlined there cannot be a military solution to the problem.

Deshpande pitched for the so-called formula devised by

the former Indian prime minister and ex-president of Pakistan involving "autonomy, joint control, demilitarisation and porous borders" details of which can be further negotiated.

The bench said the court cannot enter into the domain of policy and the petition appears to be more of a "Publicity Interest litigation".

At the outset, the bench said it is putting the counsel for the petitioner on notice that it will impose cost on him for wasting the court's time with such petitions.

"Of course, we will hear you but we are putting you on notice that we will impose a cost,"

the bench forewarned.

Advocate Arup Banerjee, appearing for the petitioner, said the country has fought "two and a half wars" with Pakistan over Kashmir in the past 70 years but no solution has been found.

"The petitioner begs to file the instant Public Interest Litigation because he wishes to suggest that the Mussarraf - Manmohan Singh Accord may be given effect to solve the Kashmir issue," he said in his plea.

The bench, after hearing for a few minutes, said it is not inclined to entertain the petition and slapped a cost of Rs 50,000 on the petitioner.

Govt Depts Told To Shift Employees With Over 5-Year Tenure

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to ensure transparency and accountability in governance, the administration of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory has directed all the departments to identify and recommend transfer of employees having tenure of more than five years.

Official documents reveal that J&K's chief secretary Arun Kumar Mehta has directed the authorities to identify and

transfer all employees having tenure of more than five years.

The directions for rationalization of staff were passed by him during a meeting of committee of secretaries (CoS) held under his chairmanship on August 16, 2022.

"CS observed that some of the officials who have tenure of more than five years need to be relocated immediately. All departments were asked to identify and recommend transfer of employees having tenure of more than five years, within

seven days," reads the documents.

Subsequently, the General Administration Department (GAD) on August 24 wrote to the administrative secretaries to identify and recommend the transfer of employees in their subordinate offices who have completed a tenure of more than five years.

The GAD again wrote to the departments on Friday to furnish action taken report(s) in the matter for appraisal of the chief secretary—(KNO)

MBBS Student's Body Reaches Home, Mourning In Bijbhera

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A pall of gloom descended Katoo Bijbhera in south Kashmir's Anantnag district as body of the MBBS student reached from Bangladesh this evening.

The female MBBS student, Khushboo Manzoor daughter of Manzoor Ahmad of Katoo Bijbhera, died on Wednesday, some hours after she fell off from the terrace of Khwaja Yunus Ali Medical College hostel where she was studying in Bangladesh.

As the body reached the home, most people were in-consolable, more so the women who were seen weeping. Hardly there was any soul who was not

crying, locals said.

Earlier a flight carrying the corpse left from Bangladesh at around 10:30 a.m. and reached IGI Airport Delhi at 12:30 this afternoon.

"The body reached Sheikh ul-Alam International Airport in Srinagar this evening and immediately it was taken in an ambulance kept stand by by the district administration along with staff," officials said.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Basharat Qayoom told a local news agency GNS that the authorities made concerted efforts throughout to see the arrival of body from Bangladesh at the earliest. "Jammu and Kashmir administration, Ministry of External Affairs,

Indian High Commission and several other offices intervened in the matter to make sure the medico-legal formalities were conducted in a shortest possible time to and that body reaches as soon as possible," he said.

Resident Commissioner New Delhi, he said, coordinated continuously along with other officers involved in return of the body.

He said Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Principal Secretary Higher Education and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir personally intervened and monitored the process at various levels to ensure mortal remains reach back to the residence of the deceased girl at an earliest.

Some Pvt Schools Violating Court Verdicts On Fee Structure: FFRC

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Committee for Fixation and Regulation of Fee of Private Schools (FFRC) Friday said that some private schools in Jammu and Kashmir breached the mandate of the judgments of Supreme Court and High Court by fixing the fee structure on their own.

"In view of the law laid by the Supreme Court and the High

Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, and in view of the mandate contained in the Act of 2002, Draft Rules and Rules of 2022, it was duty of each private educational institution or school to submit its proposed fee structure along with the record to FFRC," said FFRC in a communiqué.

"In most cases, in which the fee regulation order of FFRC has been stayed, as already stated, had approached FFRC for the first

time. In these schools, in view of non-submission of proposed fee structure and record to FFRC

previously, the fee was not determined and regulated by FFRC in respect of previous academic sessions," it said. According to the communiqué, "in violation of judgments of the Supreme Court and the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, and mandate of the law, such schools have fixed the fee structure themselves".

Pole Reviews Infra Development At Chrar-E-Sharief Shrine



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Ahead of celebration of Urs Mubarak of Shiekh ul Alam, Shiekh Noor ud Din Noorani (RA) at Chrar-e-Sharief, Budgam, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Friday reviewed the infrastructural development at the shrine to enhance its aesthetic view and increase facilities for devotees.

The review meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Budgam, SF Hamid; ADC Budgam, Dr Nasir Lone; Director Tourism, GN Itoo; Chief Engineer R&B; Chief Town Planner; CEO Yusmarg Development Authority; SDM, Chadoora; Deputy Director ULB; CEO, Waqf board; Officers of Floriculture, JKPC, JKAACL, Police, BSNL and other concerned Departments.

On the occasion, Div Com stressed on the officers to prepare a short term master plan for the infrastructural development at the shrine to enhance the beauty and aesthetic value of the place.

He exhorted for removal of tin sheets at the entrance and concertina wires from the premises of the shrine.

Div Com asked for proper maintenance of parks and re-strict the grill size around the parks to minimum to avoid blocking of view.

Meanwhile, Pole asked for reparation of wazu khana and renovation of Sabat where the hair of children is shaved. He also impressed on the architectural design of sabat to present the beautiful sight of the place.

To facilitate devotees, Pole underlined the immediate requirement of reparation of toilets, completion of pending work and construction of septic tank. He also directed for construction of shoe racks and a place for lighting of candles at the appropriate place outside the shrine to avert the threat of fire incident.

For distribution of bless food 'Tahri', Div Com asked concerned for construction of Bless Food Counter at one place besides he directed for installation of CCTV cameras which shall be monitored by police and Waqf officials.

The District Administration Budgam was asked to set up stalls at the shrine and make arrangements for crowd management, SRTC Buses besides electricity, drinking water and health facilities.

Court Acquits 2 Brothers

Accused Of Raping Teen Girl

Agencies

JAMMU: A Fast Track court here has acquitted two brothers, accused of raping an 18-year-old girl from Chandigarh in September 2010.

According to the prosecution, a complaint was received alleging therein that on the intervening night of 16 and 17 September 2010, the girl, who after having Darshan of Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, was sitting at the Bus Stand Jammu waiting for a bus to Chandigarh.

At the same time, two youths— Mukat Singh alias Sunny and his brother Sangeet Singh alias Songi sons of Gian Singh of R. S. Pura Jammu—came toward her and one of them introduced himself as Sub-Inspector of Jammu police, though he was not in uniform, according to the complaint.

The duo then asked the girl, who had came to shrine alone after a tiff with her family, that it was not "good for her" to stay at bus stand and instead asked her to stay in a Gurudwara nearby and that she may go to Chandigarh on next day. With one of them having introduced himself as police sub inspector, the youths made her to sit in a vehicle and took her to a house where they allegedly raped her turn by turn, the complaint alleged.

The complaint to the police was made by the girl's father after 12 days and reason for delay and the complainant said that her daughter was very tense and under tremendous fear and revealed the facts only after great persuasions.

Subsequently, the police filed an FIR and after the investigation, the offences under section

366, 376, 382, 342, 170, 34 RPC were proved against the accused persons and chargesheet was filed which culminated into trial.

After hearing both the prosecution and the counsel for accused, the presiding officer of the Fast Track Court Jammu (cases against women), Khalil Choudhary, acquitted the brothers, finding the evidence against them not "definite, positive, consistent and coherent."

"From the evidence, it cannot be established that victim of the offence was kidnapped/ abducted or confined by the accused. The circumstances in this regard are highly doubtful and improbable," the court said as per the order.

As regards subjecting the girl to rape, the court said, "It has come in record that the prosecutrix has been produced before Gynecologist and it has been established that the medical examination of the prosecutrix was conducted on 26.09.2010 i.e on the date of registration of FIR and as per the statement of this witness (Gynecologist) neither there was any evidence of recent sexual intercourse nor there was any sign of struggle on the part of the prosecutrix."

"Even the medical evidence belies the theory of rape as is sought to be alleged by the prosecutrix," the court said and ultimately acquitted the accused brothers.

"Therefore, on cumulative consideration of the matter in its totality having regard to the statements of witnesses would suggest that there is no concrete evidence on record connecting the accused with the commission of offence," the court added. (GNS)

Dolphin International School Felicitates NEET Topper Hazik, Others

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Dolphin International School Pulwama organised a felicitation cum award ceremony for its dolphinite NEET qualifiers: Hazik Parvaiz (AIR rank 10), Suhaib Ayoub and Zamin Firdous all of who were felicitated with great fervour.

Nazir Ah Mir, Centre Head Motion Kota Pulwama, Mahi Burza, Principal Dolphin International School Pulwama and Farooq Fazili, chairman of the institution graced the occasion as chief guests. Suhaib Ayoub and Zamin Firdous, while talking to the media, shared their story of success and gave credit of their triumph to the management and staff of Dolphin International School Pulwama.

Anti-Tank Mine Found In Samba, Destroyed

JAMMU: An anti-tank mine was detected and destroyed by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Friday, officials said.

It was noticed by some people in the border area of the Basantar belt on Friday, they said.

Security forces were informed and a bomb disposal squad destroyed the anti-tank mine safely, thereby preventing a tragedy, they added.

Income Tax Dept Conducts Raids, Surveys On Unrecognised Political Parties,NGOs

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- The Income Tax department on Wednesday conducted raids and surveys in various states in separate cases related to alleged tax evasion, violation of FCRA violation and illicit funding of registered unrecognised political parties, official sources said.

The coordinated operations were carried out at over 110 locations in Gujarat, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and some other states against certain registered unrecognised political parties and their alleged dubious financial transactions, they said.

Some other instances of political funding through alleged illegal means are also being investigated as part of the action, they said.

The surprise action is understood to have been taken by the department on a recent recommendation of the Election Commission (EC) as part of which at least 198 entities were struck off from its list of registered unrecognised political parties after they were found non-existent during physical verification.

The poll panel had announced that it was taking action against more than 2,100 entities, categorised as registered unrecognised political parties by it, for flouting rules and election laws, including those related to filing of monetary contributions, failing to update their address and names of office bearers.

It had said some of these parties were indulging in "serious"

financial impropriety.

While the searches were on, another operation was unleashed at the premises of NGOs including Delhi-based think-tank Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and global NGO Oxfam India apart from a media foundation as part of a probe related to alleged FCRA contravention in funds received by them, the sources said.

The taxman undertook the surprise action against three more organisations in the non-governmental organisation (NGO) and charitable organisation domain, they said.

Sources said the department is looking at the balance sheets of these organisations vis-a-vis the receipt of funds via the FCRA.

According to law, all NGOs receiving foreign funds have to be registered under the FCRA. The government has cancelled FCRA registration of nearly 1,900 NGOs for violating various provisions of law in the last five years. There were 22,762 FCRA-registered organisations till December-end 2021.

In Congress-ruled Rajasthan, the sleuths conducted searches at the premises of Rajasthan Minister of State for Home Rajendra Yadav and his family members.

Income tax department sources said the searches are being conducted as part of a tax evasion investigation.

"The Income Tax department is conducting raids at business premises and residences in Kotputli and Uttarakhand. Reasons are not known," Yadav said.

The Congress MLA from Kotputli constituency and his

family members are in the business of manufacturing bags for fertilisers, grains, and cement. They are also in food business such as flour and pulses.

"Raids are being conducted at five-six places. We do not mind (officers) doing the search because we do clean businesses. If the central government feels that something is wrong, then let them do it. I know this much that we are with the truth," Yadav told reporters at his civil lines residence here.

He said he was not told anything about the raids.

"When we asked them (officers), they said that the search has to be done, the (central) government has sent them," he said.

Yadav said his family has been in the business for 72-74 years. He said they run a clean business, having no role in any political funding.

"It is our ancestral business," he said. "My father was in the business from 1950-52, I have been doing it before I entered into politics and both of my sons are also engaged in the business. We are into the production line and supply materials to companies. This should not be associated with things like political funding."

Another Congress-ruled state Chhattisgarh also came on the radar of tax sleuths with searches at multiple locations linked to some businessmen, they said.

The nature of the action being carried out by the I-T department is not yet clear, they said.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel told reporters at

the Raipur airport that he had already predicted raids by the Income Tax and the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

"I had said (that raids will happen) now ED will also follow them," Baghel said when asked about the action by the IT department.

Last week, Baghel had said his "well-wishers" informed him that Chhattisgarh will soon see raids by the ED and IT because MLAs of the ruling UPA coalition from neighbouring Jharkhand were staying at a resort near Raipur.

The legislators of the JMM-Congress-RJD coalition had stayed in the resort for six days before they were flown back to Ranchi on Sunday.

Commenting on the raids, Chhattisgarh Congress communication wing's chief Sushil Anand Shukla alleged the Modi government has been misusing the Central probe agencies.

"There are reports that raids are being carried out by I-T at the premises of some businessmen. The way the Modi government is misusing Central investigation agencies, a slogan 'kedna sarkar ke teen jamai (sons-in-law)', ED, IT, and CBI has become common among people," he said.

Shukla alleged the Modi government has misused the Central agencies against its political opponents so much in the last eight years that even when I-T conducts raids as part of the routine investigation it is also seen as a politically motivated exercise.

Some other searches were also understood to have been

undertaken by the department on Wednesday.

Statement of Independent And Public-Spirited Media Foundation

This statement is being issued in response to media interest.

A team of income tax officials came for a "survey" to the Bengaluru office of the Foundation on Wednesday, September 7. They stayed till 4.30 this morning, going through the papers and records of the Foundation and asking questions.

The Foundation's staff were cooperative and answered all questions put to them on a wide range of matters. The officials took statements from three senior staff members. All laptops and mobile phones were taken for cloning data in them and returned last night.

All staff other than the CEO, Sunil Rajshekhar, were allowed to go home at various stages in the evening/night of September 7, and asked to return the following morning for further questioning. The CEO slept in the office for a few hours on the intervening night of September 7-8.

The Board of Trustees compliments the staff on their good cheer and fortitude through the extended proceedings.

The IT officials were courteous during their survey work.

The Foundation believes that its affairs are entirely in order. Some media reporting on the IT survey has linked it to foreign funding and the funding of political parties. We wish to make it clear that the Foundation has received no foreign funds at any stage, and has funded only

media entities.

The Foundation believes in its mission of supporting independent and public-spirited media, and intends to continue its work.

Congress slams Centre over 'raids' against CPR, Oxfam India, IPSMF

The Congress slammed the Centre over "raids" against some Delhi-based think-tanks alleging that it is a deliberate move to exterminate all independent media and voices.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said it's absolutely atrocious that research & advocacy organisations, and independent charitable trusts like CPR, Oxfam, and IPSMF have been raided "at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah."

"It's a deliberate move to exterminate all independent media and voices!" Ramesh said in a video statement from here.

Another example of weaponisation of agencies to harass critical voices: Amnesty on I-T searches

A day after the Income Tax department conducted searches at premises of some NGOs, Amnesty International on Thursday said this is yet another "blatant" example of how investigative agencies have been "weaponised" to harass and intimidate independent critical voices.

Indian authorities must immediately stop these "tactics of repression" and ensure that civil society organisations are able to operate without the fear of reprisal in the country, it said.

LEAD Launches India's First Student Confidence Index

Agenceis

Anantnag: School Edtech company LEAD announced the launch of India's first Student Confidence Index, a study that assesses the confidence levels of school-going students across regions, cities, demographics and various other parameters.

Developed in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences, LEAD's Index reveals several powerful insights into Student Confidence. While India stands at a Confidence level of 75 on a scale of 100, 36% of students have indicated top-bracket Confidence levels (81-100).

LEAD's Student Confidence Index assesses the five 21st century Confidence-building attributes that are critical for students to succeed in life: Conceptual Understanding, Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration and Exposure to opportunities and platforms.

Commenting on the Index, LEAD Co-founder and CEO Sumeet Mehta said, "Our students need to have self-confidence. But there was no way of knowing the confidence level of students of our country. LEAD's Student Confidence Index developed in partnership with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (LMRF, SMLS), fills this gap."

"We are delighted to partner with LEAD in developing India's first Student Confidence Index. The tool for building this Confidence Index followed a rigorous research process by the LMRF team at TISS," added Dr. Rahul S, Assistant Professor, LMRF, SMLS, Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG Asks Revenue

department," Sinha directed the officials.

The LG, according to the spokesperson, instructed the senior officials of the revenue department to work out viable solutions to address issues and challenges. Sinha, he said, also emphasized on streamlining of online-Revenue Services to make the system more transparent & accountable to the common people.

"He further advised for mapping of forest land, besides creating a dedicated IT cell in the Revenue department," he said.

While reviewing the progress made under Land Records Information System, the spokesperson said that the chair was informed that a total of 8,21,40,595 of scanned documents, including Jamabandis, Mutations and Girdawaris have been uploaded till date.

He further said that Shaleen Kabra, Financial Commissioner, Revenue gave a detailed briefing on the steps taken to achieve the core objectives of Revenue Department and the progress registered under Digital India Land Record Modernization Program; Digitization of Maps and its updation/ Survey through latest Geo-reference technology; Ground Truthing through Mobile App; Online-Revenue Services and End to End Integrated Workflow.

"It was informed that the Revenue department is using a grievance redressal portal for timely disposal of grievances & complaints online," the spokesperson added.

‘Giving Special

agriculture based economy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sinha made these remarks while inaugurating a farmers awareness conference on the use of 'Nano Urea' organized by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) here at SKICC, an official spokesperson said Friday.

The LG, he said, highlighted the farmer's efforts in fulfilling the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and transition to sustainable alternatives to protect soil health, plants and environment.

Sinha, he said, congratulated the entire team of IFFCO for developing the world's first Liquid Nano Urea.

"Sustainable farming is the only way forward to ensure food security and growth. Farmers are ultimate entrepreneurs and our effort is to provide them with better infrastructure, easy access to credit, access to modern machinery and benefits of agriculture extension services," the LG said.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has become the fifth largest economy in the world overtaking England. It has also sent a strong message that a sustainable and innovative agricultural system is significant for the holistic growth of any region or nation," he added.

The spokesperson said that the LG

highlighted the reforms introduced in the agriculture sector in J&K and said that being an agriculture based economy and having more than 70% of the population dependent on agriculture, special impetus has been given to make J&K's agriculture system sustainable and profitable.

"Introduction of progressive land reforms and efforts towards diversification, allied activities and high density plantation have enabled farmers with small land holdings to earn more," the LG said.

"Integrated approach of farming has already been initiated and the government is promoting agro-based employment generating activities. Revival of traditional crops with market linkage support, GI tagging of local produce, high density plantation and allied activities have successfully brought prosperity for the farmers," he added.

The LG, according to the spokesperson, highlighted that various strategies are being adopted for promotion of allied enterprises such as dairy farming, apiculture, sericulture and food processing in augmenting farmers income to reduce losses and open greater opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.

Sinha, he said, underlined the need to make necessary interventions to ensure food security for the growing population and called on stakeholders to work on mission mode for effective implementation of the Millet mission, Exotic Vegetables Farming, promoting micro-irrigation and reducing crop waste.

According to the spokesperson, Dileep Sanghani, Chairman, IFFCO, speaking on the occasion said that IFFCO is continuously engaged in finding solutions to problems confronting the agriculture and allied sector.

"He informed that trials of the World's first Nano Urea were conducted at more than 11000 places in every nook and corner of the country on around 94 crops," he added.

The spokesperson further said that Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, in his address said that J&K's Agriculture Sector will emerge as a role model not only for the country but the whole world.

"A new J&K is recording unprecedented growth and development in every sector and is figuring as a top performer in several categories," he added.

How Self-Belief

a shy face. "And hurdles can sometimes come as a financial problem but mostly, a mental fatigue."

Perhaps, that's why, Mehraj has become an inspiration—not because of his father's barbecue pushcart, but because of his grit and grind for success.

"My family has always been very supportive of my education," Mehraj says while rising up to reciprocate another hug from a relative. "My father has a very nominal earnings and that's why he wanted me to focus more on my studies and earn a better life for

myself and obviously for my family. Except during my Class 11th, I've never attended any coaching center."

Two years back, when the pandemic paralysed the normal education system of the valley, Mehraj used his proactive prowess to prepare for the NEET.

"With over two years of study period and several different subjects to read, the NEET tests the nerves of young aspirants," he said."It's a laborious effort. You can't find a shortcut and expect to win."

During Covid curbs, he stumbled upon some YouTube videos to clear his concepts. This rigorous indoor preparation would eventually give this self-coached student an edge over the masses appearing for the competitive exam every year.

"It was very clear to me that if YouTube can clear my doubts in higher secondary level, then there's absolutely no need to attend a coaching center for NEET preparation," said Mehraj, the centre of attraction in his happy home.

His percentage in higher secondary level, a prerequisite for pursuing the national exams, was more than eighty percent propelling his preparation for the much-fanfare exam. He eventually qualified the NEET-22 with 591 out of 720 marks.

"It's not necessary to enroll yourself in a coaching center," Mehraj reiterated.

"It all depends upon your dedication. Self-study can easily help you to excel in these competitive exams. And it may sound childish but a day's break can also be enjoyed given that you've already set your target and maintained your continuity. The common myths around these exams have to end."

8 More JKAS

have been inducted into IAS and another eight such vacancies will be filled up shortly giving opportunities to the JKAS officers to become part of prestigious IAS service after a long gap of 12 years," Singh said.

The minister said mid-career training of JKAS officers of various seniority was carried out in collaboration with LBSNAA and it provided a new level of exposure to the JKAS officers and more than 200 officers.

Singh said central government employees working in the Kashmir Valley in attached and subordinate offices or PSUs falling under control of the Centre have been extended special concessions for a period of three years from August 1, 2021.

The incentives include an additional house rent allowance, composite transfer grant, per diem allowance, incentive for period of temporary duty, messing allowance, facility to draw pension at the place of settlement in relaxation of relevant provisions, he said.

The minister said retention of general pool accommodation available to officers who have served in the central government has also been extended to officers posted in Jammu

and Kashmir on the pattern of the northeast states.

Singh said in view of home LTC, it can be availed to visit Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for which guidelines have been notified by the DOPT.

It will enhance tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and also provide an opportunity to all central government employees to visit the two UTs, he said.

The minister said the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has helped the UT administration to switch over to online functioning, as a result of which the UT exchequer would save over Rs 200 crore incurred in transport of records etc during 'Durbar move' -- shifting of capitals from Srinagar to Jammu during winters and vice versa.

"The government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives high priority to Jammu and Kashmir and there is no dearth of support forthcoming, as far as the Centre is concerned," he said.

Govt Transfers

Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, against an available vacancy.

Ms. Ayushi Sudan (IAS), Chief Executive Officer, Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna, has been transferred and posted as Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K.

"She shall continue to hold the additional charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna, till further orders," the order

reads.

Minga Sherpa (IAS), Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation (IKTDC), against an available vacancy.

Faz Lul Haseeb (IAS), Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar holding additional charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Urban Development Agency, Kashmir has been transferred and posted as Director, Tourism Kashmir.

Harvinder Singh (IAS), Sub Divisional Magistrate, Uri, holding additional charge of Sub Registrar, Uri, has been transferred and posted

as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Itoo (JKAS), Director Tourism, Kashmir has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department.

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LG's Advisor and Principal Secretary Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar and Nitishwar Kumar besides Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta attended the meeting.

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Dissecting India's Disastrous Asia Cup Campaign Ahead Of T20 World Cup

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India have exited from yet another multi-nation tournament having failed to rise up to the occasion during crunch games and with a lot of questions without answers.

If Virat Kohli finally breaking the century jinx with his 71st is good news for all cricket fans, it also poses a few questions that need to be put in perspective.

How much of importance will you give to a hundred that came in a dead rubber when there was absolutely no pressure?

Having lost a close and emotionally draining game less than 24 hours back, was Afghanistan physically and mentally ready for another gruelling game?

THE TOP THREE AND ITS IMPENDING PROBLEMS?

And this brings us to the most basic question? Will this (Rohit, KL Rahul and Kohli), be India's top three going into the T20 World Cup?

Yes, it seems so if one sees the kind of support that both Rohit and Kohli have shown for an under-pressure Rahul, whose "wicket preservation first" approach in Powerplay overs has more often than not put India in trouble.

One could gauge that both the se-



niors want Rahul to settle down with six more international games (vs Australia and SA) and two warm-up left before start of T20 World cup?

There is a school of thought that Surya Kumar Yadav be promoted as one drop batter but the clearer picture perhaps will only emerge once they play the home series against Australia in two weeks' time.

Rahul is a supremely talented batter with all the strokes in the book—both orthodox and unorthodox, but at least in Asia Cup, he did not show any distinctive change in his approach. He only attacked after settling down.

The problem is that in 50 over cricket, 15 balls of quiet period isn't a big deal but the moment it is a

match of 120-deliveries each, that quantum of balls become invaluable.

We have seen that in the second Pakistan game where Kohli got 60 off 44 balls.

MIDDLE-ORDER MUDDLE

As far as the middle order is concerned, the tournament didn't provide a definitive answer if Rishabh

Pant is more suitable than the team's oldest player Dinesh Karthik, who has been earmarked for a specific 15-ball role at the end of the innings.

As far as Pant is concerned, the free-flowing bat swing that we are used to seeing in the Test matches is conspicuous by its absence in this format.

Karthik was played in three of the five games but haven't got to bat a cumulative 10 balls in the tourney.

So you can't really judge who will finally make it to the playing eleven if not both?

But can coach Dravid be a bit more flexible and not just set a role for Karthik -- like 10 balls in the end or something like that? Because in case of Pant, he has been used sometimes as a floater -- before Hardik Pandya or after him depending on match situation. Both without success.

For the reserve middle-order batter, the multi-skilled Deepak Hooda remains favourite but one should discount Sanju Samson at his own peril.

BOWLING OPTIONS

The absence of Ravindra Jadeja post knee surgery (he got reportedly injured during the team-bonding activity) is going to hurt India the most.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar gave 19 runs in the 19th over against Pakistan but he was again given the same duty against Sri Lanka and he faltered

again.

While a five-wicket haul against Afghanistan is fine but as a senior bowler, Bhuvneshwar will be expected to provide wickets with both new and old ball without being one dimensional.

It would have been interesting to see whether Arshdeep could have done a better job with the 19th over in one of the games, as he has bowled a lot of penultimate overs for Punjab Kings.

But with Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel set to get fit, Arshdeep will find it difficult to get a first XI look-in.

Avesh Khan hasn't shown a lot of cricketing smarts in the shorter version and as former coach Ravi Shastri said, Mohammed Shami should have not been dumped completely from this format.

As India travel to Australia, what looks worrisome is that there is a repeat of 2019 when till the defeat against New Zealand in the semi-finals, the Indian team couldn't find a suitable No. 4.

Here, the top three isn't looking convincing (one needs to discount the Afghanistan game) and one middle-order and one bowling slot is yet to be fixed.

There are questions and it is sooner the better if Dravid can find the answers.

RED FM Promotes Tyndale Biscoe U-19 Football Tourney



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: 93.5 RED FM on Friday announced its collaboration with Tyndale Biscoe school to promote the ongoing Canon C.E. Tyndale Biscoe Under-19 Invitational Football Tournament.

"RED FM channel has been a trendsetter in promoting sports in Jammu and Kashmir. RED FM collaborated with Tyndale Biscoe school to promote the Canon C.E. Tyndale Biscoe Under-19 Invitational Football Tournament as part of this initiative," a statement from the company reads.

The Canon C.E Football Tournament has received a tremendous response with 14 teams from various schools of Kashmir Valley competing in this competition honouring Canon C.E Tyndale Biscoe, who introduced football to Kashmir.

"For the development of

sports, particularly football, these types of tournaments help youth tremendously to showcase their skills," the RED FM statement added.

On Saturday, September 10th, the final match of the tournament will be played between Burn Hall School and Tyndale Biscoe School.

Speaking on the occasion, Abrar Zargar, Cluster Programming Head and Station Head Srinagar said, "These types of tournaments help to encourage a sporting culture in schools, and we are super excited to be a part of this."

"Football's popularity in Kashmir is also one of the reasons why the state has produced some of the greatest Indian football players of all time, and tournaments like these will aid in the discovery of new and raw talent," the statement added.

District Level Girls Athletic Meet Starts In Budgam



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid, on Friday declared the Annual Inter- Zonal District Level Athletic Meet Girls open at Sports Stadium Budgam.

The DC called for massive youth participation in sports related activities for their overall personality development.

Competitions in different athletic disciplines were held during the event, organised by District Youth Services and Sports Office Budgam. As many as 300 participants from different Zones of District Budgam participated.

Earlier, DC accompanied by Gurmukh Singh Dutta DYSSO Budgam, DIO Budgam, other

field staff and participants took pledge against drugs under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

Speaking on the occasion, DC lauded YSS Budgam for conducting a series of sports events in almost all disciplines to promote sports culture among the students in Budgam.

He also encouraged the participants for their active participation and said sports help both physical and mental development of the participant.

The DC said that special focus is being given on the infrastructure development and promotion of sports in the district.

In the felicitation ceremony the winners and runner up teams were awarded with medals, trophies and certificates.



SL VS PAK: SRI LANKA DEFEATED PAKISTAN by 5 wickets in the last Super 4 match of Asia Cup 2022, played at Dubai International Stadium. Put into bat first, Pakistan batters failed to get going with skipper Babar Azam making 30 (29), helping his team reach 121/10 in 19.1 overs. Sri Lanka batters made 124/5 in 17 overs with Pathum Nissanka scoring 55* (48). Sri Lanka's successful run chase means the team has stayed unbeaten in the entire tournament. The two teams will now meet in Asia Cup 2022 final on Sunday, September 11.

Sports Events In Britain Called Off After Queen Elizabeth's Death



Agencies

LONDON: Several sporting events in Britain were called off as a mark of respect following the death of Queen Elizabeth II at the age of 96 on Thursday.

Organizers of the BMW PGA Championship golf event reacted to the announcement of the queen's death by immediately suspending play, with many players still out on the course at Wentworth. The course and practice facilities will be closed Friday.

The England and Wales Cricket

Board said Friday's play in the second test between England and South Africa at the Oval would not take place.

Horse racing meetings in Britain were suspended on Thursday night and Friday, with the governing body wanting to "remember her extraordinary life and contribution to our sport and our nation." Domestic rugby matches in England and Scotland were called off on Thursday and games will not be played over the weekend, either.

Organizers of cycling's Tour of Britain declared the race over after

cancelling Friday's stage as well as two more over the weekend. Gonzalo Serrano, who led after Thursday's stage, was named the winner.

The Premier League paid its respects to the royal family, saying it was "deeply saddened" to hear of the queen's death. It didn't immediately say whether games would go ahead this weekend.

The English Football League, which runs the three divisions below the Premier League, called off its games that had been scheduled to be played Friday evening.

Adil Teli Begins His Leh-Manali Cycle Expedition



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K's ace cyclist, Adil Teli, on Friday commenced his Leh to Manali cycling expedition from Srinagar. Adil is hoping to cover the 420 km distance in record time.

Secretary Tourism and Youth Services & Sports, Sarmad Hafeez flagged off Adil Teli from TRC on Friday morning.

Prior to the flagging off, addressing a press conference flanked by cyclist Adil Teli and Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr GN Itoo, Hafeez said that Jammu and Kashmir has produced champion cyclists who have excelled in sports and have done great in this field.

Hafeez said that Adil is attempting to pedal for the Leh to Manali circuit on Friday morning in around 30 hours.

The Leh to Manali circuit is a high altitude area for cyclists.

The current Guinness Record for the distance is 34 hours and 54 minutes.

Hafeez said Teli is eyeing the world record and would attempt to finish the circuit in 30 hours.

He said J&K has a huge potential for cycling as it suits for mountain biking and cycling alike and the government is supporting in this endeavour to the cyclists like Teli.

The Tourism Secretary added that the government is reviving old cycling and mountain biking routes besides other destinations in south Kashmir like Verinag, Achabal and Sinthan Pass.

Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr GN Itoo also extended his wishes to Teli and hailed his previous record of cycling from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

Adil had last year set a Guinness World Record for covering Kashmir to Kanyakumari in '8 days, 1 hour and 39 minutes'.

1st Inter-Department Women's Cricket Tournament Concludes



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The first ever Inter-Department women's cricket tournament concluded at the University of Kashmir on Friday.

Ten teams from various departments and centres of the main and satellite campuses participated in the tournament, organized by the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports (DPES).

The final match was played between the Department of Computer Sciences and the Department of Persian, where the Department of Computer Sciences emerged as winners of the first trophy. The team from the Persian Department emerged as the runner ups.

Speaking at the prize-distribution ceremony, KU Registrar Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir, who was the chief guest, called upon female students to continue participating in different games, and highlighted different sports facilities coming up in the university.

Prof Aneesha Shafi, Dean Students Welfare, who was a guest of honour, expressed her happiness to see active participation of girls in the cricket tournament.

Coordinator DPES Dr Mussavir Ahmad, under whose supervision the tournament was conducted, spoke about the upcoming sports events at the university.

The tournament was coordinated by KU cricket coaches, Sakina and Amjad.

Queen Elizabeth's Last Hours As Family Dashed To Deathbed



Agenceis

London: It began with a short but worrying statement. Less than 48 hours after a frail but smiling Queen Elizabeth II was photographed appointing new Prime Minister Liz Truss, her doctors said they were "concerned".

An unprecedented medical bulletin issued by Buckingham Palace said the 96-year-old queen was under "medical supervision" but "remained comfortable" at her Scottish retreat, Balmoral Castle.

The announcement at 12:32 pm (1132 GMT) sent shockwaves through parliament, where MPs had gathered to hear Truss announce a two-year freeze on energy bills.

Within minutes, the office of heir to the throne Prince Charles had announced that he and his wife Camilla, who were already staying on the Balmoral estate, had arrived at Balmoral Castle.

It is believed the queen's daughter, Princess Anne, also made it to Balmoral in time as she too was in Scotland.

Both are thought to have been by the queen's side when she died on Thursday afternoon.

Other members of the family, however, faced a long and ultimately unsuccessful dash from London.

The second in line to the throne, Prince William; the queen's other two sons, Princes Andrew and Edward; and Edwards' wife Sophie, who was particularly close to the monarch; arrived in a cold, grey Aberdeen aboard a special RAF plane late in the afternoon.

William, who has now become the heir, then took the wheel of the car for the 80-kilometre (50-

mile) drive to Balmoral.

But by the time the grim-faced royals swept through the gate of Balmoral just after 5:00 pm, it was already too late.

Around half an hour earlier, at 4:30 pm, the prime minister had been informed the queen had died that afternoon.

Prince Harry, Charles' second son, meanwhile was still en route from London.

Initial announcements by the couple's spokesperson said both he and his wife Meghan would travel to Balmoral. In the end, Harry made the journey alone and was still in the air when the official palace announcement was made to the world at 6:30 pm.

He did not arrive at Balmoral until much later.

BBC royal correspondent Nicholas Witchell speculated live on air that Meghan -- who has made a string of damaging criticisms of the royal family -- did not make the journey in the end, for fear "she might not be terribly warmly welcomed".

The palace statement said the queen had died "peacefully" but in line with royal tradition did not give any cause of death.

Sources told the Daily Mail newspaper there had been "no chronic condition".

The queen had been undertaking far less work in recent months, but on Tuesday she nevertheless met both the outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the incoming Liz Truss.

The sources told the daily the queen had been in good spirits -- despite her recent and well-documented "mobility issues" -- but took a sudden turn for the worse during the night of Wednesday to Thursday.

Diana Divorce, 'Black Spider' Letters: King Charles' Biggest Scandals

Agenceis

London: Charles has been a controversial royal over the years, from his affair while married to Princess Diana, and alleged persistent political interference, to occasional gaffes and scandals involving aides.

Queen Elizabeth II's eldest son has never enjoyed the same public affection as his mother, which may add to the challenges he now faces as king.

He has battled a string of public relations headaches dating back decades, including accusations of being cold towards his enduringly popular first wife Diana.

Despite some better press more recently, the tabloids had become well versed in taking shots at him for seeming distant and aloof.

Meanwhile, the depiction of his marital problems in the hit Netflix series "The Crown" is unlikely to have garnered Charles much sympathy several decades on from that troubled time.

He has also faced accusations of interfering in politics on various topics spanning architecture, homeopathy and climate change.

And in 2021 his most trusted aide resigned for a second time in his royal courtier career amid controversy.

"I think all of this stuff is damaging, from 'The Crown' to reality to everything that's going on," royal author Penny Junor said in late 2021, as a cash-for-honours scandal involving Charles's charity empire erupted.

"None of it is good news. The queen is much loved, Charles is less loved. I think it will be difficult for him whatever happens, but all these revelations are not helpful."

"Three people" Charles's image took a devastating hit during his acrimonious separation from Diana.

In her extraordinary 1995 interview in which she revealed her feelings over his affair with Camilla Parker Bowles, Diana famously said "there were three people" in her marriage.

The royal couple had made the bombshell announcement they were separating in 1992, but following the fallout from the controversial sit-down with the BBC's "Panorama" programme they fi-



nally agreed to divorce.

Giving her version of events -- and admitting her own infidelity -- Diana laid bare her struggles within Britain's most famous family, criticising the royals and questioning Charles's fitness to be king.

It drew horror in parts of the British establishment but won her public sympathy, which was only amplified after her death in a Paris car accident in 1997.

Charles was long vilified both for the extra-marital affair, which was blamed for the breakup, and in part for the royals' poor initial handling of Diana's death, when they were widely criticised for appearing heartless and out of step with the public.

However, he has gradually won back some public support and begrudging acceptance that he has found happiness with Camilla, whom he married in 2005.

'Black spider'

Charles has courted controversy for speaking out and appearing to pressure politicians privately, on various contentious public issues from health to the environment.

In a now-infamous series of letters between him and government ministers known as the "black spider" memos because of his scrawled handwriting, Charles quizzed them on an array of topics.

Made public in 2015 after a decade-long legal battle waged by The Guardian newspaper, they included the plight of the Patagonian Toothfish and his famous bugbear, modernist building schemes.

Charles's opposition to bold

new design first grabbed public attention in 1984 when he likened plans for altering the National Gallery in London to adding a "monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much-loved and elegant friend".

The disclosure of the "black spider" letters sparked a backlash against the then-future king and concerns he was overstepping his role.

However, in a 2018 interview marking his 70th birthday, Charles insisted he never directly meddled in party politics and understood the difference between being Prince of Wales and monarch.

Cash for honours?

More recently, Charles has become embroiled in an alleged cash-for-honours scandal.

A series of newspaper revelations claimed his close aides coordinated work to grant a royal honour and even UK citizenship to a Saudi businessman who donated large sums to restoration projects of particular interest to Charles.

Michael Fawcett, his former valet who rose through the ranks to become chief executive of his charitable foundation, resigned in 2021 following the launch of an internal investigation into the accusations.

It was the latest claim to tarnish Fawcett -- and, by association, Charles.

In 2003, Fawcett resigned after being accused of bending palace rules and accepting valuable royal perks. He was later cleared of allegations of financial misconduct over the sale of unwanted royal gifts, but an internal report found various members of Charles's household guilty of "serious failings".

"Our Hearts Are Broken": How UK Newspapers Marked Queen's Death

Agenceis

London: Poignant photographs of Queen Elizabeth II dominated the front pages of Britain's grieving newspapers on Friday, charting her journey from coronation to matriarch of the nation.

A picture of the 27-year-old Elizabeth taken at her 1953 coronation, full of regal splendour clasping the Sovereign's Orb and Sceptre in the vaulted walls of Westminster Abbey, covered the front pages of The Times, Guardian, Daily Star and Independent.

The Sun, Daily Telegraph, Daily Express and Daily Mirror instead chose images of the white-haired monarch as she neared the end of her record-breaking 70-year-reign.

monarch had died, a nation's heart broke," it added. "Long live the King"

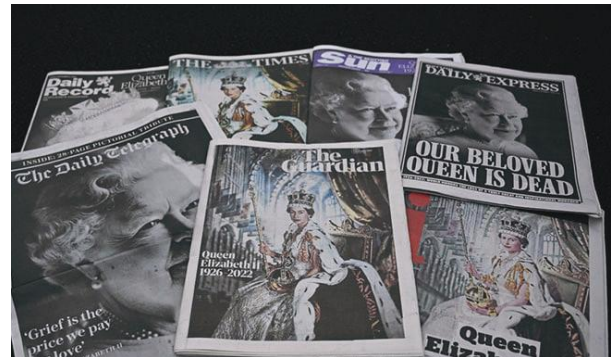
The story unsurprisingly filled the inside pages of the souvenir edition papers, with most dedicating at least 20 pages to the seismic events.

"A light has gone out on our lives. The day Britain and much of the world dreaded is upon us. She is gone," said The Sun's editorial.

"The mother of our nation. The most famous, most loved, most respected woman on Earth. Britain's backbone.

"It is, quite simply, hard to think of British life without her presence," it added. "The new world will seem strange."

In its obituary, The Times described Elizabeth as "the wom-



The Telegraph carried a quote made by the queen for the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks. "Grief is the price we pay for love," it said.

Most tabloids marked the occasion with subdued black-and-white front pages, although the Sun splashed its header in royal purple, above the headline "We loved you Ma'am."

"Rest in peace, Ma'am. The Sun and our readers loved you. We are proud you were our Queen," it added.

The Daily Express carried the headline "Our Beloved Queen is Dead", while the Daily Mirror simply wrote "Thank you".

"Our hearts are broken", said the Daily Mail headline.

"How to find the words? Our grief is a hundred different emotions, all of them hard to grasp," said its front-page splash.

"As God Save the Queen played on the radio and TV, as we heard that our beloved

an who saved the monarchy".

"It is thanks to her dedication and seriousness of purpose that an institution that has at times seemed outdated and out of keeping with the values of contemporary society still has a relevance and popularity today."

Inside the left-wing Guardian, columnist Jonathan Freedland wrote that her death heralded the start of "a new future".

"The one element in our collective life that was consistently, reliably the same... has gone."

The Daily Telegraph meanwhile paid tribute to Elizabeth's "lifetime of service".

"She was more than just a distant, matriarchal symbol of nationhood; she was our constant companion and guide, reassuringly composed even in the most turbulent of times."

"The Second Age of Elizabeth is at an end. Long live King Charles III," it said.

Teabag Used By Queen Elizabeth In 1998 Selling For \$12,000 On EBay

Agenceis

Queen Elizabeth II, the UK's longest-serving monarch died at the age of 96 on Thursday, and people on the internet wasted no time in putting memorabilia up for sale. To commemorate her 70-year reign, a user on Ebay listed a teabag, supposedly used by the late Queen. The teabag was smuggled out of Windsor Castle in 1998, the user has claimed on the Ebay page. Currently, it is selling for \$12,000 on the e-commerce platform.

The seller in the description says, "This is the very teabag you might have seen on CNN in



late 1998. It was used by Queen Elizabeth II Regina Britannia and

smuggled out of Windsor Castle by the special exterminator who

was called in to help Her Majesty cope with the great London roach infestations of the 1990s."

That's not all, the used teabag comes with a Certificate of Authenticity issued by "the prestigious IECA" (Institute of Excellence in Certificates of Authenticity). The Certificate of Authenticity says it, "has determined beyond any doubt that the following statements are absolutely true: This is a



teabag." "Own a piece of History!"

Priceless!"

On Thursday, the seller from Decatur, Georgia, United States described the teabag as "extremely rare."

Not just teabags, there were other interesting listings available on Ebay. A seller has listed life-sized wax statues of the Queen - for \$15,900. The seller in the description claims that the statue has real human hair, resin eyeballs, resin teeth - created

using dental veneer templates.

There are plenty of other items high on demand, including Barbie doll of the Queen, currently listed for US \$1,299.99.

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Another seller has listed a Winsor & Newton 1977 Queen Elizabeth Jubilee sterling silver and Calamander wood artist box, for \$51,597. In the description, the seller claims that the box was made as a presentation gift to Queen Elizabeth II on her Silver Jubilee in 1977.

A hand-signed autograph by the Queen is also selling for US \$11,249.



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