

HIGHWAY HICCUPS

SSP Removed Amid Outrage Over Halting Of Fruit Laden Trucks



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A senior police officer was on Wednesday transferred and attached with police headquarters, a step that followed an outcry over halting of fruit-laden trucks from Kashmir valley to outside markets.

The transfer order of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), traffic national highway Shabir Ahmad Malik was issued by the home department, this morning.

In the order issued by Financial commissioner-cum-additional chief secretary Raj

Kumar Goyal said, "In the interest of administration, Shabir Ahmad Malik, SSP Traffic NHW, is hereby transferred and attached with police headquarters, J-K, with immediate effect."

Superintendent of Police, Ramban, Mohita Sharma was given the additional charge **More on P10**

DC Ramban Orders No Parking Zone

The district authorities in Ramban district on Wednesday directed traffic department to enforce order of no parking zone to provide safe passage to fruit laden vehicles. Deputy Commissioner, Ramban Mussarat Islam passed these directions to SDM and traffic police during a Block Diwas meeting in Banihal on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said. The meeting was also **More on P10**

SC Closes PIL Against J&K Quota Law After 16 Years

Says Question Important But Scenario Changed

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday closed a PIL which was filed almost 16 years ago challenging certain provisions of the 2005 Jammu and Kashmir Reservation law, saying the situation has drastically changed after reorganisation of the state in 2019.

The top court had on December 4, 2006 issued

notices to the then state government and the Centre on the PIL filed by a man named Munilal raising certain issues with regard to the validity of the reservation law.

Issue rule. Dasti in addition

is permitted. Liberty to

mention after service is complete.

Keeping in view the importance

of the question involved, we are

of the opinion that the matter

should be heard by a larger Bench, the

apex court had said. Dasti,

in legal parlance, is service of

summons by the petitioner to

the respondent. **More on P10**



CCTV Cams Helped Trace Abducted Kishtwar Minor

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The network of CCTV cameras proved helpful in the rescue of a six-month-old child within seven hours of his abduction from a hospital in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police officer said on Wednesday.

The woman who allegedly kidnapped the child was also arrested during the rescue operation led by Senior Superintendent of Police (Kishtwar) Shafqat Hussain Bhat.

The baby of Farheen Ahmad was abducted by a burqa-clad woman from the district hospital Kishtwar on Tuesday afternoon but was recovered within hours from Gudhali chowk.

As the SSP flanked by junior officers walked with the rescued child in his hands to reunite him with his family, the locals poured onto the roads to celebrate the prompt and successful operation.

"This was the first of its kind unfortunate incident



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ALL OUR OFFICIAL (CCTV) CAMERAS INSTALLED in the town are functional round-the-clock. Cameras have become an essential part of the investigations."

in the district and we received the information around 11.30 am on Tuesday," Bhat told reporters in Kishtwar.

"Police immediately swung into action and all the checkpoints were alerted with special teams constituted and fanned out in different directions for the rescue of **More on P10**

SIA Raids In Rajouri, Poonch Over Funding Case

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Wednesday carried out multiple raids and searches at houses of suspected persons in twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in a terror funding case, officials said.

Three teams carried out simultaneous raids in different areas of Rajouri and Poonch including Dharati village (tehsil Balakote), Kuniyan village (tehsil Haveli, Poonch) and

Julass village (tehsil Haveli), they said.

The raids, carried out by SIA Jammu with the help of district administrations and police, were aimed at breaking the terror ecosystem and investigate the proceeds of terror funding, the officials said.

The searches were conducted after obtaining warrants from the court, they added.

During the course of raids, incriminating material, including documents and some digital devices, was recovered, **More on P10**

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— Narendra Modi —



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SHORT TAKES

J&K Adds 13 More Corona Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported 13 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus on Wednesday, even as there was no death due to the virus during the last 24 hours. Officials said that four new cases of Covid-19 were reported from Jammu division and nine from Kashmir Valley, taking the number of people infected since the onset of the pandemic in J&K to 479115. There was no death due to the virus during the time. So far 4785 people have succumbed to the virus and among **More on P10**

Couple Among 3 Held in Sextortion Case

Three people, including a couple were arrested on Wednesday by police in an alleged sextortion case. The arrests, according to a police spokesperson, were made on the basis of a written complaint filed by Nazir Ahmad Rather of Dalwan Chaar-e-Shareef, Budgam at Police Station Shergarhi on Tuesday, claiming that he had received a call from a woman identified as Saba, who insisted him to meet for some work. Accordingly, he said, the woman took Rather to her room **More on P10**

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Voice-Control Smart Devices Might Affect Children's Social, Emotional Development

ANI

According to an expert in the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning in health-care, voice-control smart devices such as Alexa, Siri, and Google Home may hinder children's social and emotional development.

The findings of the study were published online in the Archives of Disease in Childhood. These devices might have long-term effects by impeding children's critical thinking, capacity for empathy and compassion, and their learning skills, says Anmol Arora of the University of Cambridge. While voice-control devices may act as 'friends' and help to improve children's reading and communication skills, their advanced AI and 'human' sounding voices have prompted concerns about the potential long-term effects on children's brains at a crucial stage of development.

There are three broad areas of concern, explains the author. These comprise inappropriate responses; impeding social development; and hindering learning. He cites some well-publicised examples of inappropriate responses, including a device suggesting that a 10-year old should try touching a live plug with a coin. "It is difficult to enforce robust parental controls on such devices without severely affecting their functionality," he suggests, adding that privacy issues have also arisen in respect of the recording of private conversations. These devices can't teach children how to behave

politely, because there's no expectation of a "please" or "thank you", and no need to consider the tone of voice, he points out. "The lack of ability to engage in non-verbal communication makes use of the devices a poor method of learning social interaction," he writes. "While in normal human



interactions, a child would usually receive constructive feedback if they were to behave inappropriately, this is beyond the scope of a smart device."

Preliminary research on the use of voice assistants as social companions for lonely adults is encouraging. But it's not at all clear if this also applies to children, he notes. "This is particularly important at a time when children might already have had social development impaired as a result of covid restrictions and when they might have been spending more time isolated with smart devices at home," he emphasises. Devices are designed to search for requested information and provide a concise, specific answer, but this may hinder traditional processes by which

children learn and absorb information, the author suggests. When children ask adults questions, the adult can request contextual information, explain the limitations of their knowledge and probe the child's reasoning—a process that these devices can't replicate, he says. Searching for information

is also an important learning experience, which teaches critical thinking and logical reasoning, he explains.

"The rise of voice devices has provided great benefit to the population. Their abilities to provide information rapidly, assist with daily activities, and act as a social companion to lonely adults are both important and useful, the author acknowledges.

"However, urgent research is required into the long-term consequences for children interacting with such devices," he insists. "Interacting with the devices at a crucial stage in social and emotional development might have long-term consequences on empathy, compassion, and critical thinking," he concludes.

No. Z-28016/16/2022-PMSSY-IV-Part(1)

Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
(PMSSY Division)

Room No 201-D, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

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کارپوریشن ساکن کریم آباد پلواہہ حال بابا محلہ شالیمار سری نگر 27 ستمبر 2022ء بروز منگلوار کو اس دنیا سے فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ اِنَّا لِلّٰہِ وَاِنَّا رَاجِعُوْنَ

مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 30 ستمبر 2022ء بروز جمعہ المبارک کو دن کے ڈھائی بجے اُن کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع کریم آباد پلواہہ میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ فاتحہ خوانی کے بعد اختتامی مجلس کریم آباد میں ہی اُن کے گھر پر انجام دی جائے گی۔

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Arbitral Tribunal Justice Hakim Imtiyaz Hussain

In the matter of:
Ghulam Mohammad Kuchay S/o Ghulam Hassan Kuchay R/o Magam Budgam (Plaintiffs)

V/S
Mohammad Ibrahim Ganie S/o Mst. Zooni R/o Magam Budgam & Others (Defendants)

File No: 03/Arbitration
Date of Institution 25-05-2016

Interim Order
23-9-2022

This Tribunal has received from the Court of Principal District Judge, Budgam a copy of the order dated 31-8-2022 by means of which the learned Court has extended the term of this Tribunal by a period of six months w.e.f 20-9-2022 to re-enter upon the reference and make award.

The parties have caused their appearance through *whatsapp mode*.

The Defendants have on 21-9-2022 filed an application seeking interim direction directing the parties to maintain status quo or restraining the Plaintiffs from creating third party interest viz a viz the suit property. Copy of the application was forwarded to the other side for their response if any but so far no response has been filed by the said party. One week's further time is given to the Plaintiff to file his objection if any to the said application.

Meanwhile, since it shall be in the interest of justice, the parties are directed to maintain status quo in respect of the suit property. They are directed not to make the same subject to any alienation or transfer.

So far the main issue is concerned, the parties are given another opportunity to file additional submissions/ documents, if any by next date. In case the parties or any of them choose not to furnish any fresh submissions/facts/material, they may accordingly inform this Tribunal.

Further proceedings in the matter will be taken on the next date.
Put up on 8-10-2022.

Justice Hakim Imtiyaz Hussain
Arbitrator

PD

Spring Buds Educational Trust Ompora, In Collaboration With Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization

Conducted a free medical camp on 27 of September 2022 at Shehjar Diagnostic and Pharmacy Centre Ompora, Budgam.

BMO Budgam inaugurated the camp in which 343 patients were treated free of cost. The trust provided free medicines and also conducted free diagnostic tests of the patients. The trust intends to organise more camps in future, organisers said.



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Ageing Hearts of Youth Linked to Spike In Cardiac Deaths In Kashmir

Zaid Bin Shabir

The 2022 World Heart Day theme—'Use Heart For Every Heart'—has prompted experts to suggest that Kashmir needs to regulate stress, substance abuse and sedentary lifestyle to counter the rapid rate of cardiac arrests. "There's an exponential surge in the number of heart attack cases in Kashmir in recent times," Dr. Irfan A. Bhat, Kashmir's renowned cardiologist said. "Since 2019, the rate of such cases has doubled to what it was three years ago."



Till 2018, the health specialist said, Srinagar's SMHS and SKIMS hospital were handling 4-5 heart attack patients

daily in the summer and fall months. "However, that trend has changed now," Dr. Irfan said. "Today, the number of such

TODAY, THE NUMBER OF SUCH CASES HAS GROWN TO 10-15 PATIENTS PER DAY. And due to lack of awareness, many patients are still ignoring the early symptoms of an attack, which if not treated at an appropriate time, can lead to a permanent heart damage. This is an alarming trend."

cases has grown to 10-15 patients per day. And due to lack of awareness, many patients are still ignoring the early symptoms of an attack, which if not treated at an appropriate time, can lead to a permanent heart damage. This is an alarming trend."

drug abuse, the cardiologist blamed late nights, competitions, deadlines, lack of recreation, ultra-processed food for contributing to this fatal wave. Dr. Irfan, who's a core member of 'save heart initiative' that handles cardiac emergencies virtually and saves hundreds

of lives every year, said that people's first priority should be their heart-health "as there is no going back if it is damaged". In an exclusive interview with Kashmir Observer, Dr. Irfan explains what needs to be done to contain the fatal heart wave.

How prone is Kashmir to heart attacks?

Well, there's an exponential surge in the number of heart attack cases in Kashmir in recent times. Since 2019, the rate of such cases has doubled to what it was three years **More on P10**

Lt Gen Anil Chauhan Is New CDS



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Lt Gen Anil Chauhan (ret'd), a former eastern Army commander and director general of military operations, was on Wednesday appointed as India's new Chief of Defence Staff, more than nine months after the post fell vacant following the death of Gen Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash.

A decorated Army officer and a China expert, 61-year-old Chauhan will also function as Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs with effect from the date of his assumption of charge and until further orders.

He was the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Army during the Balakot air strikes in 2019 when Indian airplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp deep inside Pakistan in response to the Pulwama terror strike.

Lt Gen Chauhan (ret'd) will assume the rank of the four-star General once he takes charge as India's second Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). He will be the first retired three-star officer to return to service in four-star rank.

After his retirement as the eastern Army Commander last year, he has been **More on P10**

BJP Sees Opportunity In Azad's Exit From Congress

Will Win 50 Seats, Form J&K Govt With Own CM: Koul

Auqib Javed

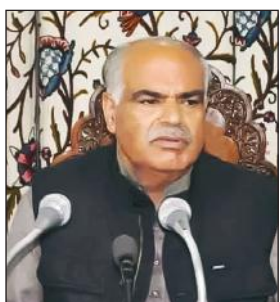
Srinagar: Stating that the exit of veteran leader Ghulam Nabi Azad from Congress party will help Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu region in the upcoming elections, senior leader Ashok Koul maintained that the saffron party will form the government with its own Chief Minister in Union Territory.

73-year-old Azad ended his five-decade long association last month with the Congress party to float his own Democratic Azad Party (DAP) in Jammu and Kashmir. Since his exit, the former J&K Chief Minister has received considerable support from over two dozen former ministers and legislators of Congress, including former deputy chief minister Tara Chand.

In an exclusive chat with Kashmir Observer, Koul explained that Azad's resignation has split the grand old party in the Jammu region much to the electoral advantage of the BJP.

"His (Azad's) exit is a good thing for BJP," Koul said, adding that his party will win over 50 seats to form the next government with its own chief minister in J&K.

When asked that Congress didn't do well in



last elections and there are other regional parties including NC and PDP in the poll fray, Koul said, "They (regional parties) won't matter for BJP. We are ready to fight any opponent."

When asked if Azad as CM would be acceptable to BJP, the senior BJP leader said it will be decided once the elections are conducted.

"The numbers will decide who will become the CM of J&K," he added.

He further maintained that BJP won't prefer any pre-poll alliance as the party is very strong in the UT and will field candidates on all the seats.

Koul, who is the General Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir BJP told Kashmir Observer that the elections are likely to be conducted in March-April next year after the publication of final electoral roll on November 25 this year.

"The electoral process will be **More on P10**

Khatana Takes Oath As RS Member

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday administered oath to two new members of the upper house.

Biabab Kumar Deb of the BJP and Ghulam Ali Khatana, a nominated member, took oath in the chamber of Dhankhar at Parliament House.

Khatana is a BJP leader from Jammu and Kashmir and was recently nominated to the Rajya Sabha. Deb, a former chief minister of Tripura, entered the upper house following a bypoll. Tripura's lone Rajya Sabha seat fell vacant after Manik Saha resigned in June to contest an assembly bypoll. He is now the state chief minister.

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh and Union ministers Jitendra Singh and V Muraleedharan were also present (on the occasion), **More on P10**

Govt's Agenda To Get Youngsters Into Mainstream: Army

'Need Whole Of Nation Approach To Save Youth From Getting Radicalised'

Press Trust Of India

Nagrota: A 'whole of nation' approach is needed to save the youth of Jammu and Kashmir from getting radicalised, a senior Army official said on Wednesday.

General officer Commanding (GoC) 16 Corps Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh said it is the government's agenda to get youngsters into the mainstream and the Army is aligned with it to ensure peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Radicalisation is a phenomenon under which the enemy country is making efforts to dislodge youth (of Jammu and Kashmir) from the right path and take them on the wrong path. To save them (from getting radicalised), we need a whole of nation approach," the GoC of



the Jammu-based White Knight Corps told reporters here.

To get youngsters into the mainstream is the agenda of the government and the Army is aligned with it to ensure peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir, Lt Gen Singh said while replying to questions

about "growing radicalisation" among the youth.

Lt Gen Singh said the whole of nation approach involves participation of family, society, religious leaders, and teachers to prevent the youth from getting radicalised.

The Army is helping them, he asserted.

Lt Gen Singh said the Army identifies "hostile" profiles on social media and offers counseling to their owners.

"We remain active on this front on social media. In joint efforts with police, we identify hostile profiles and undertake counseling of several of them," he said.

The radicalised youths are booked as underground workers (UGWs) of terrorist organisations and dealt accordingly, he added.

The GoC said, "To get the youth into the **More on P10**

States, UTs Empowered To Declare PFI Unlawful

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday delegated the power to state governments and Union Territory administrations for declaring Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates or associates or fronts as unlawful Association under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

A notification issued in this regard by the ministry reads, "in exercise of the powers conferred by section 42 of the Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act, 1967, the Central Government hereby directs that all powers exercisable by it under section 7 and section 8 of the said Act shall be exercised also by the State Government and the Union territory Administration in relation to the above said unlawful association".

The government on Wednesday banned PFI and several of its associates for five years under a stringent anti-terror law, accusing them of having "links" with global terror groups like ISIS.

Besides PFI, the organisations which **More on P10**

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Dr. Jitendra Singh

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Minister of State (I/C) of Earth Sciences,
Minister of State in the PMO, Ministry of Personnel, Pensions,
Public Grievances & DoAE, Department of Space and Vice President, CSIR

Venue: Convention Centre, Canal Road, Jammu

Date: 30th September, 2022 at 12.30 PM

Putin expected to proclaim annexation of Ukraine territory within days

Agencies

ZAPORIZHZHIA: - Moscow was poised on Wednesday to annex a swath of Ukraine, releasing what it called vote tallies showing support in four partially occupied provinces to join Russia, after what Kyiv and the West denounced as illegal sham referendums held



at gunpoint.

On Moscow's Red Square, a tribune with giant video screens has been set up, with billboards proclaiming "Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson - Russia!"

President Vladimir Putin could proclaim the annexation in a speech within days, just over a week since he endorsed the referendums, ordered a

military mobilisation at home and threatened to defend Russia with nuclear weapons if necessary.

The Russian-installed administrations of the four Ukrainian provinces on Wednesday formally asked Putin to incorporate them into Russia, which Russian officials have suggested is a formality.

"The results are clear. Welcome home, to Russia!" Dmitry Medvedev, a former president who serves as deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, said on Telegram, after the release of the results.

Russian-backed authorities claim to have carried out the referendums over five days on territory that makes up around 15% of Ukraine.

Residents who escaped to Ukrainian-held territory in recent days have told of people being forced to tick ballots in the street by roving officials at gunpoint. Footage filmed during the exercise showed Russian-installed officials taking ballot boxes from house to house with armed men in tow.

US Announces Multi-Billion Dollar Plan To End Obesity, Hunger

Agencies

Washington: The White House announced on Wednesday billions of dollars in pledges from major corporations - including the likes of fast food behemoth Burger King - to craft a national strategy on ending the twin US challenges of hunger and obesity.



The private sector pledges were unveiled as President Joe Biden was hosting what the administration touted as the first big White House summit on food and diet since Richard Nixon was in office more than half a century ago.

Nearly 42 percent of American adults are technically obese and about 10 percent of US households suffer food insecurity, according to latest government statistics.

Biden will tell the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health that government, Congress, private companies, and society must work together "to achieve the goal of ending hunger and re-

sponse has been strong.

"We know that we can only achieve the goals... if we rally a whole of society response," an official said.

Officials briefing reporters said that \$8 billion in public and private sector commitments already made include pledges from more than 100 organizations, ranging from hospitals to tech companies and food industry players.

"All have committed to bold and in some cases, paradigm-shifting commitments that will meaningfully improve nutrition, promote physical activity and reduce hunger and diet-related disease over the next seven years," an official said.



Alarm for Humankind!

Half of World's Bird Species in Decline

Almost half of all bird species are in decline globally and one in eight are threatened with extinction, according to a major new report warning that human actions are driving more species to the brink and nature is "in trouble".

The four-yearly State of the World's Birds report, which provides a snapshot of the plight of species globally and more broadly a barometer for biodiversity, comes as the United Nations steers an international process to protect nature.

"One in eight bird species is threatened with extinction, and the status of the world's birds continues to deteriorate: species are moving ever faster towards extinction," said the report released this week by BirdLife International.

Using data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the report said 49 percent of bird species worldwide have declining populations, with populations falling even in species

not normally rare or at risk. Roughly 13 percent are considered threatened. The main threats include the growth of unsustainable agriculture, logging, invasive species, over-exploitation and climate change. Most bird populations face a combination of human-caused threats.

The natural world is in trouble. Human actions are driving species rapidly towards extinction, undermining ecosystem functions and services vital to our own survival," the report said.

BirdLife International, which has decades of survey

data, said there are now 2.9 billion fewer individual birds in North America than there were in 1970, an estimated drop of 29 percent.

The European Union has seen a net loss of around 600 million birds, roughly 18 percent since 1980.

In both cases, the losses are most acute among long-distance migrants and farmland birds.

BirdLife said many key bird preservation zones were in a poor state and called for a global push to protect and restore habitats.

In December, nations gather to finalise a treaty to halt the decline of biodiversity and set humanity on a path to "live in harmony with nature" by mid-century.

BirdLife International chief Patricia Zurita said the framework under negotiation was "the world's best and perhaps last chance to halt the loss of nature" and restore biodiversity.

"The birds and the rest of nature are depending on us. And we are depending on them," she said.

Ram Navami Violence

'PFI had collected Rs 55 lakh in name of helping Khargone riot-hit people'

Press Trust Of India

INDORE: The Popular Front of India (PFI) had tried to instigate a particular community following the violence during a Ram Navami procession in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone earlier this year, and collected around Rs 55 lakh in the name of helping the riot-affected people, a senior police official said.

The central government on Wednesday banned the PFI and several of its associates for five years under a stringent anti-terror law, accusing them of having "links" with global terror groups like ISIS.

"Our investigation found that the PFI, which turned into action locally after the violence in Khargone, tried to instigate a particular community and collected about Rs 55 lakh donation from them in the name of helping the riot-hit people," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Intelligence



An accused detained during a raid by Special Cell of the Delhi Police for his alleged association with Popular Front of India (PFI), at Amar Colony police station, in New Delhi on September 27, 2022. PTI

wing) Rajat Saklecha told PTI. Khargone city had witnessed communal clashes on April 10 during the Ram Navami celebrations, wherein stones were hurled, vehicles torched and some houses damaged, leading to the clamping of curfew in the entire city.

He said the PFI had started its activities in 2008, but the organisation came into the light after spearheading the

agitations against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR).

The police official said that the PFI started spreading its activities in the guise of different organisations and was trying to extend its base in entire western Madhya Pradesh, especially in the districts bordering Rajasthan.

RUSSIA VS NATO

Iranian drones give Russia new edge as it seeks to reverse losses

Elis Gjevori | MEA

First there was the Bayraktar TB2. Now there's the Shahed 136.

Armed drones have been a feature of Ukraine's conflict ever since the Russian invasion began in February.

Not only was Ukraine the first full-scale conflict between two advanced militaries to use armed drones, the aircraft spoke to the geopolitical faultlines emerging over the war, as Turkey's delivery of its flagship TB2s to Ukrainian forces caused consternation in Moscow.

This month, as Russia has reportedly struggled to manufacture its own models,

with Kyiv claiming to have shot down more than a dozen so far.

Iranian drones made their debut in the Ukrainian conflict in early September, following months of rumours that Tehran had sold hundreds to Moscow as Russia's invasion faced resolute resistance.

Iran and Russia have long held good relations and been partners in Syria's war over the past decade, yet Kyiv nonetheless also maintained diplomatic relations with Tehran. However, the introduction of Iranian drones prompted Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky last week to withdraw the accreditation of Iran's ambassador and significantly reduce the number of



Russian forces have been seen deploying Iranian combat drones instead.

Monday, the Ukrainian military confirmed that "military infrastructure" had been struck by two "kamikaze" drones in the port city of Odesa, widely believed to be sold to Russia by Iran. A third drone was destroyed by Ukrainian air defence systems in the same raid.

The latest attacks represent an expanded use of Iranian-made drones in Ukraine,

diplomatic staff at its embassy in Kyiv, a sign that the drones may be having some impact.

Named the Geran-2 in Russian service, the Shahed 136 has become the most widely used Iranian drone in recent weeks. Another Iranian drone, the Mohajer-6, which is considered to be multipurpose, was apparently shot down last week, with a Telegram channel associated with the Ukrainian military showing one being fished out of the sea.

'World Does Not Need Lessons From Pak On Human Rights'

Agencies

Geneva: Slamming Pakistan for atrocities against its minorities, India said that the world does not need lessons on democracy and human rights from a country whose contribution to the globalisation of terror is unparalleled.

Speaking at the General Debate at the 51st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India to UN, Seema Pujani said, "It is ironical that Pakistan, a state whose foundation was laid on communal ideologies speaks of communal disharmony and religious intolerance."

"The world does not need lessons on democracy and human rights from a country whose contribution to the globalisation of terror is unparalleled," she added.

Exercising its "right to reply" in response to the statement delivered by Pakistan

under the Agenda item the Indian diplomat said that it is in this obsession with puritanism that Pakistan has unleashed systematic persecution of its own minorities including Shias, Ahmadiyas, Ismailis and Hazaras who are subject to sectarian violence and systemic discrimination daily.

"Abductions forced conversions and forced marriages of Hindus Sikhs and Christians are apt examples of Pakistan's flourishing policy of religious intolerance and hatred," she highlighted and added, "Forced disappearances, state violence and forced mass displacements, harrassments, extrajudicial killings, army operations, torture, kill and dump camps, detention centres, military camps are rampant in Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa."

She condemned Pakistan for abducting thousands of balochs and Pashtuns and said that "no body knows the fate of the missing thousands of balochs and Pashtuns to date."

NEWS MAKERS

Kolkata App Fraud Rs 14.53 cr seized from cryptocurrency wallet of Amir Khan

The Kolkata Police have seized Rs 14.53 crore from a cryptocurrency wallet of Amir Khan, the prime accused in duping several people through a mobile gaming app E-Nuggets.

This amount is in addition to the Rs 17.32 crore worth of cash recovered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) from the residence of Amir Khan's father, Naser Khan, at Shahi Astabal Lane in Garden Reach area in Kolkata on September 10. Binance has been identified as the platform of the cryptocurrency wallet of Amir Khan where Rs 14.53 crore were deposited.

Amir Khan, who was arrested on September 24 by the Kolkata Police from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, is currently in custody of the city police and his next date of appearance at a lower court in Kolkata is October 8.

Meanwhile, the ED was also keen to



take Amir Khan in their custody in order to track the other beneficiaries of the scam. Depending on the developments at the court on October 8, the central agency will decide over its next course of legal proceedings in the matter.

On September 10, the ED conducted raids under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on six premises in Kolkata. Amir Khan had launched a mobile gaming application named E-Nuggets, which was designed for the purpose of defrauding the public.

Akash Ambani Only Indian On Time's 100 Emerging Leaders' List

New Delhi: Akash Ambani, son of billionaire Mukesh Ambani and head of India's largest telecom firm Jio, has been named in the Time100 Next - the magazine's list of the world's rising stars.

He is the only Indian on the list. There is, however, another Indian-born American business leader, Amrapali Gan, also on the list.

"The scion of Indian industrialist royalty, Akash Ambani was always expected to rise in business. But he has been putting in hard work," Time said about him.

The junior Ambani, 30, was promoted in June to the chairman of Jio, India's largest telecom company, with over 426 million subscribers, after



being handed a board seat at just 22. "He's since played a key role landing multibillion-dollar investments from Google and Facebook," it added.

The list highlights 100 emerging leaders who are shaping the future of business, entertainment, sports, politics, health,

science and activism, Time said.

The list features the likes of American singer SZA, actress Sydney Sweeney, basketball player Ja Morant, Spanish tennis player Carlos Alcaraz, actor and television personality Keke Palmer, and environment activist Farwiza Farhan.

SC Acquits Death Row Convict For Rape, Murder

New Delhi: "Court cannot make someone a victim of injustice to compensate for the injustice to the victim of a crime", the Supreme Court Wednesday said while acquitting a death row convict for the rape and murder of a six-year-old.

The court, which pulled up the Uttar Pradesh police for faulty investigation, also said by not conducting the investigation properly, the prosecution has done injustice to the family of the victim.

It said that when the offence is heinous, the Court is required to put the material evidence under higher scrutiny but the erroneous approach on the part of the Sessions Court and the High Court has led to the "poor man" being ordained to be dispatched to the gallows.

A bench of Justices S Abdul Nazeer, AS Bopanna, and V Ramasubramanian said that it cannot shy away from the fact that it is a ghastly case of rape and murder of a six-year-old child.

J&K Felicitated For Excelling In UN Sustainable Development Goals

Observer News Service

New Delhi: In yet another significant accomplishment, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has received felicitations for its remarkable contribution towards achieving 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during last couple of years.

Secretary, Mining Department, Amit Sharma, received the honour on behalf of J&K government during a felicitation ceremony held in this regard. He also participated in a power-packed panel discussion, along with Secretaries of States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Maharashtra, on achieving carbon neutrality and sharing perspectives towards eco sensitivities in respective states and UTs for saving planet earth.

Also, Goa Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh were also felicitated on the occasion.

Amit, while speaking on the occasion, shared significant achievements of J&K towards the goal of Carbon Neutrality wherein Panchayat in Palli has been fully powered with solar energy with a 500 KW solar plant. Several works are being carried out in Palli Panchayat only through power supplied by this solar plant. He mentioned that this unique initiative was inaugurated by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in April this year in J&K as a follow up of UN Climate Change Glasgow Conference.

Rs 5.27 Cr Okayed For Various Road Safety Measures In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Road Safety Council (RSC) on Wednesday approved Rs 5.27 crore for various road safety measures in the Union Territory, an official spokesman said.

The approval was given at a meeting of the RSC chaired by Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, advisor to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, here, he said.

Frequent accidents, especially in hilly districts, are consuming precious lives across Jammu and Kashmir.

The spokesman said the meeting took some important decisions for effective traffic management as well as other road safety measures.



The RSC approved an amount of Rs 5 crore for rectification of black spots by installing crash barriers, sign boards, signages and paravents besides the purchase of breath analysers and procurement of first responder kits for traffic police vehicles.

"Traffic management has become technology-driven and necessary technological interventions are the need of the hour for effective traffic management and road safety

measures across Jammu and Kashmir," Bhatnagar said, addressing the meeting.

He impressed upon the officers to identify the factors contributing majorly to road accidents. He said due measures should be taken to ensure that the occurrence of accidents is contained to its maximum possible extent.

The advisor also directed to identify critical black spots on highways as well as other roads immediately and rec-

tify them on priority basis.

Bhatnagar asked the officers that in-depth analysis of data obtained through Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), Road Accident Data Management System (RADMS) and Integrated Road Accident Database (I-RAD) should be done as it will help in devising safety interventions and analysing the causes of road crashes.

Calling for augmentation and upgrading the traffic department, the advisor enjoined upon the officers that the traffic policemen should be trained and necessary equipment should be provided to them so that they can perform their duties effectively and efficiently.

Eidgah To Be Developed As State-Of-Art Playground Of Shahr-E-Khas : Div Com Pole

Agencies

Srinagar: Eidgah will be developed as the state-of the art playground in Shahr-e-Khas that will have at least 10 scientifically developed turfs, upgraded football ground while the park will be upgraded as a major attraction with all modern facilities, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P K Pole said Wednesday.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir said: "I visited the area today to assess the sports facilities available to the youth. I directed officials to create more sports facilities for youth in the area."

As far the Cancer facilities, he said nearby SKIMS Soura and AIIMS already upgraded facilities to treat Cancer patients. "Eidgah will be developed on modern lines as one of the best playgrounds of Shahr-e-Khass. It will have scien-



tifically developed 10 turfs for cricket players, an upgraded football ground.

The nearby park will also be upgraded as a major attraction with all modern facilities," he said. Pole's announcement comes days after Waqf Board Chairperson Darakshan Andrabi has stated that the Board will construct a Cancer hospital at Eidgah, Srinagar. Her announcement had sparked massive protests by youth of downtown. (KNO)

Iqbal Lone Named Commissioner For Persons With Disabilities

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Wednesday appointed Iqbal Lone, an eminent rights activist, as Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

In a notification, the Social Welfare department ordered the appointment of Iqbal Lone as commissioner for persons with disabilities.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 79 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 read with sub-rule (5) of rule 42 of the Jammu and Kashmir Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2021, the

Government hereby appoint

Mr. Mohd. Iqbal Lone S/O Ab. Rashid Lone R/o Village Ashtangoo, Tehsil Aloosa, district Bandipora, Kashmir as Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, J&K for a period of three years from the date he assumes the office or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier," reads the notification.

This is the first statutory rights body reconstituted by the Jammu & Kashmir Government after August 5, 2019.

Lone also served as commissioner for persons with disabilities in the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir. The Commission was wound up after the

Central Government effected constitutional changes and did away with state laws including the statute under which the body was constituted.

Lone, who has worked in the non-governmental development sector for more than two decades, is a postgraduate in social work and has also studied human rights.

He has been awarded three international fellowships in his professional work.

This is the first time that the government has appointed a commissioner for persons with disabilities through an open competition—(KNO)

RTI Movement Holds Workshop On Access To Info Day

Appeals LG To Provide Online RTI Facility In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To commemorate the International Access to Information day , the Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement Wednesday held a workshop on RTI Act 2005 at Khyber Public School Chadoora Budgam.

The participants during the workshop urged Lt Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha to provide filing of online RTI applications in J&K.

Speaking at the workshop Chairman RTI Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar said that the theme of International Access to Information Day -2022 is Artificial Intelligence, e-Governance and Access to Information which stresses on making all the information digitally available. " By not giving citizens the

facility of filing online RTI applications , the dream of digital India or e-Governance cannot be achieved. It is very difficult to get a Postal Order of Rs 10 from a post office and then taking printouts of the RTI application and then sending the same via speed post to Govt offices in J&K. It is consuming a lot of time for RTI applicants and in 21st century this looks quite obsolete. If there is a provision in the law itself to seek information digitally / electronically , why are these facilities denied to people of J & K? " said Dr Raja Muzaffar while speaking during the workshop.

Among others who spoke during the workshop included Dr Mushtaq Khan, Shahnawaz Sultan , Dr Rauf Malik, Advocate Nazir , Advocate Badrul Dujja, Syed Farhat ,

Mushtaq Ahmad and others

Pertinently the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on 17 November 2015, declared that International Day for Universal Access to Information will be observed on September 28, every year. Several organizations and governmental bodies adhered to the declaration by UNESCO.

The theme of this year's Global Conference organised by UNESCO is being held at Tashkent and the theme of the conference is "Artificial Intelligence, e-Governance and Access to Information". The conference includes a high-level opening and an inter-ministerial roundtable on Access to Information and Artificial Intelligence with international experts.

ADDC Shopian Chairs Block Diwas At Gagren


Observer News Service

Shopian: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Manzoor Hussain on Wednesday chaired a Block Diwas programme at Gagren, here.

The people of Ganowpora, Nadigam and adjacent villages projected their demands and issues of public importance during the block diwas programme which includes demands regarding road connectivity, uninterrupted power supply, construction of bund, repairs of lanes and drains etc.

Addressing the function, the ADDC stressed upon the officers to be more responsive towards the public while dealing with their demands and issues and exhorted upon them for early redressal of genuine demands raised by the villagers.

He said the main motive behind holding these Block diwas programmes is to reach out to the people and to listen to them at their door steps and resolve their grievances and ensure better coordination in developmental works between different stakeholders.



J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

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Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department
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POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Javid Rashid, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 04.11.2019 thereby calling upon the Borrowers namely 1) Mr. Nissar Ahmad Mir S/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir & 2) Mr. Umar Nissar Mir S/o Nissar Ahmad Mir both residents of H.No.49, Housing Colony, Sanat Nagar, Bypass, Srinagar (both partners of partnership firm M/s M.K.Profile, Industrial Estates, Zainakote, Srinagar), Mr. Fahad Nazir Wasil S/o Ghulam Ahmad Wasil R/o Canal Avenue Rawalpore Srinagar (Guarantor) & Mr. Imtiyaz Ahmad Gujree S/o Bashir Ahmad Gujree R/o Sheikh ul Alam Colony Bye Pass Nowgam, Srinagar (Guarantor) to repay an amount of Rs. 22,16,22,952.87 (Rupees twenty-two crore sixteen lac twenty-two thousand nine hundred fifty-two & paise eighty-seven only) being the balance outstanding as on 30.09.2019 in the accounts of the Borrowers, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken symbolic possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 26th day of September 2022.

The said borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 31,27,22,839.87 (Rupees thirty-one crore twenty seven lac twenty two thousand eight hundred thirty nine and paise eighty-seven only) together with future interest thereon from 01.09.2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property
(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)
Mortgage of lease hold rights of a plot of land measuring 03 (three kanals) situated at Industrial Estates, Zainakote, Srinagar leased out to M/s M.K.Profile by SIDCO along with Civil Structures buildings etc.

Dated:-26.09.2022
Place : Srinagar.

Asaf Rasool Kanue
Authorized Officer

DIPK-NR-4123/22

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
E-NIT No. 162 of 2022-23/6921-30 dated 26/09/2022/CHADOORA
Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadoora on behalf of LT. Governor of J&K UT invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (Rs) CDR/ FDR/BG	Time of Completion (days)	AA STATUS	TS STATUS	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Restoration of Charisharief road at Mochwa Chowk Chadoora by way of P/L of 75 mm thick WMM 50 mm Thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm Thick Semi dense Bituminous Concrete with 6 mm thick Seal coat. Machine Mix to be laid with paver.	15.00	600.00	30,000	05	N/A	CE(R&B)/K/TS/ 673 OF 2022-23 DT 24/09/2022	B/C/D
2	Restoration of Madina Colony Including C.P Kalan and Check No 1 at B.K Pora by way of providing and laying of 75 mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick Semidense with 6mm thick Seal Coat(Machine Mix to be laid with Paver)	24.99	800.00	49,980	07	N/A	CE(R&B)/K/TS/ 669 OF 2022-23 DT 24/09/2022	B/C
3	Restoration of Chinar Colony B.K.Pora(Balance Portion) by way of providing and laying of 75 mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick Semidense with 6mm thick Seal Coat(Machine Mix to be laid with Paver)	10.00	600.00	20,000	05	N/A	CE(R&B)/K/TS/ 670 OF 2022-23 DT 24/09/2022	C/D
4	Restoration of Gratbal and Germander Link at Chadoora by way of providing and laying of 75 mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick Semidense with 6mm thick Seal Coat(Machine mix to be laid with Paver)	18.00	800.00	36,000	07	N/A	CE(R&B)/K/TS/ 672 OF 2022-23 DT 24/09/2022	B/C
5	Restoration of H.S.S Link, ZEO Office Lane, Including Gulposh Colony at Nagam by way of providing and laying of 75 mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick Semidense Bituminous Concrete with 6mm thick Seal Coat(Machine Mix to be laid with Paver)	14.98	600.00	29,960	07	N/A	CE(R&B)/K/TS/ 668 OF 2022-23 DT 24/09/2022	B/C/D
6	Restoration of New Khanday Colony Chadoora Town by way of providing and laying of 75 mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick Semidense with 6mm thick Seal Coat(Machine Mix to be laid with Paver)	10.00	600.0	20,000	05	N/A	CE(R&B)/K/TS/ 671 OF 2022-23 DT 24/09/2022	C/D

Note:- Civil contractors A/B/C/D shall mandatorily upload an undertaking as per Clause 13 (vi) of this NIT.

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of funds: Available

MH: POTHOLE

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26/09/2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27/09/2022
3.	Bid submission Start Date	27/09/2022
4.	Bid Submission End Date	03/10/2022 upto 4.00 PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	03/10/2022 4.10 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

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

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

Note:- The Bidders shall mention the name of the advertised work/ reference to NIT & S. No. on the EMD / Bid security (CDR/FDR/BG) while submitting the bidding documents, in order to avoid using the same multiple times for multiple works.

4. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

5. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

1.2 In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.

1.3 Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted.

1.4 Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.

1.5 Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.

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

6 The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances.

7 The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other Uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced on demand by the successful bidder at the time of contract signing, and in the case of unsuccessful bidders, 2 percent EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora, will be released only after production of Original Treasury Challan of uploaded Scanned copy (Cost of tender document).

8 Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

9 Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.

10 Price escalation and Taxes:- The bidder's percentage shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to the completion of the work. Taxes shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the time of recovery at the rates in effect at the time of recovery.

11 Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B e-Tendering portal user account to store any required documents.

12 All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information. (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):

No: 6921-30

DIPK-10861/22

Dated: 26/09/2022

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Chadoora

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Embattled Apple Trade

Road repairs along the Jammu-Srinagar highway have halted thousands of trucks carrying apple produce to the markets in other parts of the country. This has triggered protests by apple farmers who fear the further delay will rot the produce. This, in turn, would not only cause massive losses to the farmers but also inflict a crushing blow to the Valley’s economy as a whole. According to an estimate, there are 8000 trucks stranded on the highway carrying apples worth Rs 8000 crore. Incidentally, this year has witnessed a bumper crop of apples, more than 2.1 million metric tonnes, according to a statement by the divisional commissioner Pandurang K Pole. But the delay in reaching markets in New Delhi and the other parts can turn it all to dust.

This has, as a result, generated deep worry among the farmers. The people in the Valley at large have also become concerned about the already beleaguered sector. The Kashmir Valley produces two-thirds of the country’s apples and earns around Rs 10,000 crore from the industry. This makes the sector a backbone of Kashmir’s economy. Already, the growing costs of pesticides and transportation have reduced considerably the returns from exports. And if the sector suffers major losses because of the ongoing turmoil, it would not only affect the apple farmers but also the economy as a whole. Currently, five lakh families (around 25 lakh people) in the state are practicing horticulture. Apple occupies around 40 percent of the total area under fruit and accounts for 90 percent of the total production of fruits in the state. The existing state of affairs is thus grim news for the region.

It is incumbent on the government to intervene and ensure that the trucks are given a smooth passage. In fact, the government needs to do more to ensure that the apples get a fair price as lakhs of families depend on the trade for their livelihood. In past, the government’s efforts to salvage the apple season through Market Intervention Scheme haven’t succeeded. National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) was accused by the apple farmers of paying less money per kilogram of apple. So, they prefer selling outside to earn higher profit. And to that end, a hassle-free transportation is critical and government needs to step in to ensure it and everything is done to save the apple trade. The governments needs not only to ensure a safe environment and safe passage for the trade but also an effort not to politicize the sector.

OTHER OPINION

New Design

India has long argued for reforms to the United Nations, especially to its top executive body, the Security Council. Over the past week, a series of signals from other countries suggests that New Delhi’s plea might finally be gaining urgent traction. In his address to the UN General Assembly on Sunday, the external affairs minister, S. Jaishankar, described the current architecture of the UN as anachronistic and ineffective, and argued that multilateral reforms were a core focus of the governance agenda of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He argued that the changes needed to make the UN and other multilateral agencies more democratic could no longer wait. Mr Jaishankar also suggested that the desire for reforms in the UN system was shared by many other member nations. While speeches at the UNGA are often laced with bombast, in this case, the Indian foreign minister appears to be on the mark. Indeed, the 77th session of the General Assembly, which concluded on Tuesday, saw multiple world leaders highlighting the need for UN reforms when it was their turn to speak. They included Joe Biden, the president of the United States of America, as well Volodymyr Zelensky, the president of Ukraine. Echoing them for once was their arch-enemy, Sergey Lavrov, the foreign minister of Russia, who specifically named India and Brazil as worthy candidates in a reformed and expanded Security Council.

To be clear, each of these advocates for reforms has self-interest in mind. Mr Zelensky has argued that the Security Council should remove Russia’s veto rights, which allow it to block most meaningful UN action against its war in Ukraine. The US, meanwhile, has shown renewed interest in changing the make-up of the Security Council — also because of the war — to try and reduce the influence of Russia and China in the body. At the same time, both the US and Russia are hopeful that as a Security Council member, India will align more with them than with their rivals. India has its own bugbears. China recently used its veto power to block sanctions against Pakistan-backed terrorists. France and the United Kingdom, which make up the five permanent members of the Security Council alongside the US, Russia and China, have backed India’s membership to the body. While no reforms are imminent, the war in Ukraine has provided fresh momentum toward a new world order, just as the Second World War birthed the current global system. India must stay ready to grab its moment.

Telegraph India

Why Ukraine
Referendum Is A Big Deal

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

The referendum on September 23-27 in the Donbass and southern Kherson and Zaporozhye regions of Ukraine on their accession to Russian Federation is, prima facie, an exercise of the right of self-determination by the native population who reject the western-backed regime change in Kiev in 2014 and the ascendancy of extreme nationalist forces with neo-Nazi leanings in the power structure.

But it has other dimensions, too. In all probability, the referendum will overwhelmingly opt for accession to Russian Federation. In Donbass, it is a straightforward question: “Do you support the entry of the DPR into the Russian Federation as a subject of the Russian Federation?” For Kherson and the Zaporozhye Cossacks, the referendum ascertains three sequential decisions: secession of these territories from Ukraine; formation of an independent state; and its entry into the Russian Federation as a subject.

In 2014, all legal procedures for the admission of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation were completed in four days. An expeditious process can be expected this time around too. There is huge mass support within Russia for reunification with the ethnic Russian populations in the eastern and southern regions of Ukraine who suffered severe persecution during the past 8-year period, including brutal violence, at the hands of extremist Ukrainian nationalist elements in control of the state apparatus. This is a highly emotive issue for the Russian people.

In the post-cold war era, the genie of self-determination was first let out of the bottle by the West during the dismemberment of the former Yugoslavia. Although the US midwifed the secession of Kosovo from Serbia as far back as in 1999-2008, the entity is yet to be accorded recognition by the UN. Serbia rejects the secession despite sustained western pressure.

That said, the Kosovo precedent will not stop the western powers from condemning the accession of regions of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

The big question today is about the Russian calculus. President Vladimir Putin has surely factored in that the accession of the “Russian regions” of eastern and southern Ukraine is an immensely popular decision in the domestic opinion. He has never hidden that he is acutely sensitive about the hopes and aspirations of his nation. The most revealing (and authoritative) comments on this topic have come from the former President Dmitry Medvedev.

Medvedev wrote in his Telegram channel: “Referendums in



Suffice to say, the referendum on Wednesday is Russia’s only available course of action under the circumstances, while Kiev maintains a maximalist position as advised by the US, UK and Poland

Donbass are of great importance not only for the systemic protection of the inhabitants of the LNR, DNR (Donbass) and other liberated territories, but also for the restoration of historical justice.”

In Medvedev’s opinion, these plebiscites “completely change the vector of Russia’s development for decades.” He adds, “And not only our country. Because after they (referendums) are held and the new territories are accepted into Russia, the geopolitical transformation in the world will become irreversible.”

Most important, Medvedev forewarns, “An encroachment on the territory of Russia is a crime, the commission of which allows you to use all the forces of self-defence.”

Furthermore, he says, once the process of annexation of the new territories is completed, “not a single future leader of Russia, not a single official will be able to reverse these decisions. That is why these referendums are so feared in Kiev and in the West. That is why they need to be carried out.”

What emerges is that Russia has given up hopes of any negotiated settlement. Moscow was initially optimistic that Kiev would negotiate, but the bitter experience turned out to be that President Zelensky was not a free agent. The US-UK tandem undermined the accord negotiated by Russian and Ukrainian officials in Istanbul in April under Turkish mediation. The Biden Administration holds the stop watch for the proxy war. And Washington’s timeline is linked to the weakening and destruction of Russian state, which has been the ultimate US objective. Lest we forget, Joe Biden played a seminal role in installing the new regime in Kiev in 2014 and in moulding Ukraine as an anti-Russian state.

Suffice to say, the referendum on Wednesday is Russia’s only available course of action under the circumstances, while Kiev maintains a maximalist position as advised by the US, UK and Poland.

The accession of Donbass, Kherson and Zaporozhye creates a new political reality and Russia’s partial mobilisation on parallel track is intended to provide the military underpinning for it. The accession signifies a paradigm shift insofar as any further attacks on these regions can be construed by Moscow as attacks on Russia’s territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Certainly, Kiev’s wanton attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in Donbass, Kherson and Zaporozhye will trigger Russian reaction. Any attack will be considered aggression and Moscow reserves the right to respond “adequately.” The fact the Russian deployment in these territories will be significantly augmented and upgraded signals the willingness to use force.

Meanwhile, Russia’s special military operations will continue until its set objectives are fully realised. Which means, even more territories may come under Russian control, creating ever newer facts on the ground, whilst the track of dialogue has become extinct. And, of course, all this will be playing out at a juncture when Europe descends into recession, as sanctions against Russia boomerang. It is improbable that European public will support their governments to enter into a war with Russia over Ukraine. Kiev and its mentors in Washington and London need to factor all this very carefully.

The Pentagon spokesman Patrick Ryder has reacted as follows: “No one will take such bogus referendums seriously, and the US

will certainly not recognise their results. How will this affect our and international support for Ukraine? This will not affect in any way, we will continue to work with Ukraine and our international partners to provide them with the necessary assistance to protect their territory.”

That is a sufficiently evasive statement couched in brave words. Neither Pentagon nor the Russian military command will risk brinkmanship. The likelihood is that the accession of the new territories to the Russian Federation will not be militarily challenged by the US or NATO.

That said, Russia is anyway at war with the NATO, as Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu said, albeit not in terms of US weapons supplies, which “we find ways to counter,” but in the Western systems that exist — communication systems, information processing systems, reconnaissance systems and satellite intelligence systems.

The point is, the accession of Donbass, Kherson and Zaporozhye regions to the Russian Federation is an irrevocable step that cannot and will not be undone for as long as Russian Federation remains an independent state, as Medvedev underlined. The US — and the “Collective West” and NATO — would know it. Plainly put, the NATO’s proxy-war algorithm has become obsolete and becomes a museum piece.

The CIA’s analogy of the Afghan jihad of the 1980s does not hold good anymore — i.e., if it ever did at all. In effect, Russia has avoided a “quagmire” in Ukraine and is on its way to turn the table on the NATO.

In Putin’s national address Wednesday, he had said: “In the event of a threat to the territorial integrity of our country and to defend Russia and our people, we will certainly make use of all weapon systems available to us. This is not a bluff.” Putin also said Russia has superior nuclear strike capability.

To make things doubly sure that the message has gone home, Moscow lifted the veil today on its newest ICBM, Sarmat. The results of the referendum must be determined not later than 5 days after the last voting day (Sept. 27), and the issue of accession to Russia is considered approved if more than 50% of the plebiscite participants vote for it. Significantly, the Russian State Duma is scheduled to hold plenary sessions in Moscow on September 27 and 28.

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



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer’s name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Encourage Drug De-addiction

A recent study conducted by Srinagar based Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (IMHANS) in a Drug De-addiction centre in Srinagar, found that over two-third of patients in the study had started substance abuse in the age group of 11-20 years. The most common substances of abuse identified included nicotine (94.4%), medicinal opioids (65.7%), cannabis (63.6%), benzodiazepines (45.5%), other prescription medications (43.4%), alcohol (32.5%), inhalants (11.1%), and cocaine (7.5%). The study revealed that poly-substance abuse was found in 91.9% of the studied patients. Inhalant use was seen predominantly among adolescents (54.5%) whereas nicotine (50.2%), cannabis (49.2%), alcohol (51.1%), opioids (58.4%), and benzodiazepines (53.48%) were more predominant in the age group of 21 to 30 years. According to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and

Empowerment (MoSJE) in February 2019, 600,000 people, i.e. 4.6 percent of the total population of Jammu and Kashmir use opioid drugs, 80 percent of the drug addicts in Kashmir use heroin and morphine.

The problem of drug abuse not only affects the physical, mental and social health of the individuals but it disturbs and burdens the whole family. It also gives great threat to family happiness and creates individual, family, economic and social disorganization.

The Kashmir disputes such as political turmoil, armed conflict, Militancy, violence, terrorism, psychological distress, unfavorable environmental conditions and rapid socio-economic problems like poor industrial and infrastructural development, mass unemployment, corruption, poverty, underdevelopment etc. have leading a rising number of drug addicts in Kashmiri society. The use of tobacco, charas, Ganga,

cocaine, heroin, opiates cannabis, alcohol and inhalant substances etc. has been growing rapidly among the adolescents in Kashmir. The use of these illicit drugs posing a big threat to humanity, by deteriorating adolescents mentally and physically, damaging family relations, spoiling potentiality, dreams, degrading the social and moral values and becoming a hindrance in shaping their career as well as progress and development of the societies

The measures of drug abuse are critical, because drug use, at its core, is a health issue. Unless we reduce demand for illicit drugs, we can never fully tackle cultivation, production or trafficking. Governments have a responsibility to counteract both drug trafficking and drug abuse, but communities can also make a major contribution. Families, schools, civil society and religious organizations can do their part to rid their communities of drugs. Businesses can help

provide legitimate livelihoods. The media can raise awareness about the dangers of narcotics. We can succeed if we reinforce our commitment to the basic principles of health and human rights, shared responsibility, a balanced approach to reducing supply and demand, and universal access to prevention, treatment and support. This will foster communities free of drug-related crime and violence, individuals free of drug dependence who can contribute to our common future and a safer world for all.

It is high time to save our generation from drug abuse and If we do not take concrete steps now, then after some years, the young generation of Kashmir will be destroyed. Police taking action against drug abuse is not enough. We as a society have to act responsibly.

M Ahmad
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Cameron Allan McKean

As you read this article, time will seem to pass. Right now, you are reading these words, but now you are reading these ones. What was present just an instant ago seems to have already slipped into the past. You will carry this feeling with you – as objects change and move, as thoughts run through your head, as feelings ebb and flow – until you fall asleep tonight. Heraclitus thought that time was like a river: ‘Everything flows and nothing abides; everything gives way and nothing stays fixed.’ Our experience of the world seems to back this up. It certainly feels as if time is sweeping us along. Yet, physicists and philosophers will tell you that Heraclitus was wrong. Time, they say, does not actually pass. In his book *The Order of Time* (2018), the Italian theoretical physicist Carlo Rovelli writes:

What could be more universal and obvious than this flowing?

And yet things are somewhat more complicated than this. Reality is often very different from what it seems. The Earth appears to be flat but is in fact spherical. The Sun seems to revolve in the sky when it is really we who are spinning. Neither is the structure of time what it seems to be: it is different from this uniform, universal flowing.

So, what is the real structure of time? Well, it’s complicated. Some think that time is like space: the past, present and future are all equally real locations. Some, like Rovelli, think time emerges directly from the laws of thermodynamics and quantum mechanics. Physicists and philosophers may have different approaches to the structure of time, but what unites them is a rejection of the notion that there is a ‘now’, a present moment, that moves from the past toward the future. If that is true, and time does not really move, we are left with a question: why does it seem to pass? We would never mistake a frozen river for a running one, so, if nothing flows and everything abides, why does it feel as if time is rushing by?

Perhaps it’s just an illusion. Our senses tell us that time is passing, but we are perceiving something that isn’t really there. To see an illusion is to see a way the world could be, but isn’t: the Earth looks flat when it is actually round; optical illusions can make identical lines appear to be different lengths. These illusions present real possibilities – it’s easy to find places in the world where you could experience something flat that wasn’t an illusion, or experience one line that really was longer than another. But if Rovelli and others are right,

there is nowhere you could go to truly experience the flowing time that Heraclitus talked about. It is not a real possibility. Just as the world is not set up for someone to hallucinate a square circle, the world is not for the illusion. So if the flow of time, what is it?

Thinking a thought is not like watching an ice cream melt, or a chameleon change colour

Some philosophers say that time seems to pass due to the way we perceive change. They argue that moving objects appear ‘dynamic’, and that we mistake this dynamism for time passing. To see what they mean, imagine watching a movie where each frame was shown for two full seconds. You would see a series of static scenes with people and objects in slightly different positions. First Jackie Chan’s fist is here, then there, then it is in contact with someone’s face. Although it would be clear that each image shows the actor in a slightly different position, you would not see him moving. Now, imagine seeing those frames at the speed they would be played in a cinema: 24 frames per second. Suddenly, the sense that you are looking at a series of static scenes disappears, and you can’t see where one frame ends and the next begins. Chan’s fist is no longer simply there, then there, then there; he now appears to be punching someone. You are looking at the very same series of static frames in both the slow case and the fast case. But the flowing ‘dynamism’ you see in a cinema is a quality added by your perceptual system.

What does this have to do with time seeming to pass? Our perceptual systems do not just add a dynamic look to things we see in movies, but also to the things we see in the real world. Change in the world appears to flow smoothly because our perceptual systems transform moving objects in the same way they do static frames of Jackie Chan: they superimpose a dynamism on to them that they do not possess. Because we fail to recognise that this is a product of our minds rather than a feature of reality, we have come to believe that the world is dynamic, and that time really flows. That’s one theory, anyway.

PERHAPS IT’S JUST AN ILLUSION. OUR SENSES TELL US THAT TIME IS PASSING, but we are perceiving something that isn’t really there. To see an illusion is to see a way the world could be, but isn’t: the Earth looks flat when it is actually round; optical illusions can make identical lines appear to be different lengths

But what about those moments when we are not perceiving change? The room you are currently in might be entirely still, yet time seems to continually flow. In such cases, we might be tempted to say that time still passes – that the world seems dynamic – because we continue to experience our thoughts changing just like we experience objects changing in the world. However, though thoughts rush through our heads from the moment we wake up to the moment we sleep, we don’t experience individual thoughts changing in the same way that we perceive changes in objects. Thinking a thought is not like watching an ice cream melt, or a chameleon change colour. As an experiment,

try to think a single thought – make sure you don’t accidentally think two thoughts. Keep it in your mind, and observe whether it changes. I suspect that you found this exercise difficult.

Thoughts jump around, and it is hard to know where one ends and the next begins. The experience of thinking is nothing like seeing objects change. Our inner thoughts don’t explain why time still seems to pass even when we are not perceiving differences in the world. Appealing to our perceptions of change to explain the feeling of flowing time might not be such a promising approach after all. Something else is going on here.

The arguments above – that flowing time is an illusion or a result of how we experience changing objects – appeal to our perception of the world to explain why time seems to pass. We see, smell, hear or feel things moving and changing, but perhaps the feeling of time passing is not related to our experience of sensing the world. We also feel pain in our bodies; feel emotions, intuitions and yearnings. The important word here is ‘feel’. In these cases, we are not perceiving the outside world. These non-perceptual experiences include the feeling of doing things, of making changes in the world: we feel ourselves walking and running, opening doors and tapping screens, talking and listening. I think time passing is a result of how we experience the changes that we make in our daily lives.

When you reach for your coffee cup or stand up from your desk, you have a sense that you are causing your body to move. In a similar way, you experience yourself as the author of most of the bodily movements that you make. You can also experience yourself performing mental actions: you can deliberately shift your attention away from these words to the sound of the traffic outside or consciously try to remember the last place you saw your house keys. The sense that we are causing our bodily or mental actions can be thought of as a unique type of change experience. However, this kind of change is not one we perceive out there in the world (like watching Jackie Chan punch someone or hearing a plane fly through the air). It’s a kind of change we feel ourselves causing.

When you move your body, you feel yourself making changes in the world around you; when you refocus your thoughts, you experience yourself changing the landscape of your mind. We could call this ‘agentive change’ – change that an agent (like you, for example) experiences themselves as causing – and it is pervasive in a way that perceptual experiences of change in our external environment are not. As long as you are awake, you won’t stop thinking, meaning that the feeling of making mental changes persists (even in a sensory deprivation tank).

Tied up with our sense that we are the cause of our actions is the feeling that we can stop doing whatever it is we are doing and start doing something different. If you wanted, you could close this browser tab right now and get up from where you are sitting. But, though we can change our behaviour, the possibility of performing no bodily or mental action whatsoever is never an option. As long as you are awake, you will never feel as if you can stop causing change. Jean-Paul Sartre declared that mankind was ‘condemned to be free’; similarly, we find ourselves at every waking moment condemned to act. Of course, we stop acting when we fall asleep but, as any insomniac will tell you, sleep is something you must wait for, not something you do. You can hasten sleep’s arrival, but you cannot switch yourself off like a laptop.

I believe that this leads us to mistake the feeling of doing – moving, thinking, focusing – for the feeling of time passing. We experience ourselves as perpetually, helplessly active. This is likely a product of our neurophysiology. Brains don’t stop: information is continually being received, recalled, processed and responded to, so it is not surprising that we always find ourselves doing something. But we are not consciously aware of this fact. In fact, consciousness does not provide any explanation as to why we find ourselves in such a state. We are driven to keep making changes. And it is here that we make a mistake. Rather than blaming our neurophysiology for the feeling that we must constantly act, we blame the world outside: we mistakenly think that some outside force (like a flowing river of time) is responsible for the ever-present feeling that we are being ‘pushed along’.

We are condemned to act. It is not, as Heraclitus imagined, that ‘everything flows and nothing abides’. Instead, the feeling of being swept along is the result of our brains’ constant churning. We mistake our own momentum for that of the world. Time does not flow. We do.

The article was originally published by Psyche

SCIENCE NEWS

Our Enduring Fascination With Outer Space

Nancy Shute

The glowing dots in the night sky have enthralled for as long as people could look skyward. Our desire to figure out what makes the stars blaze and why some of the celestial bodies move in strange ways has sparked centuries of conjecture, observation and exploration, from the simple telescope Galileo used to observe Mars in the early 1600s to the new James Webb Space Telescope, a 14,300-pound behemoth with a mirror so big it had to be folded up to fit into the launch vehicle.

Count us here at Science News among those fascinated by space. We’ve covered it from the 1920s, when astronomer Edwin Hubble started making his big discoveries, through the launch of the first satellite, Sputnik, in 1957, and the “space race” that put people on the moon in 1969. Now, increasingly sophisticated robots are independently exploring other planets and even the sun, and reporting back to us here on Earth.



This issue’s cover story celebrates the 25th anniversary of rovers on the surface of Mars, starting with the arrival of tiny Sojourner on July 4, 1997. Three rovers are currently

hard at work probing the Red Planet’s surface and atmosphere. Those machines, NASA’s Curiosity and Perseverance – the SUVs of Mars vehicles – and China’s smaller Zhurong, are greatly expanding Mars exploration, contributor Alexandra Witze writes. Perseverance is collecting rock samples that future missions can return to Earth. It even serves as home base for the tiny helicopter dubbed Ingenuity that has buzzed around dozens of times, outliving its anticipated life span and delighting its creators and the public alike.

That’s not the only space news worth noting. In July, NASA revealed the first images delivered by the James Webb Space Telescope, and they are mind-blowing. They look back in time more than 13 billion years to reveal swarms of never-before-seen galaxies. The idea of building a giant telescope and shooting it into space was audacious when it was dreamed up in the 1980s. And the project was plagued by years of delays and massive cost overruns. Even after its successful launch in December, scientists and engineers held their breaths, fearing that the craft would fail to

complete the complicated task of unfolding its mirror and five-layered sunshield. After all that, seeing these radiant images and knowing there will be many more (and more new discoveries) on the way, it seems worth the wait.

And why stop there? This issue also covers how months in space affect astronauts’ bone health, which is bad news for those of us who would like to travel to Mars and also stand upright afterward. We report the results of the latest efforts to find elusive dark matter. And we also relay how quantum messaging might help aliens communicate with us on Earth. Here’s hoping that they’ll be more like E.T. than like the creature in the Alien movies.

If it feels like there’s an abundance of amazing stuff happening in astronomy, cosmology and astrophysics these days, you’re right. To help you keep up, we’ve launched a space newsletter. Sign up and you’ll get our latest coverage rocketing into your inbox every other Friday.

This article was originally published by Science News

Blood Test Could Predict People At Risk Of Long Covid: Lancet Study

Press Trust Of India

A blood test could predict if a person infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus will develop long COVID, a study published in the Lancet eBioMedicine journal suggests.

Some people who have been infected with COVID-19 experience long-term effects from their infection, known as long COVID.

The researchers at University College London (UCL) in the UK analysed proteins in the blood of health care workers infected with SARS-CoV-2, comparing them to samples from those who had not been infected.

They found a dramatic difference in levels of some of the proteins up to six weeks following infection, suggesting disruption to a number of important biological processes.

Using an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm, the team identified a "signature" in the abundance of different proteins that successfully predicted whether or not the person would go on to report persistent symptoms a year after infection.

The researchers said that, if these findings are repeated in a larger, independent group of patients, a test could potentially be offered alongside a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test that could predict people's likelihood of developing long COVID.

"Our study shows that even mild or asymptomatic COVID-19 disrupts the profile of proteins in our blood plasma," said study lead author Gaby Captur from UCL.

"This means that even mild COVID-19 affects normal biological processes in a dramatic way, up to at least six weeks after infection," Captur said.

The method of analysis used in the study is readily available in hospitals and is high-throughput, meaning it can analyse thousands of samples in a short time.

If we can identify people who are likely

to develop long COVID, this opens the door to trialling treatments such as antivirals at this earlier, initial infection stage, to see if it can reduce the risk of later long COVID," said study senior author Wendy Heywood from UCL.

The researchers analysed blood plasma samples from 54 health care workers who had PCR- or antibody-confirmed infection, taken every week for six weeks in spring 2020.

They compared the samples with those taken over the same period from 102 health care workers who were not infected.

The researchers used targeted mass

spectrometry, a form of analysis that is extremely sensitive to tiny changes in the amount of proteins in blood plasma, to look at how COVID-19 affected these proteins over the course of six weeks.

They found abnormally high levels of 12 proteins out of the 91 studied among those infected by SARS-CoV-2.

The team found that at the time of first infection, abnormal levels of 20 proteins studied were predictive of persistent symptoms after one year.

Most of these proteins were linked to anti-clotting and anti-inflammatory processes.

Drinking Coffee Linked With Enhanced Longevity, Study Finds

Press Trust Of India

Drinking two to three cups of coffee a day is associated with a longer lifespan and a lower risk of cardiovascular disease compared to avoiding the brew, a study has found.

A team at the Baker Heart and Diabetes Research Institute, Australia, examined the link between types of coffee and incident arrhythmias or irregular heart beat, cardiovascular disease and death using data from the UK Biobank about adults between 40 and 69 years of age.



"The results suggest that a mild to moderate intake of ground, instant and decaffeinated coffee should be considered part of a healthy lifestyle," said study author Professor Peter Kistler.

In the study, cardiovascular disease included conditions such as coronary heart disease, congestive heart failure and ischaemic stroke.

The study, published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, included 449,563 participants free of arrhythmias or other cardiovascular disease. The median age was 58 years and 55.3 per cent were women.

Outcome information was obtained from medical records and death records. The median follow up was 12.5 years. All types of coffee were linked

The results suggest that a mild to moderate intake of ground, instant and decaffeinated coffee should be considered part of a healthy lifestyle

with a reduction in death risk from any cause, the researchers said.

The greatest risk reduction was seen with two to three cups per day, which compared to no coffee drinking was associated with a 14 per cent, 27 per cent and 11 per cent lower likelihood of death for decaffeinated, ground, and instant preparations, respectively.

A total of 27,809 (6.2 per cent) participants died during follow up.

"In this large, observational study, ground, instant and decaffeinated coffee were associated with equivalent reductions in the incidence of

cardiovascular disease and death from cardiovascular disease or any cause," said Kistler.

Cardiovascular disease was diagnosed in 43,173 (9.6 per cent) participants during follow up. All coffee subtypes were associated with a reduction in cardiovascular disease incidence.

Again, the lowest risk was observed with two to three cups a day, which compared to abstinence from coffee was associated with a 6 per cent, 20 per cent, and 9 per cent reduced likelihood of cardiovascular disease for decaffeinated, ground, instant coffee, respectively.

An arrhythmia was diagnosed in 30,100 (6.7 per cent) participants during follow up.

Ground and instant coffee, but not decaffeinated, was associated with a reduction in arrhythmias including atrial fibrillation, an irregular and often very rapid heart rhythm that can lead to blood clots in the heart.

Compared with non-drinkers, the lowest risks were observed with four to five cups a day for ground coffee and two to three cups a day for instant coffee, with 17 per cent and 12 per cent reduced risks, respectively.

"While caffeine is the

most well-known constituent in coffee, the beverage contains more than hundred biologically active components.

"It is likely that the non-caffeinated compounds were responsible for the positive relationships observed between coffee drinking, cardiovascular disease and survival," said Kistler.

Participants were asked to complete a questionnaire asking how many cups of coffee they drank each day and whether they usually drank instant, ground (such as cappuccino or filtered coffee), or decaffeinated coffee.

They were then grouped into six daily intake categories, consisting of none, less than one, one, two to three, four to five, and more than five cups per day.

The usual coffee type was instant in 198,062 (44.1 per cent) participants, ground in 82,575 (18.4 per cent), and decaffeinated in 68,416 (15.2 per cent).

There were 100,510 (22.4 per cent) non-coffee drinkers who served as the comparator group.

"Our findings indicate that drinking modest amounts of coffee of all types should not be discouraged but can be enjoyed as a heart healthy behaviour," Kistler added.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ESTATES DIVISION SRINAGAR

B

CORRIGENDUM

Please read nomenclature of work as, "Repair and renovation by way of tiling and construction of wardrobes to Set No. 119-P at Bernina".

Instead of

Repair and renovation by way of tiling and construction of wardrobes to Set No. 199-P at Bernina.

Advertised vide this office FRESH NIT No. 101/XEN/EDS/2022-23/ of 09/2022 falling at S. No. 4 and issued vide this office No: E-Tender/NIT/EDS/4767-77/2022/T-1 Dated: -22-09-2022

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as already advertised.

No: - 4869-79/EDS/22/T-1
Dated: -27-09-2022

DIPK-10917/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Estates Division Srinagar.

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum to NleT NO. 35 of 2022-23 DATED:-31-08-2022, for the work :Re-development of SMC office compound at karan nagar Appearing at S.No.01 Issued under endorsement No.SMC/EELRWD/1694-1730,Dated: 31-08-2022.

Please read the Administrative Approval No. 1103 of 2022, Dated: 23/08/2022 for the above mentioned work instead of No.1603 of 2022, Dated: 23/08/2022. This is in reference to the communication conveyed by the Joint Commissioner Works SMC vide No. SMC/JCW/SE/8151, Dated: 21-09-2022.

DIPK-NB-4121/22

Sd/-
Er. Sajad Ahmad Kawoosa,
Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

No./SMC/EELRWD/2062-67

Dated:-26-SEP-2022.

Aura Aesthetics
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Our Dental Services
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For Details Contact: 9797-703533 JAWAHAR NAGAR NEAR J&K BANK

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT SRINAGAR
(E-NIT NO: 08 OF 2022-23 DATED: 24.09.2022)

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor Jammu & Kashmir U.T.-Tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractor registered with J&K UT /Central Govt. Organization for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work/Location	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs.)	Earnest Money (Rs. In lacs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion
1	AsthanPoraBrein i. Afforestation works by means of planting of Broad Leaved Plants in pits Rs.0.91 lacs & Trenches = Rs.1.00 lacs ii.Improvement of existing & established unit by way planting of poly raised saplings (conifer) =Rs.1.00 lacs iii. Dribbling of Nuts with the gullies=Rs.0.8lacs.	3.09 Lacs	6200/=	DEE	200/=	30 days

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. Website <https://jktenders.gov.in>
Position of funds: budgeted
Position of AA/TS: Accorded.

Publishing date	24-09-2022
Download Start Date:	26-09-2022 from 11:30 AM
Bid submission start Date:	26-09-2022 from 11:30 AM
Bid submission End Date:	03-10-2022 upto 6:00 PM
Date of opening of Bids through online:	04-10-2022 2:00 PM

01. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the govt. website:
02. Bids must accompany cost of tender document as shown against each work in the shape of Govt Treasury Challan Receipt for the amount shown against the work to be deposited in any Govt. Treasury in the U. T of Jammu & Kashmir under Account Head 0406-Forests and earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Asstt. Conservator of Forests, Department of Soil & Water Conservation, District Srinagar.
03. As per Rule 171 of GFR-2017, performance security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of the contract in shape of CDR /FDR pledged Assistant Conservator of Forests Srinagar before issuance of contract allotment.
04. In case the bid of lowest/successful bidder is found unbalanced then he has to produce additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee scheduled bank valid till completion of work before issuance allotment as per details given below:
1. Up to and including 15% below rate over advertised cost =Nil
2. Greater than 15% up to and including 20% below rate over advertised cost =5% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee.
3. Greater 20% upto and including 25% below rate over advertised cost =10% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee.
4. Greater than 25% upto and including 30% below rate over advertised cost 15% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee.
5. Greater than 30% below rate over advertised cost 20% in shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee.
05. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from: Bidders Manual Kit".
06. To participate in bidding process bidders can get Digital Certificate from Govt. approved vendor.
07. The bidder(s) must submit their financial bids on line in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.
08. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
09. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e. CDR valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current year,PAN, Valid Tin registration. Treasury Challan on account of Tender Documents and CDR of Earnest money.
10. The successful bidder has to produce valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award on contract.
11. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
12. The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of information regarding publishing the NIT. In any of the newspaper under circulation.
13. The tender accepting Authority however, reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
14. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.
15. The contractor shall attach the tax clearance certificates with respect to income tax and GST clearance certificate.
16. The work shall be completed strictly as per the specifications and drawings (as per annexure to NIT).
17. The quantities mentioned in the NIT are subject to increase or decrease depending on availability of funds.
18. No activity shall be undertaken by the contractor against the provision of J&K Soil & Water Conservation Act, and in case of any violation action under the provisions of the Act, shall be initiated against the contractor, his representative or worker if any.
19. The successful bidder shall have to furnish the test check certificate of material to be utilized at his own cost from NIT Srinagar.

DIPK-10803/22
No: DSCO/Sgr-Gb/698-702
Dated: 24-09-2022

Assistant Conservator of Forests
District Srinagar

RBI's Rate Setting Panel Starts Deliberations; Decision On Friday

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel on Wednesday started deliberations on the keenly awaited monetary policy amidst expectation of 50 basis points hike in interest rate to check inflation and improve foreign capital inflow to arrest declining value of rupee against the US dollar.

The decision of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be announced on September 30.

The government has tasked the central bank to ensure the consumer price index (CPI) remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side, but retail inflation has stubbornly stayed above the RBI's comfort zone since January.

As per the latest data, the inflation was at 7 per cent in August.

While inflation remains high, the Indian rupee is sliding sharply, the US dollar and was currently trading near 82 against the greenback. The rupee depreciation has hastened following the US Fed raising their interest rate thrice by 75 basis point each in the recent past. Other major central banks too have become aggressive in raising rates.

The RBI, which has since May raised the repo rate by 140 basis points (bps), may yet again go for a 50-bps increase, which will take the key rate to a three-year high of 5.9 per cent, say experts. The present rate is 5.4 per cent.

Industry body Assocham said hike in policy interest rates by the RBI in the range of 35-50 basis points seems unavoidable, given the tightening of rates by most of the central banks including the US Federal Reserve.

"While the industry would like to see lower interest rates,

the main challenge and the priority is to tackle inflation head-on so that we have a sustainable growth," said chamber's Secretary General Deepak Sood.

He said the accommodative stance by the RBI supported by several fiscal measures by the government had certainly helped the economy in a multi-pronged manner.

Ramesh Nair, CEO, India and Managing Director, Market Development, Asia, Colliers expects the repo rates to see a further rise, as the government is trying to curb inflation levels.

"The current repo rates stand at 5.4 per cent with the rate hovering above pre-pandemic levels. Banks have begun raising loan interest levels as a result of higher repo rate," he said.

However, the upcoming festive season will spur sales as the developers are expected to offer attractive deals to homebuyers and this could neutralise the impact of rising home loan rates to some extent, he added.

Besides inflation, the RBI is also likely to come out with steps to shore up foreign capital inflows to check the declining value of the rupee against the US dollar. Forex reserves have declined by USD 86 billion to USD 546 billion (from their highs last year).

A SBI research report said the Indian markets have, however, performed much better. Specifically, the rupee has been holding remarkably well with RBI intervention supporting it in the market.

"This is in sharp contrast to the 2013 taper tantrum crisis when the rupee witnessed significant volatility for a prolonged stretch of time. We believe that it might be better for RBI to allow the rupee to depreciate a bit, finding its natural balance," it said.

GST Revenue In September Likely At Rs 1.45 Lakh Cr



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue mop-up in September is expected to be around Rs 1.45 lakh crore, an official said. The collection has been over Rs 1.4 lakh crore since March and in August it was Rs 1.43 lakh crore.

"The collection in September is likely to be little more than Rs 1.45 lakh crore. Improved business activity is expected to yield better collections in coming months," the official said.

Official revenue figures will be released on October 1.

The mop-up in September last year was Rs 1.17 lakh crore.

The official further said as per estimates, the average yearly revenue from GST in 2022-23 is expected to be around Rs 1.55 lakh crore.

The collection in April was at a record high of Rs 1.68 lakh crore. In May, GST revenue was Rs 1.41 lakh crore, in June Rs 1.44 lakh crore, Rs 1.49 lakh crore (July) and Rs 1.43 lakh crore (August).

Centre Gives 4% Hike In DA To Its Employees Ahead Of Diwali

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Ahead of Diwali festival, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday increased the dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief by 4 per cent effective July 1, 2022, benefiting 41.85 lakh central government employees and 69.76 lakh pensioners.

The additional instalment of DA and dearness relief (DR) is an increase of 4 per cent over the existing rate of 34 per cent of basic pay/pension.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both DA and DR would be Rs 12,852.5 crore per annum, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur while briefing reporters about the decisions of the Union Cabinet.

Central government employees and pensioners will become entitled to higher amount of DA and DR respectively, with effect from July 1, 2022, Thakur said.

The increase in the DA and DR is based on the percentage increase in 12 monthly average of



All India Consumer Price Index for the period ending June, 2022.

The impact of enhanced dearness allowance to the employees on the exchequer is estimated at Rs 6,591.36 crore per annum and Rs 4,394.24 crore in 2022-23 (8 months from July, 2022 to February, 2023).

In case of dearness relief, the impact would be Rs 6,261.20

crore per annum and Rs 4,174.12 crore in the current fiscal.

Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who was also present at the briefing, said that the bonuses for rail employees are being processed and will be given by next week.

The bonuses are usually given to rail employees ahead of Dussehra.

Rupee Plunges 37 Paise To Close At All-Time Low Of 81.90 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The rupee plunged 37 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.90 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday as the strengthening of the American currency overseas and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

In the intra-day trade, the rupee slipped below the 82-level for the first time against the American currency, as a negative trend in domestic equities and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor appetite.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 81.90, then fell further to close at an all-time low of 81.90 against the American currency, registering a decline of 37 paise over its previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee settled 14 paise higher at 81.53 against the dollar.

The rupee has nose-dived to a fresh record low amid the risk-averse mood in the markets, said Sugandha Sachdeva, Vice President - Commodity and Currency Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

The slide in the domestic equities and a strong greenback getting close to the crucial 115 mark,



almost more than a 20-year high, also dragged the local unit down, Sachdeva added.

"The greenback has surged around 19.50 per cent for the year. Most of the Asian currencies, including the local unit, are reeling under pressure amid the monetary tightening campaign in the West and concerns about a global economic slowdown," Sachdeva said.

Sachdeva further added that limited intervention by the RBI amid declining forex reserves is also leading to the current bout of selling spree witnessed in the rupee.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six

currencies, advanced 0.43 per cent to 114.59.

According to experts, the focus will now shift to the RBI's meeting this week, with its decision due on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.41 per cent to USD 85.92 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 509.24 points or 0.89 per cent to end at 56,598.28, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 148.80 points or 0.87 per cent to 16,858.60.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,823.96 crore, as per exchange data.

THE GREENBACK HAS SURGED AROUND 19.50 PER CENT for the year. Most of the Asian currencies, including the local unit, are reeling under pressure amid the monetary tightening campaign in the West and concerns about a global economic slowdown."

Govt Extends Free Ration Scheme For Poor By 3 Months

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Ahead of assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, the government on Wednesday extended by three months its programme to provide free rations to the poor at a cost of Rs 44,762 crore as it looked to ease pain from high inflation.

The scheme to provide 5 kg of wheat and rice free of cost to 80 crore poor every month, which was ending on Friday, will now run through December 31, 2022, I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said.

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a meeting on Wednesday decided to extend the scheme by three months, he said.

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was started in April 2020 to help the poor whose livelihoods were shuttered by a nationwide lockdown aimed at containing the spread of the Coronavirus. The scheme has been extended multiple times and was to end on Friday.

"At a time when the world is battling with the effects of Covid on its decline and insecurity due to various reasons, India has been successfully maintaining food security for its vulnerable sections while taking necessary steps to keep availability and affordability for common man," an official statement said.

"Recognising that people have gone through a difficult period of pandemic, government has decided to extend



PMGKAY for a period of three months so that poor and vulnerable sections of society are supported for the forthcoming major festivals."

Under this scheme, 5 kg of foodgrain per person per month is provided free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Thakur said the government has so far spent Rs 3.45 lakh crore on the PMGKAY scheme since its launch in April 2020.

With the additional expenditure of about Rs 44,762 crore for the latest extension, the overall expenditure of the PMGKAY will be about Rs 3.91 lakh crore for all the phases, he said.

Thakur said 122 lakh tonne (12.2 million tonne) of foodgrains will be given out free of cost in the three months from October 1.

The total allocation of foodgrain for phases I-VII will reach about 1,121 lakh tonne (112.1 million tonne).

The sixth extension pro-poor scheme comes ahead of assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh and also at a time when food inflation is ruling at a high level.

Ensure Hassle-Free Movement Of Fruit Trucks On Highway: KCCI To J&K Admin



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) on Wednesday appealed to the administration to ensure hassle-free movement of fruit-laden trucks on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway.

"We appeal to the government to ensure free movement of trucks. The government should ensure a mechanism so that the movement of the trucks goes on smoothly for the whole season," KCCI president Sheikh Aashiq told reporters here.

Aashiq said the economy of the Kashmir Valley will continue to suffer till the highway

issue is resolved.

"We had raised this demand with the Parliamentary delegation (which visited J-K last year) that the national highway is an issue and until and unless it is not resolved, our economy will continue to suffer," he said.

Fruit growers in Kashmir on Monday held a demonstration here against the alleged stopping of apple-laden trucks by authorities at various places along the national highway en route to terminal markets in the country.

The J-K administration has dismissed the allegations, saying the trucks were halted due to natural causes.

Spike In Oil Price Breaking India's Back: Jaishankar

Press Trust Of India

Washington: India is deeply concerned over the spike in the price of oil due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and it is "breaking our back," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

Addressing a joint press conference with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken after holding bilateral talks at the Department of State, Jaishankar on Tuesday said there is a very deep concern among developing countries about how their energy needs are addressed.

Speaking about the Ukraine war, he said: "We have taken the position privately, publicly, confidentially and consistently that this conflict is not in anybody's interest." The best way forward is to return to dialogue and diplomacy, he said.

"Look, we have concerns about the price of oil but we are a USD 2,000 per capita economy. When the price of oil is breaking our back and it's our big concern," he said while responding to a question on a price cap on Russian oil initiated by the G7 countries.

"On the price cap, we had a brief discussion on it this morn-



ing. More technical people are engaged between the two systems on this particular subject," Jaishankar said, acknowledging that the price cap issue came up during his talks with Blinken.

He pointed out that in the last few months, the energy markets are already under very great stress.

Countries in the Global South have found it difficult to compete for limited energy, not just in terms of pricing, escalating pricing, but often in terms of availability. There are tenders countries have had tenders for which they don't even get a reply from suppliers, Jaishankar said.

"Our concern right now is that energy markets already under

stress must soften up. We would judge any situation frankly by how it affects us and other countries in the global south. There is a very deep concern among developing countries about how their energy security needs are addressed or not," Jaishankar said.

India's crude oil imports from Russia have jumped over 50 times since April and now it makes up for 10 per cent of all crude bought from overseas.

Russian oil made up for just 0.2 per cent of all oil imported by India prior to the Ukraine war.

The Western countries are gradually bringing down their energy purchases from Russia following its attack on Ukraine.

With sanctions imposed by Western nations making a scant impact on Russia, the G-7 countries and the European Union have mooted an oil price cap on Russian crude and refined products to limit Kremlin's revenues.

Earlier this month, a statement issued by G-7 Finance Ministers said the price cap was specifically designed to reduce Russian revenues and its ability to fund the Ukraine war.

Stakeholders Convergence Meet On GST Held

Observer News Service

UDHAMPUR- Continuing the month-long initiative, Commissioner State Taxes, Dr. Rashmi Singh Wednesday interacted with the Trade & Industry associations of district Udhampur & Reasi.

The Commissioner State Taxes appealed the general public/citizens to perform their duty by paying taxes as the Tax collected is used by the government for carrying out various welfare schemes which further contributes in Nation building.

Welcoming the suggestions from Trade unions/Industry associations/CAs, the Commissioner State Taxes, assured to establish the GST Facilitation Centre (GST Suvidha Kendra) to provide a dedicated helpdesk & support system to Tax-payers.

Additional Commissioner State Taxes, Nitu Gupta, while addressing the association members, appealed the traders & industrialists to follow policy decisions & GST implications to increase the tax base. She also laid emphasis

through the representatives of association to get the traders registered if their turnover is above 20 lakhs in case of services & 40 lakhs in case of goods, to avoid tax evasion and urged the trade unions to ensure that goods and conveyances in transit must be accompanied by valid document.

Additional Commissioner, Tax Planning, Ankita Kar invited the proposals from Trade & Industry associations for considering it in policy matters.

The trade bodies and participants from industries expressed gratitude towards the department for organizing such an interactive session and asked for more such interactions and awareness programmes in future.

The meeting was attended by Anil Kumar Chandail JKAS DC Enforcement North Udhampur, Bal Krishan JKAS DC Judicial, Waseem Raja JKAS AC State Taxes Department. Among trade associations, the representatives present were :

The interaction concluded with a PowerPoint presentation on recent amendments in GST & road ahead.

Sensex Skids For Sixth Day To Close Below 57k

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai- BSE benchmark Sensex spiralled lower for the sixth consecutive session on Wednesday to finish below the 57,000-level, weighed by heavy selling in metal, banking and finance stocks amid a sell-off in global equities.

A depreciating rupee and continued foreign capital outflows also affected the market sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 509.24 points or 0.89 per cent to settle at 56,598.28. During the day, it tanked 621.85 points or 1.08 per cent to 56,485.67.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty declined 148.80 points or 0.87 per cent to end at 16,858.60.

ITC was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.97 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India, and HDFC twins.

On the other hand, Asian Paints, Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's and Power Grid were among the winners.

"Domestic equity continued its downfall in sync with its global peers. Markets across the globe are seeing extreme volatility as

fear of an economic downturn weighed on investors' sentiments. Back home aggressive FII's selling in recent sessions, the upcoming RBI MPC meeting and the monthly derivatives expiry on Thursday are keeping investors on edge.

"Nifty gave up its key support levels and drifted below 17k zones. In the near term, the market is expected to remain under pressure due to global uncertainty. However mixed trends across sectors would continue to offer stock-specific opportunities, especially in auto, consumption with the ongoing festive season," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midCap gauge declined 0.47 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.43 per cent.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, the metal fell by 2.32 per cent, bank (1.52 per cent), financial services (1.31 per cent), energy (1.09 per cent), commodities (1.06 per cent) and realty (0.76 per cent).

Healthcare, IT, consumer discretionary and tech were among the gainers.

Palestinians: At Least 4 Killed In Israeli Raid In West Bank

Agencies

Jenin Refugee Camp (West Bank): At least four Palestinians were killed and 44 others wounded during an Israeli military raid in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin on Wednesday, the Palestinian Health Ministry reported, the latest in a series of deadly Israeli operations in the occupied territory.

Israeli forces said they fatally shot two Palestinians they had been sent to arrest in the Jenin refugee camp over their suspected involvement in recent shooting attacks.

When soldiers surrounded a house in the camp, an explosive device detonated, a gunfight ensued and Israeli troops killed the two Palestinians, the military said.

During the raid, armed



clashes broke out in the camp as militants hurled rocks and opened fire at arriving troops. The violence killed another two Palestinians and wounded at least 44 others, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party identified one of the men killed in the clashes as a 24-year-old

Palestinian intelligence officer named Ahmed Alawneh.

The party called for protests and a general strike in the West Bank over what it described as a dangerous escalation.

Jenin in the northern West Bank long considered a bastion of Palestinian militancy and frequent flashpoint for violence is governed by the

Palestinian Authority like most other Palestinian urban centers, even though the Israeli military routinely carries out arrest raids in the area.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a spokesman for Abbas, denounced the raid, saying Israel's policy of escalation will not deliver legitimacy, security or stability, whether in the Islamic and Christian holy sites or in Jenin.

Israel's stepped-up military activities in the West Bank follow a surge in Palestinian attacks inside Israel last spring.

Israel identified one of the Palestinians killed in Wednesday's raid as Rahman Hazam, the brother of a Palestinian gunman who attacked a bar in central Tel Aviv last April and was killed by police.

Footage Wednesday showed giant plumes of smoke

Chief Secretary Reviews Working Of Cooperative Dept

Asks Department To Focus On Convergence With Agriculture Allied Sectors For Sustained Gains

Observer News Service

Jammu: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun K Mehta chaired a meeting Wednesday to review the working of Cooperative Department.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal alongwith the officers of the department. Registrar Cooperative Societies also attended the meeting through virtual mode.

The Chief Secretary urged the department for improving digital footprint in the cooperative sector along with exploring convergence in sectors like dairy, horticulture, fisheries, agriculture etc. with other departments for sustained gains.

Earlier during her presentation, Secretary, Cooperatives



informed about the financial position of eight Cooperative Banks in terms of CRAR, NPA and CD ratio. It was informed that for improving the CRAR of the Cooperative banks as per the RBI norms, the targets have already been assigned to the concerned Banks and the recovery of NPAs has also improved during the last one year.

The total NPAs recovered during 2021-2022 was to the tune of Rs.45 Cr.

Yasha stated that out of 8 Cooperative Banks, 7 Cooperative Banks are already on CBS platform (Core banking System) having net banking facility and SMS alert and some of the Cooperative Banks also have ATMs and mobile banking facilities.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

SSP Removed

of the post till further orders, the order read.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Tuesday said almost all Jammu bound trucks were cleared and normal traffic on the 270-km strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has been restored.

The highway, the only all weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, witnessed frequent disruptions past week owing to shooting of stones from a hillock overlooking the arterial road at Cafeteria-Mehar sector in Ramban District.

On Monday, the fruit growers of Kashmir staged a demonstration in Srinagar against the alleged failure of the administration to facilitate hassle-free movement of the trucks along the highway en route to terminal markets of the country.

The political parties also criticised the administration for the fruit growers' plight with PDP president Mehbooba Mufti threatening to block the Srinagar-Jammu national highway if their vehicles are not allowed a smooth passage.

"Lakhs of people depend on this (fruit trade), they have taken loans, they have taken money from Delhi's mandis. Who will give them that money? Will you?" former chief minister Mehbooba had said in Shopian.

"So, I warn the government if you don't open the road for trucks, then I along with others will block the national highway," she said.

National Conference president and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah also criticised the administration for "miserably failing" in ensuring smooth movement of fruit-laden trucks and said it will have a "devastating, crippling effect" on the UT's economy.

DC Ramban

attended by SSP Mohita Sharma and PRI members.

The spokesperson said that several issues of public importance and grievances were raised by the PRI members and civil society members of the area, besides discussing the issues of smooth flow of traffic on National highway.

During the Block Diwas meeting, he said, the issues pertaining to traffic management were discussed with Beopar Mandal Banihal in detail.

He further said that the people projected various demands including provision of parking area in the Banihal town, sprinkling of water on roads in the to overcome the problem of dust and traffic jamming, augmentation of water supply, road connectivity to uncovered areas, execution of MGNREGA works and construction of JJM schemes proposed for the area.

"The DC directed the SDM and Traffic Police to implement the order of no Parking Zone, especially in Banihal town to provide safe passage to fruit carrying vehicles," the spokesperson said.

Responding to the issue of parking in Banihal area, he said, the DC passed on the spot direction to the ADC to identify a suitable land for the same.

"He also inspected proposed space for parking and monitored the traffic regulation for smooth traffic movement on NH-44," the spokesperson said.

"He directed the concerned to remove all the encroachments along the footpath in Banihal town. The DC and SSP also reviewed the transportation of nomads through trucks arranged by ARTO Ramban," he added.

While speaking on the occasion, the spokesperson said that SSP briefed about the traffic scenario in the district.

"She appealed to the general public to cooperate with the police and traffic department for hassle free movement of the traffic as well as nomads. She

directed the DySP Traffic to take strict action against the violators, especially in Banihal town," he added.

SC Closes PIL

A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justices S Ravindra Bhat and J B Pardiwala referred to the change of the status of the state to a Union Territory and said now the rules and legal provisions applicable to any UT will be applicable to Jammu and Kashmir.

"In view of the developments which have taken up since the filing of the writ petition, we permit the petitioners to withdraw the petition with further liberty to take or initiate appropriate proceedings in a manner known to law, the bench said.

Today, it is a Union Territory. What is prevalent in other UTs should apply, ipso facto (by the fact itself) here also, the bench said.

The PIL was then dismissed as withdrawn.

CCTV Cams Helped

the abducted child," he said.

He, however, admitted that it was the network of CCTV cameras that proved helpful in tracing the abductor and subsequent recovery of the baby.

"All our official (CCTV) cameras installed in the town are functional round-the-clock. Cameras have become an essential part of the investigations," he said, requesting the locals to install CCTV cameras at their places or repair those which have developed faults.

The officer said, "We need to stay alert to frustrate the evil designs of anti-national and anti-social elements whose activities can prove harmful to communal harmony. Cameras are needed to keep a watch and for immediate action to stop such types of activities."

Identifying the culprit as a local woman Shabnam Begum, the SSP said she befriended the child's mother at the hospital where she had gone for treatment and after winning her trust she offered her help by holding the child till the mother returned with the registration slip.

"As she saw the child's mother joining the queue for the registration slip, she left with the child within a minute and took narrow lanes to escape the scene," Bhat said.

"We were lucky that even these lanes are covered with CCTV cameras," he said, adding the hiding place of the woman was one km away from the hospital.

He said the accused, who herself is a mother, was earlier married to a terrorist in Gandoh area of Doda but after his killing in an encounter remarried in Banihal area of Ramban district but later got a divorce from her second husband.

"She mostly lives in Kishtwar, Jammu, and reportedly also visits Kashmir. As per the preliminary investigation, she was reportedly planning to take the child to Kashmir. The motive behind her crime is under investigation," Bhat said.

Asking people not to panic following the incident, he said police are fully alert and are keeping a close watch on the criminal activities.

"There is one more suspicious character lady who was not arrested...we have received calls from police stations across J&K after solving this case. She might have the knowledge about the other lady and we are investigating," he said.

Some more suspected people, related to the arrested woman, were called for questioning, the officer said.

Asked about the influx of outsiders in Kishtwar, the SSP said they are keeping a close watch on all such people, and those who do not possess proper identification are being sent back.

SIA Raids In

the officials said, adding further probe in the matter is on.

J&K Adds 13

them include 2352 from Jammu division and 2433 from the Valley.

Besides, they said, 25 Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—eight from Jammu division and 17 from Kashmir Valley. There are now 133 active cases—46 in Jammu and 87 in Kashmir.

Couple Among

at Batamalo after meeting her near Bakshi Stadium here.

At the room, the spokesperson said, the woman started levelling false allegations at Rather, while three other men (associates of the lady) forcibly entered the room and started making a video.

"Then she along with her accomplices started blackmailing him and he fell prey into a well planned conspiracy of sextortion," he said.

In this regard a case FIR No. 76/2022 U/S 34, 384, 120-B, 506 IPC was registered in Police Station Shergarhi and investigation was set into motion, he said.

The police identified the accused as Shaista Bashir alias Saba, her husband Aijaz Ahmad Ganaie and Jahangir Ahmad Dar of Pethpohru Handwara. All of them have been arrested in the instant case.

"There are some other victims of this gang and more arrests are also expected in the instant case and investigation is going on," the spokesperson said.

CONTINUE FROM PAGE 3

Ageing Hearts

ago. Till 2018, Srinagar's SMHS and SKIMS hospital were handling 4-5 heart attack patients daily in the summer and fall months. However, that trend has changed now. Today, the number of such cases has grown to 10-15 patients per day. And due to lack of awareness, many patients are still ignoring the early symptoms of an attack, which if not treated at an appropriate time, can lead to a permanent heart damage. This is an alarming trend.

What're the specific factors contributing to this fatal wave?

Rapid urbanization and newly adopted fast-life are some of its contributing factors. But this is a global phenomenon and Kashmir can't be seen in isolation. Most of Kashmir's villages have adopted the urban lifestyle. More comfortable life means more threat to the heart. Among the obvious changes, city life has less physical activity posing threat to our heart. At the same time, our life has become very competitive now. Late nights, sedentary life, stress of competition, deadlines, no time for relaxation, processed and ultra-processed food and fast food have all become a norm. And that goes along with the fact that there is less time for exercise and less time for your own stuff. In addition to that, smoking and drug abuse have also contributed to this fatal wave.

How much is situational stress and lifestyle responsible for this fatality?

One important reason attributed to the spike in heart ailments is stress. Even a global intra-heart survey suggests that psycho-social stress could raise your risk of heart attack and stroke. It's quite evident in Kashmir that acute exposure to stress has increased initiation and escalation of drug use and smoking among our people, especially youngsters. Underlying diseases such as hypertension and diabetes when exposed to stress can easily increase the risks manifold. Fifty percent of heart-attack patients that we receive have a history of stress varying from financial stress to unemployment stress to situational stress. And our new lifestyle choices

have also exposed us to such fatal attacks. We've a very sedentary lifestyle, which increases our obesity, subsequently exposing us to such attacks. Sweet dishes, carbonated drinks and bakery items act as a poison and expose the heart to fatal risks.

Which age group is vulnerable to such attacks and why?

I would say people over 60 years are more vulnerable to heart attacks. On an average, this age-group has absolutely no physical activity which makes them vulnerable. Another reason is that the elderly people with underlying cardiovascular and diabetic conditions are prone to these attacks especially in winters. We consider it a matter of pride if our elders use cars to travel around but we've to understand that less physical activity increases the threat to their heart. But, this doesn't mean that youngsters are not vulnerable. They may call themselves young but their heart has already grown old due to various factors. Their vascular age also rapidly increases which also surges the risk of fatal attacks.

Since young are increasingly falling prey to heart attacks, what needs to be done?

We have to change our lifestyle starting exactly from adding physical activity in our day to day schedule. We've to be physically very active. We've to contain smoking and drug abuse in our population. The tribe of smokers has also seen a rapid surge in recent years which is extremely worrying. And our youth believes in short-cut methods to achieve their goals. That needs to end. See, if someone has worked for 12 years, earns a lucrative salary and owns an expensive car, we tend to achieve the same status in just 2 or 3 years. And when we fail, stress pushes us into drugs and cigarettes which increases risk of heart attacks. So, all these things have to be implemented for a safe and secure life.

BJP Sees Opportunity

completed in the month of December this year. Once the final voter list is out, the Election Commission of India will take a call for conducting polls in J&K," Koul added.

When asked about the poll strategy for the Kashmir valley, Koul said the rally of Union Home Minister Amit Shah will explain it all.

"The rally will tell the world that BJP won the hearts of Kashmiris," he added. He further explained that tourism in the Valley is back and people are getting a lot of benefits.

"Be it Shikarawala, Autowala, Paper Machie artists or anyone who is associated with tourism, they are happy because the tourists from all over the country are visiting Kashmir," Koul added.

It may be noted, Shah is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir to address two mega rallies in Rajouri of Jammu region and Baramulla district of North Kashmir.

Pertinently, in May 2022, the Delimitation Commission formed by the Central Government recommended seven additional constituencies — six for Jammu and one for Kashmir — taking the total number of seats in the UT to 90 from 83 earlier.

The commission increased the number of seats in the Jammu Division to 43 from 37 seats earlier, and that in the Kashmir Valley to 47 from 46 earlier.

In 2014, BJP had won 25 assembly seats from Jammu, when the region had 37 assembly constituencies.

States, UTs

were also declared banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) include Rehab India Foundation, Campus Front of India, All India Imams Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation, National Women's

Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala.

More than 150 people allegedly linked with PFI were detained or arrested in raids across seven states on Tuesday, five days after a similar pan-India crackdown against the 16-year-old group had led to the arrest of over a hundred of its activities and seizure of several dozen properties.

In a late Tuesday night notification, the Union Home Ministry said some PFI founding members are leaders of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and the PFI has linkages with Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). Both JMB and SIMI are proscribed organisations.

It said there had been many instances of international linkages of PFI with global terrorist groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). (With PTI inputs)

Khatana Takes

the Vice President Secretariat said on Twitter.

Govt's Agenda

mainstream is the agenda of the government and the Army is aligned to it, because it will take the youth on the path of development and peace. The enemy will not succeed in its agenda".

He said the Army organises educational, sports and cultural initiatives to provide opportunities to the youth so that they do not fall into the trap of radicalisation being initiated by the adversary through social media campaigns.

Attacking Pakistan, he said the country launched the "thousand cuts" plan to disturb peace in Jammu and Kashmir in the 1990s.

"They wanted to bleed India through a thousand cuts but the troops of the White Knight Corps stood up against it. Today, we see peace progress and development in Jammu region. One thousand terrorists have been killed in the region since then," he said.

Replying to another question about the challenges that the Army is facing, he said, narcotics are being smuggled from across the border in addition to weapons and infiltration bids.

The Army is capable to stop it and has a surveillance grid, fencing and soldiers performing 24-hour duties so that the enemy is not able to infiltrate, he said.

The second challenge is the enemy using vulnerable points on the LoC for infiltration, he said.

"Pakistan is trying to infiltrate terrorists, and smuggle ammunition and narcotics. But we have a counter-terrorism grid to ensure the terrorists are eliminated," he said, adding that it was a "good thing" that the people of the south of Pirpanchal were "anti-militants".

"We have seen no support (for terrorists) from the population and this is a healthy sign for us. We want to encash on it," he added.

"So far, the violence in Jammu is significantly low. We have a strong anti-infiltration grid and we are concentrating on securing the hinterlands for which we have a strong anti-terror grid," he said.

On the issue of use of drones by Pakistan to drop weapons and narcotics here, he said the phenomenon is more common in Punjab.

"There is less sighting of drones in our (White Knight Corps) areas and we suspect the ones seen here are a reconnaissance by the enemy, hence we are soon getting an anti-drone mechanism," he said.

"We have our plans. Equipment is coming in order to foil drone threats," he said.

Lt Gen Anil

serving as the military adviser in the National Security Council Secretariat headed by NSA Ajit Doval.

"The government has decided to appoint Lt General Anil Chauhan (Retired) as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) who shall also function as Secretary to Government of India, Department of Military Affairs with effect from the date of his assumption of charge and until further orders," the defence ministry said in a statement.

On September 10, Lt Gen Chauhan (ret'd) attended a ceremony to rename the strategically key Kibithu military garrison on the banks of Lohit Valley along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh after first CDS Gen Rawat.

Born on May 18, 1961, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan was commissioned into the 11 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army in 1981.

In a career spanning over nearly 40 years, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan (ret'd) held several command, staff and instrumental appointments and had extensive experience in counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and Northeast India.

Lt Gen Chauhan retired from the service in May last year when he was serving as the eastern Army Commander.

As the Eastern Army Commander, he played a significant role in bolstering India's overall combat readiness along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim sectors.

He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

In the rank of Maj General, the officer had commanded an Infantry Division in the critical Baramulla sector in the Northern Command.

Later as Lt General, he commanded a corps in the Northeast and subsequently went to become the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command from September 2019 and held the charge until his retirement from the service in May 2021.

In addition to these command appointments, the officer also tenanted important staff appointments including the charge of Director General of Military Operations. Earlier, the officer had also served as a United Nations mission to Angola.

As CDS, Lt Gen Chauhan (ret'd) will face the challenge of implementing the government's ambitious plan to ensure tri-services synergy through setting up of theatre commands.

For his distinguished and illustrious service in the Army, Lt General Anil Chauhan (retired) was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

The post of CDS has been lying vacant since the death of Gen Rawat along with his wife Madhulika Rawat and 12 others in a helicopter crash on December 8 last year.

On January 1 2020, Gen Rawat took charge as India's first CDS with a mandate to bring convergence in the functioning of the Army, the Navy and the Indian Air Force and bolster the country's overall military prowess.

Another key mandate of the CDS was to facilitate the restructuring of military commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, including through the establishment of theatre commands.

In June, the government amended rules paving the way for appointment of any serving or retired Lt General, Air Marshal and Vice Admiral under the age of 62 to the post of CDS.

The change in rules allowed three-star officers to become the CDS along with serving chiefs of the three services.

However, the age limit of 62 years for officers to be considered for the post of CDS ruled out a number of officers.

While the age-limit for the three Service chiefs is 62 years of age or three years of service, whichever is earlier, the age limit for the CDS is 65 years of age with no fixed tenure defined.

World Cup Watch: European Giants Showing Flaws Before Qatar

Agencies

LONDON: All roads now lead to Qatar. With the conclusion of the group stage of the Nations League, Europe's top football countries have played their final competitive games ahead of the World Cup. Here's how things are shaping up for a continent that has provided the last four winners of the World Cup. Spoiler alert: it could be better.

FRANCE

Defending World Cup champion France has won just one of its last six matches, its worst record in the buildup to a World Cup since 1958. It's difficult to draw conclusions from its last two Nations League matches, though, since France had 14 players out injured. If there were hopes the new generation of French midfielders was ready to take over in case Paul Pogba and N'Golo Kanté don't recover in time for the World Cup, they may have been dashed. Eduardo Camavinga endured a disastrous first half in the 2-0 loss to Denmark and he might be fighting for his squad place. Adrien Ra-



biot, Youssouf Fofana and Aurelien Tchouaméni are better placed in coach Didier Deschamps' pecking order even if there are still concerns.

ENGLAND

If France's form is troubling, England's is even worse. Make that six games

without a victory for England, the team's longest winless run since 1993. Never has England entered a major tournament on such a streak.

The goodwill toward coach Gareth Southgate and some of his players, notably Harry Maguire, has dipped among fans and the media. Crucially, there are a number of players either not playing enough for their clubs or simply out of form — and Southgate has suggested he will keep faith with them in Qatar because they have built up enough credit with him after England's runs to the World Cup semifinals in 2018 and the European Championship final last year.

GERMANY

Germany's games against England and Hungary provided more questions than answers two months before the World Cup which Germany last won in 2014. The biggest question: how good is the team, really? Answer: Nobody knows.

Hansi Flick's team defeated a weakened Italy 5-2 in its previous game in June, but failed to force a breakthrough against a well-organised Hungary and lost 1-0 at

home. Germany then threw away a 2-0 lead in England before Kai Havertz rescued a 3-3 draw.

The win over Italy was Germany's only win in seven games. It conceded in each, adding defensive questions to the mix for Flick.

SPAIN

Spain, the 2010 champion, is one of the few European powers heading to the World Cup on a high after again reaching the Nations League's final four. Luis Enrique's team rebounded from losing to Switzerland to end a 22-game unbeaten run at home by winning 1-0 at local rival Portugal, potentially one of its main threats in Qatar. Spain hadn't won at Portugal in nearly two decades. La Roja was unbeaten in eight games before losing to Switzerland, a run stretching back to last year's Nations League's final four. Also on a high will be 20-year-old Athletic Bilbao forward Nico Williams, who set up Alvaro Morata's winner against Portugal to likely secure his spot in the World Cup squad.

FIFA Honours Chhetri, Releases 3-Episode Series



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: World football governing body FIFA has released a three-episode series on the life and career of talismanic Indian football team

captain Sunil Chhetri in recognition of his achievements and goal-scoring exploits.

FIFA announced that the three episodes are available on FIFA+, its streaming platform.

"You know all about Ronaldo and

Messi, now get the definitive story of the third highest scoring active men's international. Sunil Chhetri | Captain Fantastic is available on FIFA+ now," the FIFA tweeted from its World Cup handle.

The 38-year-old Chhetri is third in the list for active footballers with most international goals with 84 strikes to his name, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (117) and Lionel Messi (90).

"The first episode takes us back to where it all started...all leading up to his India debut at the age of 20. Close associates, loved ones, and footballing colleagues help tell the tale -- apart from the man himself, the man affectionately dubbed, 'Captain, Leader, Legend'," the synopsis of the first episode said.

The second episode was about Chhetri starting to perform wonders for the national team, his big dream of playing professional football for a top-class overseas club.



ARSHDEEP SINGH TOOK 3 as India defeated South Africa by 8 wickets on Wednesday. South Africa were 9/5 after just 2.3 overs, only for Keshav Maharaj to steady the ship with his 41 (35) to take SA to 106/8 in 20 overs. In reply, India reached the target in 16.4 overs for the loss of only 2 wickets. KL Rahul and S Yadav both scored half centuries to guide the team home.

JKFA To Hold ‘Thapar Memorial Cup’ Today

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Wednesday issued a press release stating that it would organise Thapar Memorial Cup match on Thursday, September 29 at Synthetic Turf TRC.

“JCT Limited (Punjab) in collaboration with J&K Football Association and J&K Sports Council has organised Manmohan Thapar Memorial Cup football match between



JKFA will involve business houses as sponsors for conducting UT Level/National Level football competition in J&K which will help in development of the game across the region and later will help in providing job opportunities to our budding footballers and to showcase their talent

two top teams of Srinagar, i.e., Downtown Hero's FC and Syed Taj-u-Din FC at Synthetic Turf TRC Srinagar on Thursday the 29th Sept. 2022 at 4 PM,” the FA's press release said.

“JKFA invites the fraternity of footballers /clubs/ lovers of the game to witness the match at the venue which will give a boost to the morale of our young footballers.

“JKFA will involve business houses as sponsors for conducting UT Level/National Level football competition in J&K which will help in development of the game across the region and later will help in providing job opportunities to our budding footballers and to showcase their talent,” the press release concluded.

LG’s Rolling Cricket Trophy Gulab Bagh, Amira Kadal To Meet In Finals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Inter Zonal District Level competitions witnessed two semi-finals on Wednesday at the twin venues of Amar Singh College and Bemina Degree College here.

In first Semi-Final at Degree College Bemina Gulabagh Zone clashed with Nishat Zone. Battling first Gulab-Bagh Zone posted a score of 144 runs on the board in their allotted overs. In reply, Nishat Zone could only manage to score 132 runs and lost the semi-final with a margin of 13 runs.

Nayeem Nazir (Nishat Zone) and Suhail Bazmi (Gulab Bagh Zone) were the highest run-getters during the semi-final for their teams and contributed 47 and 27 runs respectively. Basit (Gulab Bagh Zone) in his spell of 4 overs took 2 wickets and gave away 22 runs, and was later declared man of the match. From Pool A Gulabagh zone has remained unbeaten so far.

The second Semi-Final was played at Amar Singh Collage Ground between Amira Kadal and Hawal



Zones. Hawal won the toss and elected to bat first and posted a target of 137 runs. Sabit Khan contributed with 47 runs in 33 balls for Hawal. For Amira Kadal, Zahid and Umer took 3 wickets each in their quota of overs.

In reply zone Amira Kadal chased down the target in 19.2 overs and defeated Hawal zone by 2 wickets.

Muntazir scored a brilliant match-winning 41 runs from 36 balls to help his team enter the finals. Muntazir for his match-winning knock was declared man of the match.

The finalists will now lock horns for the district level title on September 30 at Sheri-Kashmir Cricket Stadium Sonwar.

LG’s Rolling Trophy Begins At Budgam Stadium

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid on Wednesday inaugurated LG's Rolling Cricket Trophy (Boys) at Sports Stadium Budgam.

Speaking at the event, the DC said that soon day and night sports activities including a cricket tournament during night hours shall be held at Sports Stadium Budgam

He said that under the guidance

of LG, special focus is being given to the development of sports infrastructure across the district to provide world class facilities to the youth of the district.

It is worth mentioning here that LG Trophy is being held at four venues including Sports Stadium Budgam, Sports Stadium Chrar-i-Sharief, Digital Ground Dharmunah and Sports Ground Beerwah.

In this event, 12 zones teams are participating.

The DC along with other offi-

cers/officials from YSS and participants took pledge against drugs under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan on the occasion.

The competitions are under progress under the supervision of DYSSO Budgam and the venue incharges.

At the end of the inauguration ceremony, the vote of thanks was given by Gurmukh Singh Dutta, DYSSO Budgam to the DDC Budgam for attending and inaugurating this mega event.

1st JK UT Hogam Sports Championship Held

Adil Khan

SRINAGAR: The first JK UT Hogam Sports championship was held from 26th to 27th of September under the aegis of Hogam Federation of India at Polo Ground, here.

The championship started with a run, bag jumping, crawling under the net, tire obstacles, tire flip, battle rope, etc.

Around 200 players from different districts, schools, and clubs participated in this championship

There are three sports branches: Tisapa (Crossing Sports Barriers), Lightning (Individual Arts-Deformation), and The Drama (Dramatic Fighting).

Ashiq Sultan, organiser of the event said we need our whole body to work in coordination during an obstacle race. He recommends practicing animal flow to work on the various aspects of our body.

He also suggests doing workouts like planks, side planks, glute bridge, superman, bird dog, etc, to strengthen our core muscles.

While talking to Kashmir Observer, Manzoor, the president of the JK Hogam Association stated that this game promotes children's physical fitness while they compete in abstracts of many kinds. We are making an effort to promote this game everywhere in our state.

On the occasion, Mohammad Iqbal Manager Indoor Sports Complex was the chief guest while as Parvaiz Ahamd (President Hogam Federation of India), Irfan Aziz, Hilal Ahmad, Ravees Ahmad were the guest of honours.



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