

Joblessness Rate In J&K Down By 9% In September: Report

Zaid Bin Shabir

Even as there was a substantial increase in the unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir in the month of August, the joblessness rate has come down by over 9 percent in the Union Territory in September, as per Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

According to the CMIE data, even though J&K's unemployment rate was higher than the national average, it still saw a decline in September as the rate came down to 23.2 percent

compared to the previous month's 32.8 percent. The latest UR for the month of September has brought some respite as the UT registered a 9.6 percent decline in the joblessness rate against the previous month.

As per reports, J&K's higher than national average unemployment rate is primarily because of the slower economic growth resulting in fewer job opportunities and also due to a much lower resilience to absorb the pandemic shock.

In August, J&K's unemployment rate had soared up to a six



year high when it touched 32.8 percent. Amid the unrest of 2016, J&K's unemployment rate stood

at 25.3 percent in September, 26.3 percent in October and 29.9 percent in November.

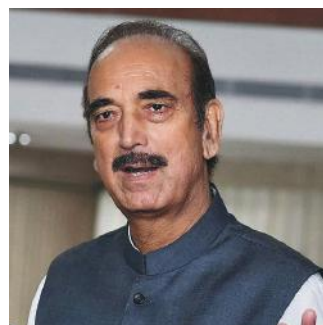
The latest unemployment figures have also brought forth that Rajasthan has the highest Unemployment rate at 23.8 percent followed by J&K and Haryana where the UR stood at 22.9 percent. J&K has the second highest Unemployment rate in India, as per CMIE. As per the data available, unemployment figures in the UT have sporadically changed since the start of 2022, showing an astronomical rise since last year.

As per CMIE, since the start of this year, there has been an increase of over 11 percent in

the unemployment rate. In the month of January, the data notes, J&K's UR stood at 15 percent. Though in the month of February it dipped down to 13.2 percent but in March the rate took an ugly turn and jumped to a grueling 25 percent. However, the rate came down in the following months till July.

Pertinently, a superficial look at the month of March, when J&K was standing at an unemployment rate of 25%, had brought into forth that roughly over 1.1 million people were jobless in J&K. | [More on P10](#)

Azad Elected Chairman Of His Party



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Former Chief Minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state Ghulam Nabi Azad has been elected the chairman of his newly formed Democratic Azad Party (DAP), a party leader said on Saturday.

A resolution to this effect was passed at a founder members session, which was held both in Jammu and Srinagar, the leader said, adding the decision was unanimous.

Azad, 73, who quit the Congress on August 26, launched DAP in Jammu on September 26 with the support of dozens of former ministers, ex-legislators and other prominent leaders, majority of whom also resigned from the Congress in his support.

They include former deputy chief minister Tara Chand, former ministers Peerzada Mohd Sayeed, Taj Mohiuddin, G M Saroori, R S Chib, Jugal Kishore, Majid Wani and Manohar Lal Sharma among others.

Azad spent four days in Kashmir from September 27 before returning to Jammu.

Home Minister To Visit J&K For 2 Days From Oct 4

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Jammu and Kashmir for two days beginning October 4, during which he will review the security situation there, address two rallies and offer prayers at Vaishno Devi temple.

On the first day of the visit, Shah will address a public meeting at Rajouri, launch development projects and also lay foundation stones for various projects in Jammu after visiting the Vaishno Devi temple in the morning.

On October 5, he will review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir at a meeting to be



held at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, top officials of the army, paramilitary forces, state police and civil administration will take part in the high-level meeting. | [More on P10](#)

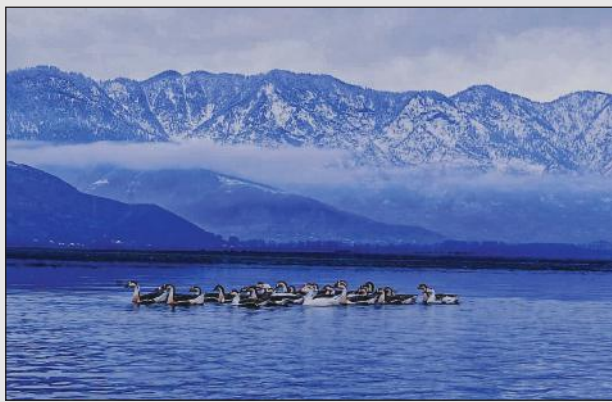
J&K Govt To Bring Wular Lake On Tourist Map

Walkways, Shikaras; Musical Fountains To Woo Tourists To Asia's largest Freshwater Lake

Auqib Javed

Bandipora: In a bid to woo tourists to Asia's largest freshwater lake, the J&K administration is taking several initiatives around Wular Lake in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

The district administration with the help of the Wular Conservation Management Authority (WCMA) is going to construct a non-motorable walkway and cycling track around the lake besides introducing Shikara boats akin to the ones in Srinagar's Dal Lake.



Conservator WCMA, Irfan Rasool Wani told Kashmir Observer that there is a comprehensive plan for eco-tourism in Wular Lake and the government is keen to bring the lake on tourism map.

He said the non-motorable walkway from Banyari Bridge

to Naz Nallah (Length 3.20 Km) will be developed at the cost of Rs. 1942.25 lakhs and will be completed within a few years.

According to the officials, in the Phase-I, the walkway will be constructed by way of raising of existing embankment with good earth filling,

construction of tiled path, providing of green space, strengthening of embankments with wire crates and its subsequent beautification by way of stone pitching.

They said the roadside amenities like viewing decks, parking spaces shall also be provided besides street lighting. The parking space at Naaz Nallah will be connect with main Srinagar-Bandipora road by way of upgradation of existing tracks

The officials said that the electric component for street lighting and illumination shall be taken up through Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL).

The work shall be completed within two working seasons subject to availability of funds, officials said.

"The DPR has | [More on P10](#)

Security Up In Baramulla Ahead Of Shah's visit

Security has been beefed up and put on a maximum alert across Baramulla ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the north Kashmir district. A top security official said that police and paramilitary forces have been deployed for surveillance and vehicles are being | [More on P10](#)

BJP Expects 30,000 People To Attend HM's Rally

Ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Jammu and Kashmir, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Union Territory unit has geared up to finalize the arrangements and said that it is expected that nearly 30,000 people will participate in the rally in | [More on P10](#)

Govt Rubbishes News Report On Highway Traffic

'51306 Trucks, Including 33105 Apple Laden Plied On Banihal Highway In September'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Divisional Administration Kashmir on Saturday rubbished a news report appearing in a Hindi daily over the movement of apple trucks on the strategic Srinagar-Jammu highway to other parts of the country.

In a hard hitting rebuttal issued here, the divisional administration, Kashmir termed the report published by Hindi Daily Dainik Bhaskar as unfounded, misleading and mischievous.



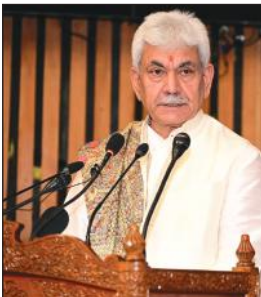
In response to the news story, the J&K Traffic Police Headquarter said that as per the data collected by NHAI at the Qazigund toll plaza, 51,306 trucks including 33,105 | [More on P10](#)

Imbibe Wisdom From Gandhi 's Thoughts, Actions: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday extended his greetings to the people on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti and urged them to imbibe wisdom from Gandhiji's thoughts and actions to realize the dream of a Swachh and Aatma-Nirbhar Bharat.

"On the occasion of the 153rd birth anniversary of the Father of our Nation Mahatma Gandhiji, I pay my humble tributes. Gandhiji's ideals of truth, non-violence, equality,



mutual respect, brotherhood and harmony continue to inspire millions of people across the world," the LG said in his message.

According to an official spokesperson, the LG observed that the occasion of Gandhiji | [More on P10](#)

2 October

Nation pays tribute to Gandhi ji and Shastri ji on their Birth Anniversary

“The life and ideals of Pujya Babu will continue to inspire every generation of the country to walk on the path of duty. Similarly, Shastri ji's life based on values and principles will always remain a source of inspiration for the countrymen.

- Narendra Modi

School Timing Changed In Kashmir

The authorities on Saturday ordered a change in school timings across the Kashmir Valley.

"All the Government and Private

(recognized) Schools of Kashmir Division shall observe school timings as 9:00 am to 3:00 pm within Municipal limits of Srinagar city

and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in areas falling outside Municipal limits of Srinagar w.e.f 01.10.2022," Directorate of School Education Department said in a order.

J&K Logs 8 New Corona Cases

Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 08 fresh Covid cases, taking the number of infected persons to 479157, while no fatality reported due to the virus in the last 24 hours, officials said.

Of the new cases, 03 were from the Jammu division and 05 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, Officials said. There are 118 active cases in the union territory while the number of recoveries so far has been 474254, officials said.

13 Covid-19 patients recovered today, 04 from Jammu division and 09 from Kashmir division, they said.

Drug Peddler Booked Under NDPS Act

An alleged drug peddler was detained from Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday. Ghat Doda resident Vijay Kumar alias "Pandit", a habitual drug peddler, was booked under provisions of illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act, a police spokesperson said. He has been lodged in Bhaderwah district jail on the orders of the Jammu divisional commissioner.

"The accused is a notorious peddler who has been active in the Chenab Valley districts of Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar for many years. Several FIRs have been registered | [More on P10](#)



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2

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: Aditya Birla Capital COVID Scholarship for School Students 2022-23

Description: Aditya Birla Capital Foundation invites applications from Class 1 to 12 and undergraduate students to support them in continuing their education. The scholarship is meant for those students who have lost their parent(s) due to COVID-19.

Eligibility: Open for Indian students who have lost their parent(s) due to COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants must be studying in Classes 1 to 12 and undergraduate (general and professional) courses. Applicants should be enrolled and continuing their education.

Prizes & Rewards: Fixed one-time scholarship up to INR 60,000

Last Date to Apply: 10-11-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ABCC3

Scholarship Name 2: GSK Scholars Programme 2022-23
Description: GSK Scholars Programme 2022-23 aims to support meritorious and financially constrained students who are pursuing first-year MBBS programme from



government colleges in India.

Eligibility: First-year MBBS students with at least 65% marks in Class 12 can apply. The annual family income of the applicants must be below INR 6,00,000 from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 1,00,000 per year
Last Date to Apply: 15-10-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/GSKP2

Scholarship Name 3: Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship and Mentorship Programme for Sportsperson and Individuals

Description: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program aims to provide foundational support to individuals, who are deserving & meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams.

Eligibility: For individuals helping others, the applicants must be graduates and involved in activities like teaching a group of underprivileged children or providing sports training to them. For sportspersons, applicants must have represented the state/country at the state/national/international level in the last 2/3 years. They must be ranked within 500 in the national ranking/ within 100 in the state ranking. They must be aged between 9 and 20 years. The annual family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum. Prizes & Rewards: Selected scholars can avail scholarship award of INR 75,000 per year for up to 3 years
Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KSSI2

COVID-19 Pandemic Linked To Altered Personality In Young Adults: Study

Press Trust Of India

The COVID-19 pandemic may have changed personality of people, especially in younger adults, according to a study conducted in the US. Previous studies have found no associations between collective stressful events -- such as earthquakes and hurricanes -- and personality change, the researchers said. However, the coronavirus pandemic has affected the entire globe and nearly every aspect of life, they said. The researchers from Florida State University College of Medicine in the US used longitudinal assessments of personality from 7,109 people enrolled in the online Understanding America Study. They compared five-factor model personality traits -- neuroticism, extraversion, openness, agreeableness and conscientiousness -- between pre-pandemic measurements (May 2014 - February 2020) and assessments early (March - December 2020) or later (2021-2022) in the pandemic. A total of 18,623 assessments were analysed. Participants were 41.2 per cent male and ranged in age from 18 to 109. Consistent with other studies, there were relatively few changes between pre-pandemic and 2020 personality traits, with only a small decline in neuroticism. However, the study published in the journal PLOS ONE, found declines in extraversion, openness, agreeableness, and conscientiousness when 2021-2022 data was compared to pre-pandemic personality. The changes were about one-tenth of a standard deviation, which is equivalent to about one decade of normative personality change, the researchers said. The changes were moderated by age, with younger adults showing disrupted maturity in the form of increased neuroticism and decreased agreeableness and conscientiousness, and the oldest group of adults showing no statistically significant changes in traits, they said.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) CONSTR. DIV. NO. 1ST SGR NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS FRESHNIT No.76/e-tendering /CD-I/2022-23/8659-75Dt., 29-09-2022

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Rupees)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion (calendar days)	Class of Contract	Ref to Auth /A.A	Ref. to T.S	Major Head of Account
1.	Improvement / Upgradation of Pantha Chowk Khonmoh Khrew (P.K.K) road including allied links by way of construction / Reconstruction of cement concrete drain (in Km 7th and 8th).	8,26,000/-	600/-	16520/-	25 days	DEE,CEE	AA No.5E PWD (R&B) Sgr.- Bud/215 of 2020-21 dtd.18-11-2022	06/TS/2022-23 dtd.09-2022	4059 State Sector (UT sector)
2.	Repair / Renovation of Residential Quarter "C" at Boys Hostel Bemina Srinagar.	2,03,000/-	200/-	4060/-	10 days	DEE	AA No.37-MCS of 2022 dtd.22/08/2022	35/TS/2022-23 dtd.09/2022	4210- Medical
3.	Partition work in the corridor both sides of pantry in the Administration block at GMC Srinagar.	1,13,000/-	200/-	2260/-	10 days	DEE	AA No.36-MCS of 2022 dtd.22/08/2022	36/TS/2022-23 dtd.09/2022	4210- Medical
4.	Construction of Cage around 20 KV DG Set installed in front of casualty block at GDC & H Srinagar under the scheme "Upgradation of Hospital Buildings and Hostels at GDC/H Sgr."	36,000/-	200/-	720/-	05 days	DEE	AA No.414-GDC of 2022 dtd.26-08-2022	38/TS/2022-23 dtd.09/2022	4210- Medical
5.	Replacement of batteries for sensor mixers, civil repairs replacement of glass panes for windows door shutters, repair of aluminium doors, partitions / other allied works at SMHS and Super Speciality Hospital Srinagar.	2,00,000/-	200/-	4000/-	10 days	DEE	Auth No. Acctts/247-48 dtd.19-04-2022	15/TS/2022 dtd.09/2022	2059-M&R
6.	Upgradation of Chowkidars (gate keepers) room near main gate at Govt. Medical College Srinagar.	3,64,000/-	200/-	7,280/-	15 days	DEE	24-MCS of 2022 dtd.25/07/2022	31/TS/2022-23 dtd.08/2022	4210-Med.

Position of Funds.- Available.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29-09-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 30.09.2022 6:55 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	30.09.2022 6:55 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	06.10.2022 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07.10.2022 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar, (to be notified after bid evaluation is completed).

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities (BoQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

Note :-The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy.

Any short fall found in the soft copy will render the Bid rejected.

As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-

1. Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.

2. The cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).

3. The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @ 3% of contract value in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 days after opening of Bids which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. This will replace the EMD @ 2% of the Advertised cost uploaded by the Bidder.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

5. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

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

7. The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after submission of Treasury Challan.

8. The earnest money may be forfeited if :-

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

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

9. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

10. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

13. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature.

14. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

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

16. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

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

18. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

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

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

21. In case of CRP and any other specified project the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.

22. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

23. All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:-

24. Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business.

25. Scanned copy of GSTIN Registration with return clearance certificate (Form GST-3B) for the month of July-2022 or latest or Quarter (April-June -2022-23).

26. Scanned copy of Enlistment/Regd. Certificate with current Renewal Certificate.

27. (The contractors having registration card issued by PWD (R&B) Deptt. shall register online along with latest renewal on JKPWDOMS portal and for the contractors who's registration/ renewal issued by other department shall also register themselves online on JKPWDOMS portal.

28. Scanned copy of Verification Certificate from Issuing Authority of Registration/Enlistment Card or affidavit duly certified by a 1st Class Executive Magistrate.

29. Scanned copy of PAN card, (as reflected in GST Regd./GST Form-3B).

30. All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan (Tender document cost) (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date) by debit to M.H.0059 in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar (Tender inviting authority).

31. Scanned copy of Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG/ dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date) Pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar (Tender Inviting Authority).

32. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

33. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfil the requirements as laid down in NIT.

34. All other terms & conditions shall be as are as per the SBD/Contract Agreement.

No.EE/CD-I/NIT/ 8659-75
DATED.01-10-2022

DIPK-11068/22

sd/
Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Construction Division No. 1st
Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

My mother's name in my passport has been wrongly written as Dilshada Bano while her correct name is Dilshada Tariq Which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Zubair Tariq
S/O Tariq Ahmad Ganie
R/O Paripora Magam

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E-AUCTION NOTICE

(For sale of mortgaged immovable property under sub rule 06 of Rule 08 read with sub rule 01 of Rule 09 of The security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 of SARFAESI Act 2002)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower, mortgagor and guarantors in particular that the below mentioned immovable property mortgaged to The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Duderhama, the physical possession whereof has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank under section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 will be sold through e auction on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATSOEVER THERE IS" and "NO COMPLAINT BASIS" on 03.11.2022 for recovery of dues to the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Duderhama from below mentioned borrower, mortgagor and guarantors. The reserve price and the earnest money deposit (EMD) is mentioned herein below :

Description of the mortgaged property (Put on sale)	Buildings used for school along with total of land measuring 02 Kanals 16 Marlas 72 sqft falling under Khasra No.689/263, Khata No.160, Khewat No.25 min and Khasra No.183 min Khata No.263, Khewat No.44 min in mouza Prang, Tehsil Kangan, District Ganderbal standing in the name of Habibullah Ahangar
Reserve Price	Rs. 1,51,83,820 (Rupees One Crore Fifty One Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Only)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.15,18,382/-

The bid document/format containing full details of the mortgaged property and all the terms & conditions can be had from and submitted on the website "<https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>" (Contact Persons: Mr.Ram Sharma (M) 9978591888, 9265562821 (O) 079 - 6813 6844.). The bids complete in all respects can be only submitted online by or before 31.10.2022 upto 5 PM. The e-auction will be held on 03.11.2022 from 11.30 AM-4.00 PM. The contact details of the bank officials are :Mr. Mohammad Yousuf Dar (Authorized Officer) Mobile No 9596427600 & Mr. Khursheed Ahmad (Branch Head Duderhama) Mobile No 9906903990

This publication is also a 30 days' notice in terms of sub rule 06 of Rule 08 read with sub rule 01 of Rule 09 of The security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 to the borrower, mortgagor and the guarantors to pay the total outstanding of loan along with interest and other expenses before the date of e-auction, failing which the property will be auctioned and balance if any along with interest and expenses will be recovered from them.

Dated: 29/09/2022
Place: Duderhama

DIPK-NB-4193/22

Sd/
Mohammad Yousuf Dar
Authorized Officer

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FOR ANY QUERY, CALL CIRCULATION DEPTT. : 0194-2502327



Alleged Child Abuser Dies In City Hospital

Agencies

Srinagar: An alleged child abuser from North Kashmir who was in custody and undergoing treatment at SKIMS Soura died in the hospital, official sources said.

Police had arrested an accused Rafiq Ahmed Mir, a resident of Dudran Boniyar area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district under 57/2022 under section 309.

The accused had developed some health issues and was undergoing treatment at SKIMS where he died.

After the completion of medico-legal formalities, the dead body was handed over to his family for last rites. (KNT)

Faculty Development Programme Concludes At NIT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Six-day long Faculty Development Program (FDP) on Social Commitment and Evaluating Impact in Community – Institution Engagement concluded on Saturday at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The FDP was organized by the Faculty Development Centre Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education Department of Higher Education (MGNCRE), Ministry of Education GOI, in collaboration with Regional Coordinating Institute, Umat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) NIT Srinagar.

Agha Mehdavipur Releases Tareekh-e-Shiayan-e-Kashmir

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The first of the five volume history of the Shia's of Jammu and Kashmir in Urdu "Tarikh-e-Shiayan-e-Jammu va Kashmir" written by Justice (Retd) Hakim Imtiyaz Hussain was released at an impressive function here on Saturday.

The book was released by Hujatul Islam Haj Agha Mehdi Mahdaviipur, the representative of Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei, in India.

The English version of the book was released in 2018.

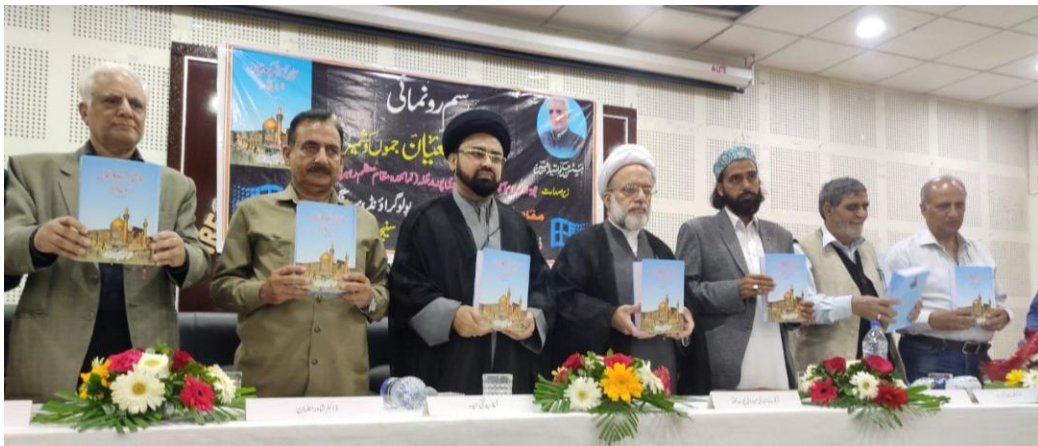
Today's function was attended by scholars, clergy and academia cutting across sectarian lines who had come from across Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme started with the recitation from the verses of the Holy Quran, followed by a welcome address by Prof. Syed Afzal.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Prof Shad Ramzan, senior journalist Yusuf Jameel, Prof Zaman Azurdah and Maulana Dr Sameer Siddiqui besides Agha Mehdavipur.

In his address, Professor Shad Ramzan said the book has been written keeping aside the lens of sectarianism.

"Vast research has been done to pen down the book and



it will go a long way in helping research scholars who intend to do research on Kashmir history" Prof Ramzan said. He dwelt in detail about the rich Marsiya tradition of Kashmir.

Prof Aazurda, said the book is the need of hour as distorted history has been fed to Kashmiris for many centuries.

"It is a book for our shelves and the message from the book is that we should all come together"

Maulana Sameer Siddiqui, said that a cursory reading of the book makes it amply clear that it is not only history of Shia's but an important part of Kashmir's Islamic history.

"The book covers the lives of artisans, poets, physicians and other craftsmen in the so-

ciety and thus making it popular history unlike many others which are chronicles of elites and kings" Sameer said.

Talking to Kashmir Observer on the sidelines of the function, author Justice (Retd) Imtiyaz Hussain said the book includes the history of Jammu, Kashmir and Baltistan.

"The history of Shias of Kashmir from 1320 A.D -1947 A.D has been documented in the book and it touches social, political, cultural spheres of life of Kashmiri Shias."

"The book is a historical study on the subject which gives an in-depth study of the socio-political and cultural history of the Shias of J&K. It also gives a brief account of the life and works of prominent

Shia ulema, rulers, nobles, poets, writers, physicians, historians and eminent Shia personalities who made great efforts to propagate Islam in different areas and made noteworthy contributions in various fields," the author said.

Hakim Imtiyaz said the book also covers details of how Shia faith was introduced in Kashmir and subsequent tumultuous events that shaped their day to day life.

"There are several misunderstandings among Muslims which need to be removed. I hope the book will help clear such misconceptions in Kashmir history", he said.

He said four other volumes will be released in the coming months.

HFMD Outbreak

Ready To Tackle Any Situation, Says Director Health

Agencies

Srinagar: Amid the panic that hand foot and mouth disease (HFMD) cases have been reported among children, Director Health Services Kashmir Mushtaq Ahmad Rather said that there is nothing to worry and the viral infection is common and does not need any treatment.

Talking to reporters at PHC Chanapora after taking part in an event related to international day of older persons, he said that the department has already issued advisory on HFMD popularly known as tomato flu as blisters and rashes are like tomatoes.

He asked people to follow advisory in letter and spirit.

Rather said that it is a mild disease and all cases reported so far have been isolated and surveillance units have been alerted to keep close vigil on it.

"But we are alert and ready to deal with any situation," he added.

Meanwhile Director School Education Kashmir Tasaduq Hussain said that they have already issued instructions that students with HFMD symptoms should be isolated at the earliest.

"This is not so dangerous or alarming and we have to fight these things. Parents must keep children with HFMD symptoms at home for a few days and there is no need to panic," he said.

Health department has already issued Do's and don'ts in this regard, he said—(KNO)

DC Chairs District Road Safety Committee Meeting

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A meeting of District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) was Saturday held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad to review the measures taken with regard to review of decisions taken in last DRSC meeting to decongest heavy load routes for smooth traffic flow in Srinagar City.

The meeting held threadbare deliberations on various issues with regard to management of Traffic in Srinagar City including identification of black spots, improvement of lighting on vital roads, Traffic Management System, decongestion of traffic pressure on various routes, behavioral change towards road safety, analysis of accidental data, establishment of Inspection & Certification Centre (ICC), status of road accident funds, rescue and evacuation measures by health Department etc.

On the occasion, the DC stressed upon all the officers to be proactive in implementation of the Road Safety Action Plan on priority basis for better management of the traffic system. He stressed on the concerned officers to take all required measures to decongest the City roads to ensure smooth flow of traffic.

The DC stressed for repairing black spots, initiating remedial measures, installation of signages and painting of roads at appropriate spots and generation of awareness

for making roads safer in the district. He directed the R&B Department to improve roads marking and signage to eliminate high risk stretches, black spots, improvement of junctions on all cross-roads and improve road lighting near habitations.

Further, the DC instructed to remove road side objects that hinder smooth traffic ply. He also asked the officers to take measures to improve traffic congestion and facilitate movement of pedestrians as well as commuters.

With regard to behavioural change towards road safety, the DC emphasised on conducting awareness programs by the line Departments on Traffic rules and regulations for mass sensitization to inculcate traffic sense among them.

During the meeting, it was decided to prepare DPRs for construction of underpass roads at major traffic crossings in various parts of the City like Jehangir Chowk, Bemina, Nowgam and SMHS Hospital to facilitate the people crossing over the road and avoid accidents.

Regarding establishment of Inspection & Certification Centre(I&CC), the DC asked the RTO, Kashmir to place indent for the land required for the purpose at the earliest.

Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, Sajid Yehya Nagash, Superintendent of Police (Headquarter), Arif Ahmad SP Traffic, Tariq Ahmad, Deputy CMO, Dr Anjum and other concerned were present in the meeting.

J&K Traffic Police Headquarters Press Release

Dated 1st Oct 2022

This is in response to the unfounded, misleading and mischievous observations made in the article by Danik Bhaskar dated 01-10-2022 regarding movement of apple trucks from the valley to other parts of the country.

In this regard it may be noted that as per the data collected by NHAI at the Quazigund toll plaza, between 01-09-2022 and 30-09-2022, **51,306** trucks including **33,105** apple carrying trucks moved from Quazigund to other parts of the country via NH 44. Details of daily truck movement for the month of Sept 2022 from Kashmir Valley via NH 44 is given below.

Further given that the entire backlog of trucks at Quazigund were cleared on 26-09-2022, it is obvious that the daily flow of apple trucks from out of the Kashmir valley to other parts of the country is only 1100 apple trucks per day, and not the higher figures of 2000 or 2500 apple trucks per day as is being claimed by vested interests. Similarly, the daily flow of truck in the Kashmir Valley towards Jammu and other parts of the country is only about 1600 trucks per day.

Given that the Down HMV traffic moves on alternate days, thus the maximum stranded trucks at Quazigund is only 1600 trucks unless the Down movement is hampered by partial or complete closure of the NH 44 due to shooting stones, landslides or repair work. Details of travel hours lost over the last week to Shooting stones, other blockages and repair work by NHAI is given below. It may be noted that NHAI had requested for No traffic window of 4 hours per day for 5 days starting 24th Sept 2022, for repair works which was allowed by the Government.

Date	Road blockage due to			Total time of Road Blockage
(From 05 PM to 05 PM)	Shooting stones at Mehar Passi	Repair work by NHAI		
24.09.2022	09 hrs 44mins.	Nil		09 hrs 44 mins
25.09.2022	Nil	02 hrs 10 mins.		02 hrs 10 mins.
26.09.2022	03 hrs 40 mins	04 hrs 55 mins.		08 hrs 35 mins.
27.09.2022	07 hrs 45 mins	05 hrs 59 mins.		13 hrs 44 mins.
28.09.2022	04 hrs 34 mins	04 hrs 27 mins		09 hrs 01 mins
29.09.2022	04 hrs 55 mins	Nil		04 hrs 55 min
30.09.2022	04 hrs 27 min	Nil		04 hrs 27 min
Total	35 hrs 05 mins	17 hrs 31 mins.		52 hrs 36 mins.

DOWN CONVOY DETAILS W.e.f. 01-09-2022 TO 30-09-2022 (AS PER NHAI TOLL DATA)

DATE	DOWN CONVOY		TOTAL HMVs
	APPLE HMVs	OTHER HMVs	
01.09.2022			
02.02.2022	831	2532	3363
03.09.2022			
04 .09.2022	773	2254	3027
05..09.2022			
06. 09.2022	1057	1823	2880
07. 09.2022			
08. 09.2022	1732	1291	3023
09. 09.2022			
10.09.2022	2683	887	3570
11. 09.2022			
12 .09.2022	2699	3556	6255
13.09.2022			
14.09.2022	2712	1058	3770
15. 09.2022	22	0	22
16. 09.2022	2760	951	3711
17. 09.2022	14	0	14
18.09.2022	3138	969	4107
19. 09.2022	20	0	20
20.09.2022	2518	826	3344
21. 09.2022	25	0	25
22. 09.2022	2619	771	3390
23. 09.2022	23	0	23
24 .09.2022	671	154	825
25. 09.2022	3995	559	4554
26. 09.2022	2480	292	2772
27.09.2022	0	0	0
28 .09.2022	0	9	9
29. 09.2022	2331	269	2600
30. 09.2022	0	0	0
TOTAL	33105	18201	51306

Maqsood Ul Zaman -SSP
Staff Officer IGP Traffic
J&K UT.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**

05 Rabi ul Awwal
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:05
ZUHR	12:22
ASR	4:35
Magrib	6:21
ISHA	7: 41

This Day In History

- 939 - Battle at Andernach: King Otto & Hermann of Zwaben beat Eberhard of France & Gisbert of Lutherans
- 976 - Hisham II appointed kalief of Cordoba
- 1949 - USSR recognizes People's Republic of China.
- 1972 - Aeroflot Il-18 crashes near Black Sea resort of Sochi, kills 105
- 1977 - Pakistani general Zia ul-Haq bans all opposition
- 1980 - 38 year old Muhammad Ali comes out of 2-year retirement to challenge undefeated world heavyweight champion Larry Holmes at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas; Ali pounded unmercifully for 10 rounds before corner throws in towel.
- 1981 - Ali Khamenei elected president of Iran
- 1984 - 3 cosmonauts return after a record 237 days in orbit
- 1986 - Sikhs attempt to assassinate Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
- 1990 - WW2 Allied nations cede any remaining rights as occupiers of Germany
- 1990 - Chinese plane explodes, about 100 die
- 1994 - Pakistan cricket batsmen Inzamam-ul-Haq & Mushtaq Ahmed put on 57 runs in 8 overs for highest last-wicket partnership ever to win a Test, as the home team beats Australia by 1 wicket in the 1st Test in Karachi.
- 2001 - NATO backs US military strikes, following 9/11
- 2007 - President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea walks across the Military Demarcation Line into North Korea on his way to the second Inter-Korean Summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il

From KO Archives

European Team Arrives On Fact-Finding Mission

Observer News Service

Srinagar - Top diplomats from four European Union (EU) countries, including the European Commission envoy in New Delhi, arrived here Monday on a fact-finding mission. The team led by EC ambassador Michel Caillouet met the leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference at their Rajbagh headquarters soon after their arrival in the capital. The delegation is scheduled to have meetings with top government officials as well tomorrow.

The team includes ambassadors Guy Trouveroy of Belgium, Bernard de Montferriand of France and Johaa Nordenfelt of Sweden. The delegation spent an hour and a half at the APHC headquarters where top leaden of the alliance including Chairman Prof Abdul Ghani, Syed Ali Geelani, Maulana Abbas Ansari and Sheikh Abdul Aziz were present. Emerging from the meeting EU ambassa-dors ducked questions from reporters present there about the nature of discussions with the APHC leaders. When the French envoy Montferriand was asked specifically whether they had brought a new proposal for solving the Kashmir issue, he parried the question and said the purpose of their visit was of the same nature as the previous ones. He said the Indian government was aware of the purpose of their current visit.

Sources however said during the meeting the EU delegation informed the APHC leaders that India and Pakistan were being persuaded to resume talks on Kashmir. The delegation was keen for APHC to enter into a dialogue with New Delhi and wanted to know the reasons for Hurriyat's reluctance for such their current visit. Sources however said during the meeting the EU delegation informed the APHC leaders that India and Pakistan were being persuaded to resume talks on Kashmir .The delegation was keen for APHC to I enter into a dialogue with New Delhi and wanted to know! The reasons for Hurriyat's reluctance for such a move. I APHC leaders have reportedly outlined their posi-tion and said that they were not against talks in principle but I insisted on purposeful and result oriented negotia-tions. Prof Abdul Ghani later told reporters the discussion with the envoys focussed on the Kashmir issue but added they have their own ideas and we have our own. Mean-while official sources said the government would brief them on J the current scenario in Kashmir, including the offer and I then withdrawal earlier this year of a ceasefire by the Hizbul Mujahideen. The ambassadors also met Fazal Haq Qureshi who mediated in the talks between Hizb and the government recently. The delegation was briefed by the DG Police about the current situation in the state. (Kashmir Observer, October 02, 2000)

Afghan Women Protest "Hazara Genocide" After 20 Die In Kabul Bombing

Agenceis

Kabul: Dozens of women from Afghanistan's minority Hazara community protested in the capital Saturday after a suicide bombing a day earlier killed 20 people -- mostly young women from the ethnic group.

A bomber blew himself up on Friday at a Kabul study hall as hundreds of pupils were taking tests in preparation for university entrance exams in the city's Dasht-e-Barchi area.

The western neighbourhood is a predominantly Shiite Muslim enclave and home to the minority Hazara community -- a historically oppressed group that has been targeted in some of Afghanistan's most brutal attacks in recent years.

Police said at least 20 people were killed but the United Nations has put the number at 24.

On Saturday about 50 women chanted, "Stop Hazara genocide, it's not a crime to be a Shiite", as

girls," protester Farzana Ahmadi, 19, told AFP.

"We demand a stop to this genocide. We staged the protest to demand our rights."

Protesters later gathered in front of the hospital and chanted slogans as dozens of heavily armed Taliban, some carrying rocket-propelled-grenade launchers, kept watch.

Since the headline Taliban returned to power last August, women's protests have become risky, with numerous demonstrators detained and rallies broken up by Taliban forces firing shots in the air.

No group has claimed responsibility for Friday's attack at the Kaaj Higher Educational Centre.

But the jihadist Islamic State (IS) group regards Shiites as heretics and has previously claimed attacks in the area targeting girls, schools and mosques.

The Taliban also regard the Hazara community as heathens, and rights groups often accused



they marched past a hospital in Dasht-e-Barchi where several victims of the attack were being treated.

Dressed in black hijabs and headscarves, angry protesters carried banners that read: "Stop killing Hazaras", an AFP correspondent reported.

Witnesses have told AFP that the suicide attacker detonated in the women's section of the gender-segregated hall.

"Yesterday's attack was against the Hazaras and Hazara

the Islamists of targeting them during their 20-year insurgency against the former US-backed government.

Since returning to office the Taliban have pledged to protect minorities and clamp down on security threats.

However, rights group Amnesty International said Friday's attack was "a shameful reminder of the inaptitude and utter failure of the Taliban, as de-facto authorities, to protect the people of Afghanistan".

Iran Says Unrest Fueled By Cells Based In Albania

Agenceis

The Iranian Intelligence Ministry has confirmed in a statement on Saturday the arrest of 49 MEK members in Iran. The arrestees acted upon the orders of the terrorists in Albania, and they were charged with triggering false news and street riots and organizing acts of terror and destruction, provoking rioters to destroy whatever comes in their way. The perpetrators were also provided with various equipment to confront the police and incendiary materials to set fires.

77 members in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region were also arrested, according to the Ministry, which also confirmed the arrest of five members of a takfiri-terrorist group carrying 36 kg of explosives, in an attempt to target public gatherings. 92 others, affiliated with the US-backed Pahlavi regime, were also arrested.

The Intelligence Ministry

pointed to activities of foreign and social media as being involved in escalating the recent riots in Iran, adding that nine foreign nationals from Germany, Poland, Italy, France, Holland, and Sweden were identified and held in contempt during the riots or behind the scenes.

It is noteworthy that for years, Tirana has been hosting the People's Mujahedeen of Iran (MEK), which Iran considers a terrorist group after Albania agreed in 2013 to take in members of the group at the request of Washington and the United Nations.

The MEK regularly hosts summits in Albania that have long attracted support from conservative US Republicans, including former Vice President Mike Pence who delivered a keynote address at an event in June.

Albania has expelled a string of Iranian diplomats from the Balkan country over the years, including Tehran's Ambassador to the country in December 2018.

India Abstains From UN Vote Against Referendums In 4 Ukraine Regions



Agenceis

United Nations- India has abstained on a draft resolution tabled in the UN Security Council which condemned Russia's "illegal referenda" and annexation of four Ukrainian territories and called for an immediate cessation of violence while underlining the need to find pathways for a return to the negotiating table.

The 15-nation UN Security Council on Friday voted on the draft resolution tabled by the US and Albania that condemns Russia's "organisation of illegal so-called referenda in regions within Ukraine's internationally recognised borders." The resolution declares that Russia's "unlawful actions" with regards to the "illegal so-called referenda" taken on September 23 to 27 this year in parts of Ukraine's regions of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhya that are under Russia's temporary control can have "no validity" and cannot

form the basis for any alteration of the status of these regions of Ukraine, including any "purported annexation" of any of these regions by Moscow.

The resolution failed to get adopted as Russia vetoed it. Of the 15-nation Council, 10 nations voted for the resolution while China, Gabon, India and Brazil abstained.

In the explanation of the vote, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said that India was deeply disturbed by the recent turn of developments in Ukraine and New Delhi has always advocated that no solution can ever arrive at the cost of human lives.

"We urge that all efforts are made by concerned sides for the immediate cessation of violence and hostilities. Dialogue is the only answer to settling differences and disputes, however daunting that may appear at this moment," she said.

"The path to peace requires us to keep all channels of diplomacy open," she said, adding that Prime

Minister Narendra Modi "unequivocally conveyed" this in his discussions with world leaders, including with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

She also referred to statements made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Ukraine during the high-level General Assembly session last week.

Referring to Modi's remark to Putin on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Uzbekistan's Samarkand that "today's era is not an era of war", Kamboj said New Delhi sincerely hopes for an early resumption of peace talks to bring about an immediate ceasefire and resolution of the conflict.

"India's position has been clear and consistent from the very beginning of this conflict. The global order is anchored on the principles of the UN Charter, international law and respect for sovereignty and the territorial integrity of all states. Escalation of rhetoric or tension is in no one's interest," she said.

West "Plundered" India, Hooked Nations On Drugs, Says Putin: Report

Agenceis

Moscow: Accusing the West of provoking colour revolution in any country for geopolitical gains, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday said that the West has "plundered" countries like India in contradiction to the values of "truth, freedom, and justice," according to a Reuters translation of Putin's speech.

"The West ... began its colonial policy back in the Middle Ages, and then followed the slave trade, the genocide of Indian tribes in America, the plunder of India, of Africa, the wars of England and France against China ... What they did was hooking entire nations on drugs, deliberately exterminate entire ethnic groups," said Putin in the St George's Hall at a Kremlin ceremony as per Reuters translation.

"For the sake of land and resources, they hunted people like animals. This is contrary to the very nature of man, truth, freedom, and justice," he added as he condemned West for stirring up new conflicts.

Putin said that the West stands ready to provoke revolution in any



country. "Following their goals, our geopolitical opponents - our opponents as we called them until quite recently - are prepared to put anyone, any country, in the line of fire; to turn it into the epicenter of a crisis; to provoke a 'color revolution' and unleash a bloodbath," as per Reuters translation of Putin's speech which he gave in Russian.

"We have seen all this on more than one occasion. We also know that the West works on scenarios to stir up new conflicts in the CIS

(Commonwealth of Independent States) area. But we have enough of them as it is. You need but look at what's happening now between Russia and Ukraine, what's happening on the borders of some other CIS countries," he added.

In an all-out attack on the West, Putin in the ceremony formally announced the annexation of four regions - Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia and claimed that "this is the will of millions of people."

He also attacked the West as 'satanic' and hailed 'traditional' Russian values.

"Do we really want in our schools, from the elementary grades, that children were imposed perversions that lead to degradation and extinction? That they were taught that besides a man and a woman there were some other genders and were offered sex-change operations? Do we really want this for our country, for our children?"

All this is unacceptable for us, we have our own, different future," he said as he slammed western values, according to a Reuters translation of Putin's speech.

Varanasi University Guest Lecturer Sacked After Social Media Post On Navratri Fast

Agenceis

Varanasi: The Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth has dismissed a guest lecturer and banned his entry "in view of the university atmosphere getting vitiated and examinations affected" after he wrote on social media that women should read the Constitution and the Hindu Code Bill "instead of fasting for nine days during navratri".

Registrar Sunita Pandey said the action was taken after students complained about Mithilesh Kumar Gautam, the guest lecturer, through a letter.

In his social media post in Hindi, Gautam had written, "For women, it is better to read the Constitution of India and the Hindu Code Bill instead of fasting for nine days during Navratri. Their lives will be free from fear and slavery. Jai Bheem."

In an office order, Pandey said, "On September 29, students had complained through a letter stating that Dr Mithilesh Kumar Gautam, a guest lecturer in political science department, had posted some material on social media, which is against Hindu religion." Pandey cited "widespread resentment" among students against Gautam for the action.

"...In view of the university atmosphere getting vitiated and examinations affected, I have

been directed that Dr Mithilesh Kumar Gautam be dismissed with immediate effect, and his entry into the university campus be banned in view of security," Pandey said in the order.

Gautam could not be contacted for comments despite repeated efforts. His phone was switched off.

Anuj Srivastava, an office-bearer of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, said Gautam's comments were "wrong", and the university had taken an "appropriate step".

However, Lucknow University Associate Professor of Hindi Ravikant Chandan questioned the action.

"I had seen that post. There was nothing unconstitutional in it. Our Constitution says

that there should be scientific India. We have the freedom of expression, and the post is related to freedom of women. It is a simple and ordinary post. Now, the question is whether logic ceases to exist in new India. Secondly, he (Mithilesh Kumar Gautam) is a Dalit teacher," Chandan told PTI.

"First they (apparently referring to the BJP) had attacked Muslims, and now they are targeting Dalit activists, teachers and social workers. And this is happening in educational institutes, because educated people are there. Nobody will ask how many hours a teacher has taught."



With PM Title, Saudi Crown Prince Seeks Cover Against Lawsuits: Critics



Agenceis

Dubai: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's new title of prime minister, announced this week, could prove more significant abroad than inside the kingdom where he already wields enormous power. The appointment by royal decree comes ahead of a deadline for US President Joe Biden's administration to weigh in on whether Prince Mohammed qualifies for immunity from lawsuits filed in American courts.

The 37-year-old de facto ruler of the world's biggest crude exporter has been targeted in multiple such lawsuits in recent years, notably over the 2018 killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the kingdom's Istanbul consulate, which temporarily turned him into a pariah in the West.

His lawyers have argued in filings that he "sits at the apex of Saudi Arabia's government" and thus qualifies for legal immunity.

Human rights activists and government critics immediately speculated this week that making Prince Mohammed prime minister was a bald-faced attempt to strengthen the immunity claim and skirt legal exposure.

Sarah Leah Whitson, executive director of the NGO Khashoggi founded Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), told AFP it was a "last-ditch effort to conjure up a new title for him" -- in other words, "a title-washing play". Saudi officials did not respond to requests for comment about the move.

Hit squads and hacks

In October 2020, two years after Khashoggi's death, DAWN filed a complaint in the United States along with Khashoggi's fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, accusing Prince Mohammed of involvement in a "conspiracy" that led to Khashoggi being kidnapped, bound, drugged, tortured and assassinated.

Last year, Biden declassified an intelligence report that found Prince Mohammed had approved the operation against Khashoggi, an assertion Saudi authorities deny.

The legal threats to Prince Mohammed in US courts go beyond Khashoggi.

He was also named in a law-

suit filed by Saad al-Jabri, a former top intelligence official who fell out of favour as Prince Mohammed manoeuvred to become first in line to the throne in 2017.

That complaint accuses Prince Mohammed of trying to lure Jabri back to Saudi Arabia from exile in Canada -- then, when that didn't work, "deploying a hit squad" to kill him on Canadian soil, a plot foiled when most of the would-be assailants were turned back at the border.

In yet another case, Prince Mohammed was accused by Lebanese journalist Ghada Oueiss of involvement in a scheme to hack her mobile device and disseminate "stolen personal images" to defame her and prevent her from reporting on human rights issues.

The immunity question appeared to come to a head over the summer, when a US judge gave Biden's administration until August 1 to say whether it believed Prince Mohammed qualified.

After Biden visited Saudi Arabia in July, abandoning a previous pledge to turn Saudi Arabia into a "pariah", his administration requested an additional 60 days to decide whether to weigh in on the matter.

The new deadline falls no later than Monday.

'In control' at home

Before this week's announcement, Prince Mohammed, often referred to by his initials "MBS", had been serving as deputy prime minister and defence minister, managing major portfolios from energy to security and beyond.

Little is expected to change within the kingdom because of his new title, said Umar Karim, an expert on Saudi politics at the University of Birmingham.

"MBS was already completely in control, and there was no threat as such to him that could be countered by him becoming prime minister," Karim said.

At the same time, it is not clear whether becoming prime minister will significantly bolster Prince Mohammed's claim of immunity, given that King Salman remains head of state.

NEWS MAKERS

Actor Annu Kapoor Cheated Of ₹ 4.36 Lakh In Online Fraud

Agenceis

Mumbai: Film actor Annu Kapoor lost ₹ 4.36 lakh to an online fraudster on the pretext of getting his Know Your Customer (KYC) details updated with a leading private sector bank, but timely action by the police will ensure he gets back ₹ 3.08 lakh, an official said on Saturday.

Mr Kapoor got a call from a man posing as an employee of the bank on Thursday who said he needed to update his KYC form, after which the actor shared his bank details and One Time Password, the Oshiwara police station official said.

"Sometime later, the caller transferred ₹ 4.36 lakh from Mr Kapoor's account to two other accounts in two transactions. However, the bank immediately called him up to inform him about the transaction



and also told him his account was compromised," he said.

Mr Kapoor approached the police without delay and the banks into which the money was transferred were contacted, he added.

"Both the accounts have been

frozen by these banks and Kapoor will get back ₹ 3.08 lakh. A case has been registered under the Indian Penal Code and Information Technology Act provisions. Efforts are on to arrest the online fraudster," the police official said.

Woman Hid Cocaine Worth ₹ 4.9 Crore In Sandals, Arrested at Mumbai Airport



Agenceis

Mumbai: The Customs department has arrested a woman passenger at the Mumbai international airport for trying to smuggle cocaine worth ₹ 4.9 crore by hiding it in the cavity of her sandal, an official said on Saturday. The incident occurred on Thursday, in which 490 grams of cocaine was recovered from her, he said.

The woman was intercepted

by the Customs officials at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on the basis of suspicion. During the search, the officials found the cocaine ingeniously concealed in a special cavity made in her sandal, the Mumbai Customs department said in a tweet.

The passenger was arrested and remanded in judicial custody, it added.

Details about the accused and her destination are awaited.

J&K Science Council To Set Up Centre To Facilitate Patent Filing

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKST&IC) is setting up a centre to help researchers protect their intellectual property rights, officials on Saturday said.

The facilitation-cum-information centre is being set up in collaboration with the Union government's department of Science and Technology (DST), a senior government official said.

Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology department, said the centre will encourage the researchers to protect their intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

Speaking at a startup expo inaugurated by Union minister Jitendra Singh here, the official said the JKST&IC is actively trying to partner with other science and tech councils and the DST for strengthening the science, technology, and innovation ecosystem in the Union Territory.

JKST&IC has started the support for innovation and patent filing scheme wherein it provides financial support to the innovators in the form of seed money that would help them start, he said.

He said many institutions have been taken into a loop for identifying the innovators here in NIT, IIT and other research institutions, so that their ideas could be examined by a scientific advisory committee or technical Committee.

The aim is to link them with the International Centre for En-

trepreneurship and Technology (Icreate), Ahmadabad, if their ideas are found worthwhile for further incubation and convert their ideas into businesses.

Bhagat said the JKST&IC has been able to provide financial support to the tune of Rs 5.50 crore to 123 short-term and mid-term research and development projects from various universities.

He requested the Union minister to support the council to take up more R&D projects, as many problems are still to be addressed, especially among the rural population.

The commissioner secretary said that the Jammu administration has recently identified a site measuring nearly five hectares in Chowadi-Sunjwan to set up a Sub-Regional Science Centre-cum- Museum in collaboration with the National Council of Science Museums of the Ministry of Culture.

He also urged Singh to help the council set up other parks, such as Robotics Park, Life Science Park, Aquatic Gallery, S&T Park, and Nature Park on lines of those that exist in Science City, Ahmadabad.

He expressed gratitude to the Union minister for helping the administration establish two Industrial Biotechnology Parks (ITBPs), one each in Ghati, Kathua and in Handwara, Kupwara district of Kashmir.

The IBTP in Kathua was inaugurated by Singh in May 2022. The IBTP in Handwara is expected to be inaugurated by February, 2023, he said.

Pole Orders Uninterrupted Power Supply During Milad

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday directed Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KP-DCL) to ensure uninterrupted power supply to all the congregation sites during the forthcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) celebrations in Kashmir Valley.

Pole passed these directions while chairing a meeting to review the arrangements for celebration of forthcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), an official spokesperson said Saturday.

Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag, Shopian, Budgam and Bandipora districts participated in the meeting through video conferencing while Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Chief Engineers of various departments, officers of police, Traffic department, Information, Waqf Board, Health Department, SMC, attended the meeting in person.

Addressing the meeting, the Div Com stressed for making all the necessary arrangements to facilitate people on the upcoming auspicious occasions. He directed the officials of KP-DCL to ensure uninterrupted

power supply to all the congregation sites during the entire period. He also directed the restoration of street lights in and around these areas.

The Div Com also directed for making provision of safe drinking water, adequate supply of ration, health care facilities, fire fighting arrangements, parking facilities and ensuring cleanliness at Hazratbal Shrine, Jenab Sahib Saura, Assar I Sharief Kalashpora, Aham-i-Sharief Bandipora, Kabamarg Anantnag, Pethmak-hama Budgam and at all other Masjids and shrines where large number of devotees are expected to arrive.

He directed State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) officials to make buses available for the transportation of devotees on all routes leading to Hazratbal. He directed for making parking facilities available at Kashmir University and NIT. Besides, he also directed the plying of electric Autos for elderly people from parking places to Assar-i- Sharief Hazratbal to facilitate them during their visits to shrines on auspicious days.



The Div Com directed RTO Kashmir to designate routes for devotees and streamline the flow of traffic.

He also directed for establishing facilitation centres for devotees by the Waqf board and Traffic Police for making announcements to guide the public. Also, he asked for the establishment of health camps with dedicated staff and all facilities.

Regarding addressing the dog menace around the Hazratbal Shrine, it was informed that SMC already conducted a dog catching drive. On the occasion, Div Com directed CEO waqf board to install iron mesh at the gates of the shrine so stray dogs do not enter the premises of lawns of the shrine.

Moreover, Div Com directed Waqf Board and LCMA to make water fountains at Hazratbal functional and asked CE KPDCCL to supply electricity regularly for the activity.

He directed ADC Srinagar to conduct visits to the congregation sites of the city to ensure all the arrangements are put in place.

Jitendra Singh Says Efforts On To Set Up Cancer Hospital In Kathua



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said efforts are afoot to set up a Tata memorial cancer institute in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir.

This was conveyed by the minister while chairing a district development coordination and monitoring committee (DISHA) meeting in Kathua to review progress on various centrally-sponsored schemes (CSS) being implemented in the district, an official statement said.

The minister directed officials to identify and procure land for establishing a unit of Tata memorial cancer institute in Kathua.

He said the hospital will provide much needed relief to the patients of the region battling against the deadly disease.

About the status of Arun Jaitley International sports stadium coming up at Hiranagar, the Kathua deputy commissioner told the meeting that the architectural drawing of the project has been prepared and sent for

approval to the authorities concerned, the statement said.

The minister was also informed that the first phase of the much-anticipated Shahpur Kandi Project will be completed by December 2022, while work on the Ujh multipurpose project will be started soon, it said.

Singh said a multi-facility tourist village at the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir in Lakhampur will be established for giving a pleasant and memorable experience to the tourists arriving in J-K.

50 Youth Shortlisted During Job Fair In Baramulla

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A job fair was organised Saturday by District Employment & Counselling Centre Baramulla for jobseekers from the North Kashmir district.

The Joint Director Employment Kashmir, Hakeem Tanveer Ahmad, who was the chief guest on the occasion, interacted with job seeker and employers said that more job fairs will be organised in district in coming months and it will be regular feature of employment department, an official spokes-

person said.

On the occasion, Assistant Director Employment, DE&CC Baramulla Rabia Iqbal emphasized upon the unemployed youth / Job seeker and Employers/Job providers to register themselves on employment portal www.jakemp.nic.in to bridge the gap between Employers and job seekers.

Around 11 employers from different sectors participated in the event which included companies like Tata Fairdeal Motors, LIC, Bajaj Allianz, SRM WELKIN school, Aqua Impex Baramulla

and others.

More than 250 unemployed youth/jobseekers from the district participated in the event.

Around 50 youth were short-listed by various companies for different jobs and 30 candidates registered themselves on the Employment Portal i.e. www.jakemp.nic.in on the spot.

Various company representative also addressed the youth and made them aware about the changing requirement of industry and job skills required for employment in the contemporary times.

18th Annual Convocation Of KIIT

Knowledge Is The New Engine Of Economic Growth, Social Development: CM Odisha



Observer News Service

BHUBANESWAR: "Currently, we are living in a geo-economic world and knowledge is recognised as a key resource for achieving economic growth and social development", Shri Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha told the Batch of 2022 at the 18th Annual Convocation of KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar on Saturday.

Wishing the graduates a bright future, he expressed confidence that they would make their mark in society with their ideas and innovations.

"In the last 25 years, KIIT has carved a niche for itself in the realm of technical and professional education in the country. It has achieved many milestones by getting prestigious national and international accreditations and it also stands out in community outreach programmes", the Chief Minister said. He also noted its significant contributions to the field of sports. This year the institution is celebrating its Silver Jubilee.

In her convocation address delivered virtually, Dr. Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Nobel Laureate urged the graduates to do something for those who are less privileged than them, even as they pursue their professional career. The Guest of Honour, Mr. John Desmond Forbes Anderson (Lord Waverley), Hon'ble Member of British Parliament, UK stated that India is an economic powerhouse and shares much in common with UK. He advocated expanding the areas of cooperation between the two countries, including the Free Trade Agreement.

On the occasion, KIIT-DU conferred Honoris Causa D.Litt. Degrees upon six eminent persons from across the world: Himanshu Gulati, Member of Parliament, Norway; Bishow Parajuli, Representative & Country Director, WFP India; Andreas Jahn, Senior Foreign Policy Advisor, Germany; Dr. Deepa Malik,

Padma Shri, Khel Ratna & Arjuna Awardee, and President, Paralympic Committee of India; K. Subramanian, Executive Vice Chairman, AFCONS Infrastructure; and Prabodh Mohanty, Managing Director, S.N. Mohanty Group.

As many as 8123 students received degrees at the convocation ceremony. These include 6330 Bachelors, 1627 Masters, 163 Ph.D., and 3 MPhil degrees. Prof. Achyuta Samanta congratulated the batch of 2022 for their outstanding performance despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. "The University stood all along with the students in these difficult times, supporting them all the way in their quest for academic excellence", mentioned Prof. Samanta in his message.

In his presidential address, Ashok Kumar Parija, Chancellor, KIIT-DU said, "KIIT-DU is contributing to the development of India by empowering its students, creating alumni that are building the nation, and supporting the growth trajectory of millions of indigenous students. But what stands tall, is its mentoring and supporting gesture, quite unmatched in the annals of philanthropy in India".

Prof. (Dr.) S. K. Acharya, Pro-Chancellor and Prof. Sasmita Samanta, Vice Chancellor also addressed the students.

Medals were awarded to 71 students for their outstanding academic performances. Three students were awarded Founder's Gold Medals for their outstanding all round and academic performances, while 34 students were awarded Chancellor's Gold Medals, and 30 students got Vice Chancellor's Silver Medals. Nanibala Memorial Gold Medal, Shri Krushna Chandra Panda Memorial Gold Medal, P. K. Bal Memorial Gold Medal and PPL Gold Medal were also given away on the occasion. Prof. J. R. Mohanty, Registrar proposed the word of thanks.

5 Kg Heroin Recovered In Poonch, 1 Arrested

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Five kilogram heroin, worth crores of rupees in international market, was recovered in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Saturday, officials said.



A suspected drug-peddler was also arrested during the operation carried out by the Punjab Police in close

coordination with their Jammu and Kashmir counterpart, the officials said. They said the recovery was made after a team of Punjab Police reached Poonch and a joint raid was conducted at a suspected house.

The huge quantity of heroin is believed to have been smuggled from across the border, the officials said.

World Bank Team Concludes 5 Day Tour To J&K

Visits Under Construction 120 Bedded Bone & Joint Hospital, Emergency Operations Centre, JTFRP Sites

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A high level team of World Bank comprising Hemang Karelia, Task Team Leader, Deepak Singh, Senior Disaster Risk Management specialist, Dr Chandrasekhar, consultant /former Chief Architect, Union Ministry of Health, Supriti Dua, Financial Expert, Arghya Ghosh, Livelihood Consultant, Peeyush Sekhsaria, Disaster Risk Management Specialist and Manzoor Khan, Operations Specialist Saturday concluded its 5 day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

During last 5 days, the team had comprehensive discussion with Project Management Unit of Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project and various Project Implementation Units JKERA, PWD (R&B), I&CD, SMC, which are executing various sub-projects under different components of World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project.

Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Chief

Executive Officer J&KERA, during his meeting with World Bank team, said that 143 sub-projects, out of the total of 213 sub-projects, have been completed under different components of JTFR project. He added that an expenditure of Rs 1131.51 crore has been incurred under the project, so far.

The completed sub-projects included various vital road and bridge sub-projects in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, construction of BaLa (Building as a Learning Aid) designed schools across J&K, installation of 30 Manifold Oxygen Generation plants in hospitals located in most remote areas of the UT, providing of Critical Care medical equipments to District Hospitals across J&K, construction of various Storm Water Drainage projects, development of DSS (Decision Support System), IOFS (Integrated Operational Forecasting System), study on MHRA (Multihazard Risk Assessment) for Strengthening of Disaster Management Capacity in J&K.

Dr Syed Abid alongwith the visiting

World Bank team also visited under construction 120 bedded hospital at Bone & Joint Hospital which is being executed under JTFRP at an allotted cost of Rs 88.95 crore by NPCC (National Projects Construction Corporation). It was informed that around 48% progress has been achieved on the project, so far.

CEO ERA, directed the executing agency NPCC to ensure that the highest standards of construction be maintained on execution of works.

Dr. Chandrasekhar, Consultant, World Bank, former Chief Architect, Union Ministry of Health, asked the contractor that work on sub-project be executed in such a manner so that installation of medical equipments and other hi-tech equipments in the new building is synchronised and seamless.

The World Bank team also had a meeting with Saloni Rai, Director, Industries & Commerce, Kashmir, during which progress achieved under the component of Restoration &

Strengthening of Livelihoods being executed by I&CD was discussed. It was informed that with completion of New Composite Market Centre for Silk at Rajbagh and Composite Market Centre for wool at Bemina besides installation of latest spinning/weaving equipments under the JTFR project the production capacity at these centres is showing a gradual increase.

The team also had an interaction with the members of the artisans of (04) artisan craft clusters including Papier machie, Zadibal, Crewel/Chain stitch, Noorbagh, Wool cluster, Bandipore and Willow Wicker, Ganderal which have been developed under Restoration & Strengthening of livelihood component of World Bank funded JTFRP.

Hemang Karelia expressed hope that I&CD would develop market linkages to these artisans clusters and also devise a strategy for sustenance of these clusters after culmination of the project.

The visiting team also had meet-

ings with Senior officers of JKERA, PMU, JTFRP PWD, R&B, Kashmir and SMC wherein they were briefed about progress achieved on components of construction of roads and bridges, construction of critical infrastructure, strengthening of disaster management capacity as well as strengthening of Urban Flood Management being implemented by these agencies respectively.

The World Bank team also visited the project site of construction of Emergency Operations Centre and SCADA control room at Ompura being constructed by J&KERA at an estimated cost of Rs 34.88 crore under the World Bank funded JTFRP to strengthen Disaster Management Capacity in J&K.

Earlier, during their 2 day stay in Jammu the World Bank team visited Sidhra-Suransar road, BaLa school buildings constructed at Puranapind R.S Pura, Gujjar Basti, Karnailcheck in Jammu division.

The visiting World Bank had in-

teractions with school children and teachers at these newly constructed BaLa schools.

During visit to two 300 LPM Oxygen Generation Plants constructed by J&KERA at Gaghwal and Hiranagar Hospitals, the team interacted with medical professionals working in these hospitals.

Team also visited under construction (50m) steel motorable bridge from Katheel Ganjoo to Barsoa over Ghordi Nallah and 50 M span steel bridge from Barsoa to Patti over Barmeen Nallah in Udhampur district being constructed by J&KERA at a cost of Rs 13.24 crore.

Meanwhile, a PowerPoint Presentation was also made by the Director Technical, J&KERA giving out details of progress achieved on implementation of World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project in Jammu division.

Director, JKERA Jammu and other senior officers of PWD (R&B) were also present on the occasion.

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Available
Options

With both the Congress and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) stuck on the issue of the chief minister-ship, it seems that the state is heading for another spell of the Central rule. The Congress Party that has returned to the center stage of the state politics after a gap of nearly thirty years without ostensible props from New Delhi is looking forward for consolidating otherwise its fragile base in the state. It believes that it can convert the proxy support, which it got during the elections, into real support if it has its own Chief Minister. Mufti Muhammad Sayed being an inside man, the Congress is equally apprehensive of him for being capable of weaning away rank and file from it. The former home minister who has a deeper knowledge of the Kashmir politics and better understanding of intricacies believes that both the National Conference and the All Parties Hurriyat Conference can be fought back by playing on the regional sentiments. Addressing a press conference in Srinagar on Tuesday he said that the people of Kashmir have given a verdict in favour of his party, the PDP. He also said that a regional party would be able to deliver more than the Congress because a national party has its own limitations and constraints.

There can be no denying that the rise of the PDP against the ruling National Conference has been phenomenal. Having suffered the atrocious rule of the National Conference during past six years the people particularly in the rural areas looked at the PDP as a better choice for local governance. But it is naïve of the party leadership to think that it cannot contribute much towards its agenda with out having a Chief Minister from the party. It is question of understanding one's role. It is God send opportunity to the party to create a place in the minds and hearts of people of Kashmir. It will wield more power by supporting the Congress party from outside and play a key role in improving ground situation in the state. Instead of asking for a greater slice of power it can even extend a conditional support to the Congress. There are many important issues on which the party needs to enter into an agreement with the national party before extending support to it. Many a draconian laws were introduced during the Central rule in the state and Farooq Abdullah government only provided sharper teeth to these laws. Many an extra-constitutional authorities have come up in the state during past few years. Barrages of miseries have descended on people during past six years. These extra-constitutional authorities who are outside the purview of any law have immensely contributed to the miseries of the people. If PDP succeeds in winding up these authorities it would be far more important contribution than building a bridge or a culvert. The people of the state at this juncture need a healing touching. If PDP is in a position to make the Congress Party to agree to institution of a commission against the misrule of National Conference and if it succeeds in getting delinquent super bureaucrats who had taken the state as their fiefdom it would be greatest achievement of the Party. "Kaun Baneygha Chief Minister" should not come in the way of formation of the government. The issue can be resolved amicably. There are many an options for coming out of the stalemate. The coalition partners can have a Chief Minister on term basis or there can be Chief Minister from one party and Deputy Chief Minister from the other. Both the PDP and Congress need to play a constructive role. Another spell of the Central rule would be disastrous.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on 15th October, 2002

Preaching Meliorism
Gandhianism and Its Universal Relevance

Salika Rashid

Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man."

THE above lines were articulated by one of the towering figures of the world whose instrument of transforming the society was based on the notion of love, courage, self-analysis, patience, tolerance, humility, ahims and Satyagraha.

This eminent figure practised the already present principles and philosophies of non-violence and truth by experimenting with them in every facet of life. The man whose moral dictums became the symbol of "resolute will and determination" and the courage of conquering "evil with good" against apartheid in South Africa made people to confer upon him the cognomen, Mahatma. American historian, Will Durant, best known for writing The Story of Civilization, rightly remarked that "Not since Buddha has India so revered any man. Not since St. Francis of Assissi has any life known to history been so marked by gentleness, disinterestedness, simplicity of soul and forgiveness of enemies. We have the astonishing phenomenon of a revolution led by a Saint".

Mohan das Karamchand Gandhi, a lawyer by profession, eliminated the darkness of colonialism by becoming the torchbearer of the freedom movement and ultimately making people drink the pearl of liberation. Although he was influenced by Russian author Leo Tolstoy, English art critic John Ruskin and American writer Henry David Thoreau, his philosophy had the "freshness and originality". He was deeply inspired by the sacred religious texts which include the Quran, the Bible, Gita and Upanishads. Buddhism and Jainism also left profound impressions on his mind. Tolstoy enunciating on social service, power and Thoreau's self experiments and civil disobedience gave Gandhi the technique of utilising non-violence for solving major and minor social and political issues. Thus these influencers implanted in him the seed of "simple and service-oriented personality" and he polished them in a remarkable way. Gandhi not only propounded or emphasised the notion of Non- violence and Truth but he walked through these principles; he ingrained and absorbed these tenets to the depth of its core.

Non- violence and Truth: The kernel of Gandhi's philosophy

According to Gandhi, Non- violence and Truth are inextricably bound together and it's hard to untangle them; he allots a superior position to the latter one because he contends, it is the end which can be achieved by the means of ahims . He highlighted 'means' and 'end' in order to assert the significance of journey and destiny; both are unalienable to each other. Furthermore, underlining the notion of ahims , Gandhi defined negative and positive element of it where the latter aids in discerning the essence of the former. The word ahimsa is inferred as a non- injury to any living being but Gandhi goes beyond this by defining ahims , a method of avoiding violence in any form whether thought, action or deeds. Gandhi took the notion of non-violence from Jainism but he didn't heed to its rigid perspective rather he opined non-violence in certain circumstances is inevitable. He states "injury to any life can be an act of violence under certain conditions which include anger, pride, hatred and bad intention". Thus, the negative connotation of ahims is non-injury. Gandhi posits,

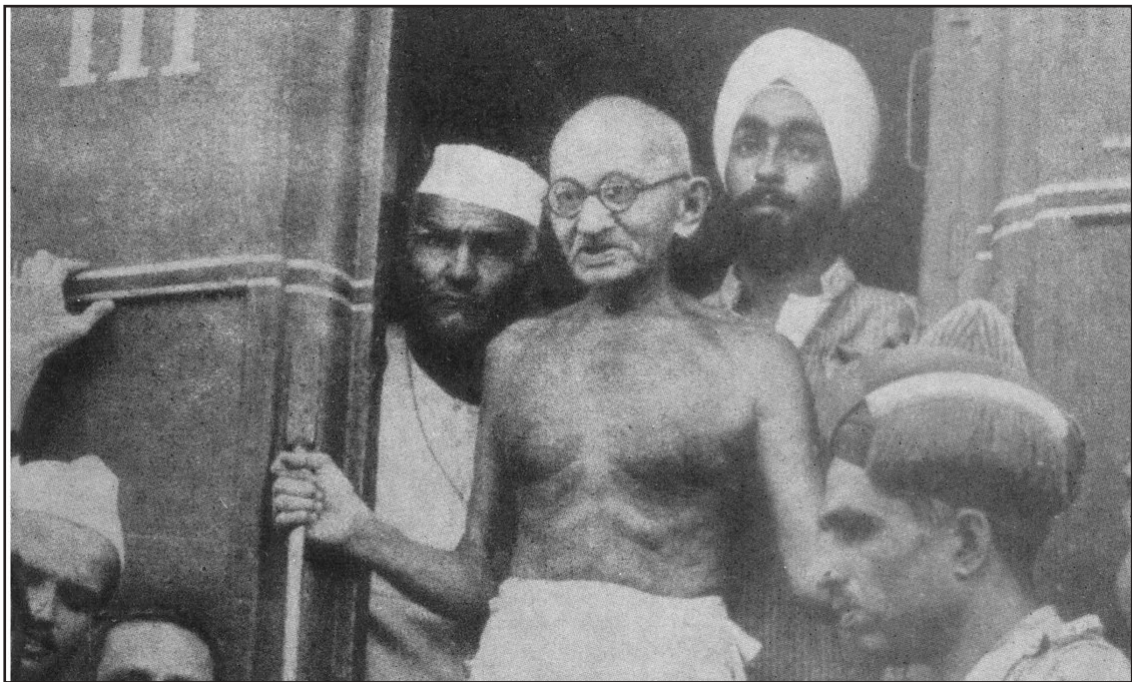
"In non-violence, one restrains all impulses. There is non-violence in violence as in the case of using violent methods to restrict the activities of a drunkard. As long as we live a mundane life, we cannot escape violence, but it is possible for us to restrict ourselves. Ahimsa is thus the highest type of renunciation".

Gandhi explained non-violence as the soul-force, a weapon of the strong while violence as the sign of weakness. He elucidates that the one who is violent conceals his/her anger under the cloak of violence accordingly exhibiting his inward fear through outward anger/violence. One can contend that Gandhi finds non-violence like a "radium, which works silently and ceaselessly, and transforms the whole mass of the diseased tissue into a healthy one"; similarly an infinitesimal quantity of true ahims can bring out an egalitarian society. Drawing inspiration from the Gandhi film director and producer Lord Richard Attenborough said, "When asked what attribute he most admired in human nature, Mahatma Gandhi replied, simply and immediately, 'Courage'. 'Nonviolence', he said, 'is not to be used ever as the shield of the coward. It is the weapon of the brave.'" Thus, one can speculate that Gandhian Ahims is based on the foundation of courage, love, self-restraint, and faith in God.

Love which is the strongest force in the world becomes the substratum for Gandhian philosophy of Ahims . Gandhi believes it is the love which cleans the inner self and elicits the feelings like "compassion, tolerance, generosity and sympathy for others". The absence of ill – will that Gandhi defends is not only confined for near ones/relatives but also for the opponents; according to Gandhi "Ahims is the largest love and the greatest charity".

Gandhi associates the concept of God with Ahims . He contends that true faith in God will assist an individual in achieving the tenet of ahims . It is prerequisite to generate the inner strength for attaining the faith, which eventually will act as a catalyst for developing the love for humanity. Gandhi says,

"Non-violence succeeds only when we have a living faith in God. Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed, they were all warriors of peace in their own style. We have to enrich the heritage left by these world teachers. God has His own wonderful way of executing His plans and choosing His instruments. The prophet and Abu Bakr trapped in a cave were saved



from their persecutors by a spider which had woven its web across the mouth of that cave. All the world teachers, you should know, began with a zero".

It is essential to comprehend the paradigm of ahims that Gandhi has put forth. The ending of desires and the elimination of evil from the hearts, acquired the highest seat in the Gandhian philosophy of non-violence. The simplicity and profundity of his message of love pellucidly make one realize that being selfless in love without any motive of gaining in return, elevates an individual to the highest state of ahims . As Gandhi rightly asserted, "Love never claims, it ever gives. Love ever suffers, never resents never revenges itself."

Gandhi was a strong votary of truth, he placed truth before non-violence. He claimed, "As a Jain muni once rightly said, I was not so much a votary of ahimsa as I was of truth, and I put the latter in the first place and the former in the second. For, as he put it, I was capable of sacrificing non-violence for the sake of Truth. In fact, it was in the course of my pursuit of Truth that I discovered non-violence".

He calls truth as the "moral virtue" which can be acquired through "fearlessness and nonpossession" because of these two one can stand against the injustice. And this will aid in realizing the truth in "metaphysical sense in which it is identical with God". He states the truth is "a cornerstone of the edifice" that leads to the path of God. He asserted "Ahimsa is my God, and Truth is my God. When I look for Ahimsa, Truth says 'Find it through me'. When I look for Truth, Ahimsa says, 'Find it out through me'. But he

Gandhi came as a herald to bring political transformation in a country which was scuffling with so many challenges. He believed that attainment of political emancipation from the colonists won't suffice until social disparity and antagonism are not eradicated from its core. It is the essence of diverse India one finds mélange of culture, religion and ethnicity in camaraderie with each other. But when it is under threat, then it is indispensable for us to assimilate Gandhian teaching into practice

made a distinction between the relative and absolute truth; according to him the glimpses of the former one can be achieved but the absolute truth is hard to achieve.

On this Gandhi opines. "The relative truth must, meanwhile, be my beacon, my shield and buckler. Even the Himalayan blunders have seemed trifling to me because I have kept strictly to this path. I have gone forward according to my light. Often in my progress, I have had my faint glimpse of the Absolute Truth, God and daily the conviction is growing on me that he alone is real and all else is unreal...he who would go in for novel experiments must begin with himself. That leads to a quicker discovery of Truth, and God always protects the honest experimenter".

What is theoretical can be brought to practice when the true emphasis is laid upon values that Gandhi put forth. Therefore, it is imperative to understand the technique of ahimsa in order to achieve the moral virtue of life. He expressed that the truth should be of the speech, action, thought and it could be achieved through constant effort and discipline. It is in the truth, all knowledge is encapsulated and what is outside it is not the truth and hence is not knowledge. He calls Satyagraha as the truth- force against "violence, evil and injustice". It is this force which can create an equilibrium, that is, evil can't be demolished with evil rather what Gandhi propounded, eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind stands true in this context.

In Satyagraha, the method of "conversion" is used instead of "coercion". Gandhi believed that there is no enemy or opponent but just wrongdoers who would come to the right path only by the force of love and "change of the heart" should be the objective for achieving an end. Gandhi while differing to relate passive resistance with Satyagraha, propounded Satyagraha does not involve any element of force not is there any element of injury. Moreover, it has the highest respect for the law- Law of Truth and God. It is based on the notion of appeal rather than force.

In a nutshell, it postulates the annihilation of the disease, not the one who is affected by it. The base of Satyagraha is love, suffering, divine love – God. And the Satyagrahi has to be disciplined, honest, open-minded, determined and fearless. It is worth mentioning that Former US Vice-President and environmentalist Al Gore stated, "Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of satyagraha can be translated to mean truth force. It is this truth-force which can help us to fight this battle honestly and with people's participation."

Is Gandhian philosophy Utopian?

It is important to question the pertinence of Gandhi in the contemporary time period. Many claim that Gandhian philosophy at present is limited to the classroom and books; they are sceptical if at all it can ameliorate the social, economic and political havoc generated not only in the Indian subcontinent but also in the world. What is palpable is the chasm that the world is encountering with the rise in nationalistic fervour, intolerance, moral hypocrisy, violence and political populism across the globe. If this is the current status quo then it is important to not only give prominence to Gandhi's theories and philosophies but to utilize them in order to dust off the menaces prevailing all across the globe.

Gandhi came as a herald to bring political transformation in a country which was scuffling with so many challenges. He believed that attainment of political emancipation from the colonists won't suffice

until social disparity and antagonism are not eradicated from its core. It is the essence of diverse India one finds mélange of culture, religion and ethnicity in camaraderie with each other. But when it is in threat then it is indispensable for us to assimilate Gandhian teaching into practice.

The social disparities in the form of atrocities against the women, minorities- Dalits and Muslims are proliferating day by day. The mushrooming of lynching cases has become the new normal for India. Hyderabad gang rape, Asifa or the recent Hathras gang rape – all such horrendous atrocities – call for Gandhian doctrines. Gandhi rightly said, "The day a woman can walk freely on the roads at night, that day we can say that India has achieved independence." Gandhi emphasised on education – the only way of eradicating perils from society.

Furthermore, one concedes that resentment breeds vengeance and when this takes the shape of political colour then tolerance, sympathy and love which is the sine qua non for unity becomes elusive. In one of the articles of Moulana Wahiduddin Khan, "Fulfilling Gandhiji's Unfulfilled Mission" states, "In this world, unity is achievable only by learning to unite in spite of differences, rather than insisting on unity without differences. For their total eradication is an impossibility. The secret of attaining peace in life is the tolerance of the disturbance of the peace".

Therefore, Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence is the elixir which can stabilize the society plunged into a disastrous dungeon. Gandhi the progenitor of non-violence enunciated on every issue that threatened India's stability. From being secular to the promotion of peace or importance of ethics Gandhi voiced on every subject. His idealism or utopianism was "completed by realism".

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 in KO on October 13,2020 and is being reproduced here with minor edits

Aabshar-e-Ahrabal

THE DREAMY WATERFALL OF KASHMIR

Syed Aamir Sharief Qadri

Kashmir, a global tourist destination, has the potential to contribute to J&K's economy substantially. Unfortunately, its contribution to the UT's GDP is less than 10% every financial year.

Doesn't this make you wonder as to how a place like Kashmir, bestowed with beauty by nature, with uncountable destinations generates such little revenue?

Perhaps, among the many reasons like meagre government spending on tourism, there's also a lack of effort towards tapping into all destinations available in Kashmir for tourism. One such place which has been ignored is Ahrabal (*Harbal- place of Vishnu*), a marvel of grace, known for its dreamy waterfall — a popular tourist spot situated on the right bank of river Vishew. The wondrous sight of the deep gorge formed by the majestic waterway is nature's bliss.

Located in the Noorabad area, it is about 28 Km west of Kulgam. Although it falls in the Kulgam district, this place is very close to Shopian. The winding road passes through the pretty woodland of Sedov and meets the road that comes from Kulgam near Gurwatan. This narrow but scenic road gives much more comfort to tourists than the safe and wide Ahrabal-Kulgam route.

Kashmir is at par with Switzerland in ethereal charm, still, we praise the latter overlooking the surreal beauty of our gorgeous paradise. The reason being natural beauty there has been given artificial touch to present an astonishing view to visitors. It looks more attractive than Kashmir. However, the artistic view and exquisiteness of the Kashmir mountains are invincible.

Only fifteen years back, there was nothing here to entice tourists. The way down to the waterfall was a craggy slope difficult to proceed along. If one wanted to go down and see the waterfall, there was a risk of falling into the river below. That's why most people used to see it from above. By this, you will get an idea of how Ahrabal looked earlier. But now, I am happy to report that construction and development work is going on in full swing. This should not stop here, more work needs to be done. Ahrabal craves special attention from the government authorities.

Recently, a festival was organised by the district administration Kulgam at Ahrabal in collaboration with other departments including the J&K tourism. It is the second time in a year that such a lavish event took place; earlier, a winter carnival was held in February to showcase its beauty and harness its adventure potential.

Yet, despite huge publicity, it still does not attract enough tourists. There are many reasons for this:

1. Instead of spending great riches on organising festivities, the government needs to invest money in providing basic facilities and services at such places which cater to tourist's demands. The sightseers would like to go to a place that has all the necessary installations and not to a deserted place like Ahrabal.
 2. More than a hundred visitors can't lodge at Ahrabal at a time. Currently, there are only a few buildings which include hotels, restaurants and huts. Of these, only two hotels are functional, one under construction and a VIP hut reserved for official guests.
 3. The area near the waterfall is prone to accidents and needs to be monitored properly by installing CCTV cameras. The youngsters deliberately cross the iron fence to click good shots near a waterfall. Most parents don't allow their children to visit Ahrabal. The sad thing is many suicide incidents are reported from this place every year.
- The clues we have received so far show that Ahrabal was already inhabited by ancestors.



This means that it is quite habitable and that only some work needs to be done on it. Last year, this place was in the news when a fossil site was discovered on the way to the Kongwatan meadow. It caught the attention of archaeologists and they found traces on stones in a large area. They believe its history will take us back to some geological era of earth.

I heard from my mentor, the famed *Naji Munawar* popularly known as *The poet of Children*, that there was a place at Ahrabal popularly known as *Khazanabal*, where there were ancient ruins in large numbers. In his museum there is a flat carved stone, maybe a temple remnant bought from the same place. Unfortunately, we don't find any such traces there at present but we have the historic '*Pandav Dul'-the cooking pot of Pandavas*'. It is a unique memorable stone, already positioned upside down by natural forces, found near the Gurwatan bridge. Though Kashmir was never part of the ancient Pandva kingdom, everything is related to Pandavas here.

DID ANYONE COME TO SEE AHRABAL IN PAST?

Yes, it is true that from the ruling class to common people,

everybody used to come here to make merry. We have many references to kings and European travellers who visited the famous Kounsarnag lake. *King Zain-ul-Aabdeen*, *historian Pir Hasan Shah*, and many Sufi saints visited this place from time to time.

Zafar Khan Ahsan, the Mughal governor of Kashmir during the Shahjahan's time acclaimed the beauty of Kashmir in his poetry. About Ahrabal waterfall he said...

Ze Jannat Chand Gooi Aye Sukhanwar

Nadarad Aabshar-e- Ahrabal

G. T. Vigne, a European traveller visited Kounsarnag in early December in the year 1835. In his book '*Travels in Kashmir, Ladakh, Iskardo*' he mentioned some striking grasslands in the surroundings of Kounsarnag like Astanmarg, Chiranbal, Zajimarg, etc.

The Britishers in Kashmir founded the *Cashmir Climbing Club* now called *Jammu & Kashmir Mountaineering & Adventure Club*, headed by *C. E. Tyndale Biscoe*, in the year 1934. In his book '*Kashmir In Sunlight & Shade*', *Tyndale Biscoe* has kept a record of expeditions in Kashmir. In one such expedition, he led the way a group of fourteen which include the notable *Mr. Jacob* and

R. D. Thompson to visit Kounsarnag lake. The adventurers also climbed nearby *Bramshakri peak (4500 m)*, the highest in this area. They had bought a rubber canoe from Srinagar to go boating on the lake.

S. C. Koul who was a part of this trip cited in his book '*The beautiful valleys of Kashmir*' that once an American professor tried to measure the depth of a lake and while fixing the machine in the centre the screws somehow became loose and a part of his machine sank thus experiment was not successful.

TREKS AND TRAILS

My club *Glacial Trails* carried out about fifty expeditions in a decade-long exploration of the *Noorabad area of Kulgam District*.

The club almost toured three dozen alpine meadows. Along with Bramsar, Chirsar and Indersar lakes, the club visited Kounsarnag lake two times, from two different routes, first in 2008 and then again in the year 2020.

Here is a list of treks and trails that start from Ahrabal and pass through the dense forests and beautiful meadows to end at the least known alpine lakes of Kulgam...

1. Sangam Lake Trek

2. Kounsarnag Lake Trek
3. Indersar- Donthsar Lake Trek
4. Bramsar- Chirsar Lake Trek
5. Sarkant- Parinag Lake Trek

A narrow trail starts from Gurwatan and passes through the mountain slope covered by pine forests, along the right bank of the river Vishew it takes the trekkers to the wide charming meadow of Sangam. After crossing the river at the meadow end there are two ways- the right turn leads to the unexplored Sangam Lake Trek where one can see at least two alpine lakes, and taking the left turn brings us to the beautiful meadows of Kongwatan and Sekijan. These two lovely meadows are situated on the opposite banks of the Kounsarnag stream (nallah), parallel to one another.

The famous Kongwatan meadow and Mahinag serve as the two important campsites on way to Kounsarnag Lake. Up to Mahinag, one can enjoy striding on a rough stony path with an easy trail. It becomes a little bit difficult when a gradual ascend of 300 metres from Mahinag led the track to the banks of famous Kounsarnag Lake (3500 m). In antique books, the name of this lake is *Kramasara/ Vishnu Pad*. In the same row, there are up

to ten lakes that can be accessed from Kounsarnag Lake. However, casual trekkers should not go through this path. The difficult terrain is filled in with snow for most of the year. Only alpinists can take this route to accomplish tasks in a couple of days.

While moving towards the left at Kongwatan along the bank of Zajinad or Chiranbal river three prized meadows serve as a base camp for these lakes. From Chiranbal, Hakwas and Zajimarg all these lakes surrounded by delightful meadows can be visited at very ease. Before planning to go trekking you should have a look at a detailed trekking map below.

TREK ROUTE MAP

- * **Sangam Lake Trek:** Ahrabal> Gurwatan> Sangam> Lakes
- * **Kounsarnag Lake Trek:** Ahrabal> Gurwatan> Sangam> Kongwatan/ Sekijan> Mahinag> Kounsarnag
- * **Indersar- Donthsar Lake Trek:** Ahrabal> Gurwatan> Sangam> Kongwatan> Chiranbal> Sondirbug> Manzpal> Lahanpathar> Astanmarg> Indersar> Donthsar (3 small lakes).
- * **Bramsar- Chirsar Lake Trek:** Ahrabal> Gurwatan> Sangam> Kongwatan> Chiranbal> Kadlibal> Hakwas> Bramsar> Chirsar

(There are two unexplored lakes one each above Bramsar and Chirsar. Therefore in total, there are four lakes on this trek)

- * **Sarkant- Parinag Lake Trek:** Ahrabal> Gurwatan> Sangam> Kongwatan> Chiranbal> Kadlibal> Hakwas> Zajimarg> Thanda Katha> Sarkant Lake> Parinag Lake.

NOTE:

There are so many alternate trek routes in Noorabad to reach these lakes. You can approach them too by five accessible passages like Manzgam, Avil, Khur, Yadhikah, and Nandimarg routes.

THE FUTURE PLAN

For the beautification of Ahrabal government needs to think about these points:

1. There is only one garden i.e. Zeal Shah Park near the waterfall and a rough patch in front of hotels near Gurwatan where tourists can hang out. However, many places between Ahrabal and Gurwatan can be used to build more gardens as well as amusement parks for children.
2. Along the left bank of the river Vishew on the Shopian side, there is a scope of building viewpoints. The small patch of land above the waterfall can be used to accommodate small gatherings connected by a pedestrian bridge.
3. The bewitching landscape of Kashmir almost looks the same everywhere. But the unique thing about Ahrabal is its glorious waterfall. People come to Ahrabal just to see the waterfall. Year after year, the height of the waterfall is constantly decreasing. Hence its height needs to be increased.
4. A portion near the waterfall should be left untouched to preserve its sublimity. However, it becomes necessary to decorate the corridor that leads to the waterfall. The rock art should be applied to two big unique rocks near stairs. It would be a much loving activity to catch glimpses of the waterfall from below. Therefore there should be a way down near springs to reach the bank of the river.
5. The meandering Vishew below the waterfall should be developed as a river rafting point.
6. The open space near the hutment area should be developed as a popular campsite provided with necessary camping facilities.

The author is PG in History/ M.Phil/ SET and has written columns for many publications

Alzheimer's Progression Slowed By Drug In Major Trial

Bloomberg

Eisai Co. and partner Biogen Inc. said their Alzheimer's drug significantly slowed the disease, making it the first medicine to clearly blunt the progression of the most common type of dementia in a definitive, large-scale trial.

Lecanemab reduced the pace of cognitive decline in people with early disease by 27% over 18 months when compared with a placebo, meeting the main goal of the trial, the companies said in a statement. The benefit came with side effects, including brain swelling and bleeding, though severe cases were rare.

The clear-cut positive result marks a major milestone for researchers who have been trying in vain for decades to stop the inexorable decline tied to the disease, but how much of a difference it will make for patients and families is less obvious. The medicine appears to unambiguously slow the disease, though it doesn't restore mental capacity or completely stop its loss.

The consistent pattern of improvement "is what the field has hoped for, and should result in favorable regulatory actions," said David Knopman, a clinical neurologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Cautionary Note

"There is an important cautionary note, however: the magnitude of the delay - which was a slowing of decline - was small," he said. "We can only hope that the benefit is durable and could grow with time. Those long-term properties are unknowable at this time."

Eisai was untraded at its upper limit in Tokyo as bids outweighed offers by more than 19 times. Eli Lilly & Co, which develops a drug that works similarly to Lecanemab, rose 6.7% in the US after-hours trading Tuesday. Biogen's shares were halted.

The Alzheimer's Association welcomed the results, saying they were the most encouraging findings among clinical trials treating the underlying causes of Alzheimer's to date. Pharmaceutical analysts were equally bullish.

"We finally have what we believe to be a clean win in Alzheimer's disease," said Evan David Seigerman, an analyst at BMO Capital Markets. "The top-line data are



clear to us - lecanemab slows the rate of cognitive decline," he wrote in a note to clients.

The trial met all key secondary goals, which included several other measures of cognitive function and the ability to perform activities, according to the companies' statement. Lecanemab is already being reviewed by US regulators under a special "accelerated approval" pathway. The companies said they would apply for full approval based on the results by March.

The treatment comes with some serious side effects, however, including brain swelling and bleeding. In the trial of 1,795 patients, 21.3% of those who received the drug experienced brain swelling or brain bleeding, while only 9.3% of those on a placebo had those problems. While most of these cases were asymptomatic, 2.8% of people on the drug had symptomatic brain

swelling, the companies said.

Amyloid

Lecanemab is the latest in a long line of drugs aiming to remove amyloid, a toxic protein that clutters the brains of Alzheimer's patients. Numerous previous trials of amyloid-lowering drugs have failed or produced mixed results.

The results bolster the amyloid hypothesis: a long-held but controversial theory that the buildup of amyloid over time is one of the main causes of the disease. The Eisai success is likely to raise hopes for other anti-amyloid drugs in testing, including medicines in final-stage trials from Roche Holding AG and Eli Lilly & Co.

The new study results "prove the amyloid hypothesis," Haruo Naito, chief executive officer at Eisai, said

in a statement.

Eisai is developing lecanemab in collaboration with Biogen, which will share in half of the profit from the drug. A previous amyloid-lowering antibody that they developed together, called Aduhelm, was approved in the US in June 2021 despite contradictory trial results. While the drug slowed the decline modestly in one big trial, the other big trial showed no effect; and both trials were halted early. But the Medicare program for the elderly refused to pay for the drug outside of clinical trials, and it ended up a commercial failure.

The drug is likely to receive full approval by the US Food and Drug Administration based on the study results, said Lon Schneider, professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Southern California. That's not the end of the discussion, however.

"The debate is going to be about the small effect size" and whether it is clinically meaningful, Schneider said in an interview.

Other questions also remain. There are doubts about reimbursement, while potential rivals may be on the horizon, Jefferies analyst Stephen Barker has said. The success will increase the confidence about the potential of Lilly's competing candidate, which will complicate investors' view on the commercial opportunity, according to Barker.

Eisai and Biogen have already applied in the US for so-called accelerated approval of lecanemab based on its ability to remove amyloid. The new study findings, though, will allow the companies to apply for full Food and Drug Administration approval, which could eventually lead to broad Medicare coverage.

March 2023 Target

Eisai said it would apply for full approval for lecanemab by the end of March 2023. It also said it would apply for marketing authorization in Europe and Japan based on the new results in the same time frame.

In the statement, the companies didn't go into details about the findings. The full results are expected to be presented at a medical conference on November 29, and the companies also said they would publish the results in a medical journal.

Dogs Can Detect If People Are Stressed: Research

ANI

Washington: According to a new study conducted by Queen's University Belfast researchers, dogs can detect stress in humans from their sweat and breath.

The research findings have been published in PLOS ONE. The study was carried out by Clara Wilson (PhD researcher) and Kerry Campbell (MSc student) in the School of Psychology. They were supervised by Catherine Reeve, with support on collecting the human physiological measures from Zachary Petzel

The study involved four dogs from Belfast - Treo, Fingal, Soot and Winnie - and 36 people.

Researchers collected samples of sweat and breath from participants before and after they did a difficult maths problem. They self-reported their stress levels before and after the task and researchers only used sam-

ples where the person's blood pressure and heart rate had increased.

The dogs were taught how to search a scent line-up and alert researchers to the correct sample. The stress and relaxed samples were then introduced but at this stage, the researchers didn't know if there was an odour difference that dogs could detect.

In every test session, each dog was given one person's relaxed and stressed samples, taken only four minutes apart. All of the dogs were able to correctly alert the researchers to each person's stress sample.

Clara Wilson, a PhD student in the School of Psychology at Queen's, explains: "The findings show that we, as humans, produce different smells through our sweat and breath when we are stressed and dogs can tell this apart from our smell when relaxed - even if it is someone they do not know."

"The research highlights that dogs



do not need visual or audio cues to pick up on human stress. This is the first study of its kind and it provides evidence that dogs can smell stress from breath and sweat alone, which could be useful when training service dogs and therapy dogs.

"It also helps to shed more light on the human-dog relationship and adds

to our understanding of how dogs may interpret and interact with human psychological states."

One of the super sniffer canines that took part in the study was Treo, a two-year-old Cocker Spaniel. His owner Helen Parks says: "As the owner of a dog that thrives on sniffing, we were delighted and curious to see Treo take part in the study. We couldn't wait to hear the results each week when we collected him. He was always so excited to see the researchers at Queen's and could find his own way to the laboratory."

"The study made us more aware of a dog's ability to use their nose to "see" the world. We believe this study really developed Treo's ability to sense a change in emotion at home. The study reinforced for us that dogs are highly sensitive and intuitive animals and there is immense value in using what they do best - sniffing!"

Sad Demise



With profound grief, we inform the demise of Mr. Farooq Ahmad Shah S/o Late Ghulam Hassan Shah R/o Bul Kak Masjid Sharief, Dalipora Kawdara, Srinagar on 01st October 2022 (Saturday). May Almighty Allah grant Jannat ul Firdous to the departed soul. His Congregational Prayers will be held on 04th October 2022 Tuesday at 10:00 AM at his ancestral graveyard Bahau-Ud-Din Sahib Nowhatta, Srinagar

BEREAVED
SHAH FAMILY
7889956611, 6005086367

Uncombable Hair Syndrome: New Study Finds The Genes Responsible

The Conversation

It's a hair condition that has frustrated parents for decades, now scientists believe they have found the genes responsible for uncombable hair syndrome. Yes, it really is a thing.

Uncombable hair syndrome is more than just difficult hair. As its name suggests, it's hair that sticks out at all angles, making it almost impossible to tame let alone comb. It usually starts in children between the ages of three months and 12 years and is characterised by straw blond or silvery blond frizzy hair.

It's usually wavy, dry and brittle and, thanks to its appearance, it's sometimes called spun glass hair, pili trianguli et canalculi or cheveux incoiffables.

Boris Johnson or Albert Einstein might spring to mind, but while those high-profile men are famous for their unruly locks, with very few cases of uncombable hair syndrome in the world, it's highly unlikely they have or had the condition. Besides, the condition tends to improve or even disappear by adulthood.

There hasn't been much research on this rare condition, which first appeared in published articles in the 1970s. Since then, fewer than 70 publications have appeared, most being case reports.

One of the more recent studies involving 11 children with uncombable hair, was performed

by geneticists at the University of Bonn, Germany. They found that the condition seemed to be explained by mutations in three genes that code for well-known proteins in the hair follicle.

However, since that study was widely reported by the press, more families with kids with this condition came forward and now the same scientists have repeated the genetics with over 100 children.

They have confirmed that in 76 of these children, the cause is linked to mutations in the PADI3 gene as well as the involvement of two other genes, all three of which code for important proteins involved in hair-fibre formation.

Human variation in appearance, including in hair, is a result of the many small variations in our genes in the global population. When a mutation happens in a gene, sometimes it leads to a change in the function of the protein. If that protein is in the hair follicle, it's more than likely that the hair will look different. So this can be brown, blond, curly, thick, straight, red or even bald.

There are a few well-known inherited variations in hair fibre shape and curl, but rarely are these linked to any serious illness. Interestingly, often the proteins that are affected are in the inner root sheath: three layers of the hair follicle that help put the shape into the hair fibre.

We also know that uncomb-

able hair is a recessive genetic characteristic. In other words, both parents must be carriers of the mutated gene, although they may not have it themselves. Then, if their child inherits one copy of the affected gene from each parent, they will have the syndrome.

So why study such genetic hair disorders? This type of genetic study generates enough information such that parents can now request a genetic test that may help allay any concerns about other rare conditions that can affect the hair.

From the scientific perspective, it also helps the hair biology research community understand more about normal hair growth and the importance of different proteins for controlling hair shape and appearance. For example, we can now explain why changes to PADI3 might alter hair shape by finding out more about how it works in the follicle.

Hair is one of the most culturally distinctive and personal attributes. Its style, shape, colour and indeed absence is something everyone thinks about every day. A huge hair-care industry has developed over the last century to help us all manage our hair.

So when a rare condition leads to such a fascinating yet impossible to manage change in hair, it is easy to appreciate why scientists want to understand how it happens and to help the families with affected children understand it better too.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla

Tele fax 01952234426 e-mail, id, executiveengineermdb@gmail.com
Gist of Short Term Notice Inviting e-Tenders

NIT No:-MDB/e-Tender/137 of 2022-23 Dated: - 01-10-2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from registered suppliers / agencies having experience in similar nature of work for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Various Repair Works for Various Road Construction Machines of Field Sub Division Baramulla	27200/=	200.00	544.00	07 days	Accorded	Accorded

The tender documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given in the 'Abstract; appended to this notice: -

01.	Online tender download / Start Date	01-10-2022 (06:15 PM)
02.	Online tender Submission End Date	11-10-2022 (06:55 PM)
03	Cost of Tender Documents	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt/mpaytransaction acknowledgement, to be uploaded with the online bid. Tender Id to be written also on the voucher. (MSME certificate holder in the concerned trade is exempted) Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKAOTESHIL Account No.: 02130102000000051.
04	Date and time of opening of Technical Bid (online). (Cover 1 st)	12-10-2022at 02:00 PM in office of the Ex. Engineer, Mechanical Division (MED), Baramulla
05.	Date and time of opening of Financial Bid (online). (Cover 2 nd)	After evaluation of cover 1 st in office of Ex. Engineer, Mechanical Division (MED), Baramulla

Instructions to Bidders:

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format with digital signature on the official website www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers; viz Techno- Commercial / Financial cover.
- Cover 1st shall contain:**
 - Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost.
 - Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST No.
 - Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
 - Scanned copies of the Annexure "A" & "B" duly accepted / signed.
 - Scanned copy of Tender Fee.
- Cover 2nd shall contain:**
 - Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department.
 - Additional Performance Security in case of ALB (Abnormally Low Bid).
- The department will not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons.
- The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and non-transferable.

DIPK-11138/22

No:- MDB /TS/e-tendering-137/2875-79
Dated: -01-10-2022

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division
Baramulla

Jio 5G Across India By Dec 2023: Mukesh Ambani

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Reliance Jio, the nation's biggest telecom firm, will expand 5G telephony services offering ultra high-speed internet connectivity to every part of the country by December 2023, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Saturday.

Jio had in September 2016 made an entry into the telecom sector, offering free voice calls and dirt-cheap data, forcing the competition to either match or fold up/consolidate.

Ambani has now promised affordable 5G services.

"Today, I want to reiterate Jio's commitment to deliver 5G to every town, every taluka, and every tehsil of our country by December 2023," he said at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) conference here.

Ambani had at his flagship Reliance Industries Ltd's annual shareholder meeting in August announced the rollout of 5G services across multiple key cities, including metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, by Diwali.

Most of Jio's 5G is developed in India, and hence carries the stamp of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', he said, adding 5G and 5G-enabled digital solutions can bring affordable and high-quality education and skill development within the reach of common Indians.

It can deliver high-quality healthcare to rural and remote areas by turning existing hospitals into smart hospitals without much additional investment, making the services of the best doctors digitally available anywhere in India as well as im-



proving the speed and accuracy of diagnostics and enabling real-time clinical decision making.

5G can also bridge the gap between urban and rural India by accelerating digitisation and intelligent data management of agriculture, services, trade, industry, informal sector, transportation and energy infrastructure, he said.

"By bringing AI into every domain, 5G can power India's emergence as the world's intelligence capital. This will help India become a major exporter of high-value digital solutions and services," he said, adding all these will trigger a huge explosion of entrepreneurship in the country, which in turn will attract even larger investments and create millions of new jobs.

Ambani said by harnessing the combined power of demography and digital technologies, India can become the world's leading digital society, accelerating growth by making the country a USD 40 trillion economy by 2047, up from USD 3 trillion now and increasing per capita income rapidly to over USD 20,000, from USD 2,000.

"It will not be an exaggeration to say that 5G is like a Digital Kamadhenu, the heavenly cow that grants whatever we desire," he said.

Airtel Announces Launch Of 5G Service In 8 Cities

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Bharti Airtel's 5G service will be available in eight cities from Saturday, its chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said at India Mobile Congress.

With this, Bharti Airtel has become the first company to launch 5G services in the country.

"When you (Prime Minister) will launch 5G today, 5G from Airtel will be available in 8 cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Bangalore and other cities," Mittal said.

He also said that Airtel will roll out 5G services in several cities across the country by March 2023 and across India by March 2024.

Mittal lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's understanding of technology and connecting it with the nation's progress.

"We are proud and very fortunate that we have amongst us a leader who understands technology meticulously. Many leaders appreciate technology but its granular understanding and linking it for the progress of the country, according to me what Modi Ji can do no one else will be able to do," he said.

He also acknowledged the contribution of Reliance Industries Limited chairman and managing director Mukesh Am-



bani to the growth of 4G.

"I would like to remind Mukesh (Ambani) when he gave a lot of pace to 4G and we had run very fast to catch up with it. When COVID hit, the pulse of this nation did not stop even for a minute. Our work continued round the clock and its credit goes to Digital Mission," Mittal said.

He said that the Prime Minister gave the slogan of startups, which led to the creation of unicorns every month.

"I believe that with 5G hundreds of used cases will create thousands of entrepreneurs and dozens of new unicorns," he said.

According to a senior company official, Airtel 5G services will be available at existing 4G rates and a new tariff for 5G will be announced after some time.

The officer said the 5G services are also being launched in Chennai, Hyderabad and Siliguri.

Bharti Airtel Chief Technology Officer Randeep Singh Sekhon said that the company's backend infrastructure is ready.

GST Mop-Up In Sept At Rs 1.47 Trn; Festival Season To Push Up Revenues

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: GST collections remained above Rs 1.40 lakh crore for the seventh month in a row at Rs 1.47 lakh crore in September, a 26 per cent increase over last year, reflecting buoyancy in tax collection and stability of the GST portal, the finance ministry said on Saturday.

With the ongoing festive season, the collections are expected to go up in the coming months, experts said.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of September 2022 is Rs 1,47,686 crore, of which Central GST is Rs 25,271 crore, State GST is Rs 31,813 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 80,464 crore (including Rs 41,215 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 10,137 crore (including Rs 856 crore collected on import of goods)," it said.

The GST collections had touched a record Rs 1.67 lakh crore in April, while in August it was over Rs 1.43 lakh crore.

The revenues for the month of September 2022 were 26 per cent higher than those recorded in the same month last year. During the month, revenues from import of goods were 39 per cent higher, while from domestic transaction (including import of services) the mop-up was 22 per cent more than the amount collected from these sources in the year-ago month.

The growth in GST revenue till September 2022 over the same period last year is 27 per cent, thus continuing to display very high buoyancy.

In August 2022, a total of 7.7 crore e-way bills were generated, which was marginally higher than 7.5 crore in July 2022.

This month witnessed the second highest single day collection of Rs 49,453 crore on September



20 with second highest number of 8.77 lakh challans filed, next only to Rs 57,846 crore collected on July 20, 2022 through 9.58 lakh challans, which pertained to end of the year returns.

"This clearly shows that the GST portal maintained by GSTN has fully stabilised and is glitch-free," the ministry said.

During September, more than 1.1 crore e-way bills and e-invoices combined were generated without any glitch on the portal run by NIC.

EY India Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said the generation of 1.1 crore e-way bills and e-invoicing in a single day showcases a stability in the IT infrastructure of NIC.

"However, it's important for the big businesses to move to private Invoice Registration Portals appointed by the government in order to share the load of data which is likely to be increased due to increase in number of assesses liable to generate e-invoices from 1 October 2022," Agarwal said.

KPMG in India Partner Indirect Tax Abhishek Jain said the collections in September reflect supplies made in August. "With the festive season coming up, the GST collections can further be expected to go up in the coming months," Jain added.

Deloitte India Partner, Leader Indirect Tax Mahesh Jaishankar said, the key contributors appear to be the expansion in usage of e-invoicing and e-way bills, use of analytics for audits and also the increased in imports with the upcoming festive seasons as businesses build up stocks.

"With the pandemic behind us, further reduction in e-invoicing threshold from October 1, 2022 and the recent amendments to extend year-end compliance due dates, we expect the last quarter of 2022 to witness even higher collections," Jaishankar added.

N.A. Shah Associates Partner, Indirect Tax, Parag Mehta said the major reasons were pick up in sales due to festive seasons. In September and October due to festivals like Navratri, Dusshera, Diwali, the spending is usually high.

"Further, the level of compliance has increased substantially and the department has also been making the best use of data available with them. Further, this is also the effect of withdrawals of various exemptions etc. Hopefully the trend should continue for ongoing months also. It appears that GST is finally stabilising," Mehta added.

Grand Vitara Launched At NEXA-Jamkash Vehicleleades

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A new breed of SUVs of Maruti Suzuki - Grand Vitara was Friday unveiled at the NEXA dealership of Jamkash Vehicleleades (Kashmir) Pvt. Ltd., Hyderpora.

The chief guest on the occasion was SSP Srinagar Rakesh Balwal (IPS). The occasion was graced by the presence of dignitaries from J&K Bank, State Bank of India, Mahindra Finance, HDFC Bank & Cholamandalam Finance.

Managing Director of Jamkash Vehicleleades (Kashmir) Pvt. Ltd., Irfan Ahmad Narwaroo, CEO Aawan Ahmad Narwaroo along with the Chief Guest unveiled the car while senior management of Jamkash Vehicleleades Kashmir were present during the occasion which witnessed presence of a large gathering of auto lovers and



customers who had been waiting for the launch of the New Breed of SUVs i.e. Grand Vitara.

General Manager, Nexa-Jamkash Vehicleleades (Kashmir) Pvt. Ltd., Irfan Gul while speaking on the occasion stated that the premium SUV Grand Vitara offers exiting power train choices, dynamic and aggres-

sive exterior design, sophisticated interiors and a range of technologically advanced segment leading comfort convenience and safety features. The Grand Vitara is coming up with Suzuki ALLGRIP SELECT technology, intelligent ELECTRIC HYBRID powertrain with best in class mileage.

J&K Bank Celebrates 84 Years Of Existence

Bank Is Marching Ahead To Carry Forward The Legacy Of Its Founder: Prakash



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Celebrating the eighty four years of public trust on its foundation day, J&K Bank Saturday fondly remembered its founder Maharaja Hari Singh - ruler of erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir-in a function held here at its corporate headquarters.

Presiding over the commemorative function attended by the Bank's General Managers, Deputy General Managers and other senior officers besides Divisional and Zonal Heads from across the country, who joined through VC mode; MD & CEO Baldev Prakash paid homage to Maharaja Hari Singh for his far-sighted vision. As mark of love and respect, he garlanded the portrait of Maharaja Hari Singh and paid his respects to the founder of Bank followed by all the General Managers and Deputy General Managers present at the function.

Speaking after the cake-cutting ceremony, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "In late 1920's, Maharaja Hari Singh Ji concluded that lack of access to credit and absence of an institutional support has led to the economic deprivation of the people of J&K. He conceived of establishing a kind of central

Bank for J&K, which after extensive discussions and reasoning materialized on this date i.e. 1st of October in 1938 into Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd - and what a coincidence it is - that momentous day 1st October 1938 also was a Saturday."

"On this day, we are all here representing the entire J&K Bank Family to pay glowing tributes to this great son of J&K soil, who had the vision and foresight not only to look beyond his domain of rule but to ensure that successive generations of the people of his erstwhile state had the institution and where-withal to earn, grow and prosper", he added.

MD further said that with the trust of all its stakeholders including around 20 million account holders, over 2500 business touch-points and a business of almost 2 Lac Crore; the Bank is marching ahead confidently to carry forward the legacy of its visionary founder Maharaja Hari Singh.

Attributing the achievements so far to the staff, MD & CEO asserted, "This day actually belongs to our staff in Zones and Clusters to the last man in the branches serving the people, whose commitment and hard-work has helped the institution to realize its goals."

Start-Up Movement Major Achievement Of Modi Govt: Dr Jitendra



Observer News Service

KATHUA: Maintaining that Startup Movement is major achievement of Narendra Modi Government, Union Minister in PMO with Independent charge of Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh Friday asked the youth to come out of feudal mindset of Government job which is a big impediment in Startup culture in North India especially J&K.

Dr Jitendra Singh gave full credit to the futuristic vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had given a call for "Start-Up India Stand Up India" from the ramparts of Red Fort in his Independence Day address of 2015 that initiated a mass interest, as a result of which the number of Start-Ups in India has increased from mere 350 in 2014 to over 77,000 in 2022 with more than 100 unicorns, while India under Modi has achieved 3rd ranking in the world in the StartUp ecosystem.

Inaugurating the first-of-its-kind Start-Up Expo in Jammu, covering areas of Agriculture, Aroma, Dairy, Pharma, IT,

Computer and Communications, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Start-Up culture is yet to fully catch up the imagination of the youth and entrepreneurs in some of the North Indian States, as comparison to some of the South Indian States, which have taken a magnificent lead, engaging also a chain of globally recognised Start-Ups.

He said, it is important to take note of some of the exemplary instances of many young entrepreneurs who are seen quitting their lucrative jobs in the MNCs to establish their own Start-Ups, as these young entrepreneurs are now beginning to realise the possibility of greater fortunes in this.

Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed out that the Start-Up movement in Jammu and Kashmir has been relatively slow, even though the "Purple Revolution" of India was born in J&K and J&K is also the birthplace of the grand Aroma Mission. He hoped that its impact would be realised through the success stories of various Agri-based Start-Ups, besides in the fields of Dairy and Pharma.

SHORT TAKES

'Bee Keeping A Viable, Attractive Occupation In J&K'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo Saturday remarked that Bee Keeping is a viable and attractive occupation in Jammu and Kashmir and large number of youth are taking it.

The ACS made these comments while addressing a day long Kissan Samellan on Bee Keeping Progressive Farmers here.

The Kissan Samellan was attended by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Horticulture Kashmir, MD, JKHPMC, Secretary J&K Advisory Board for Development of Kisans, members of J&K Advisory Board for Development of Kisans, experts from SKUAST-K, District Agriculture officers, large number of Bee Keepers and other progressive farmers.

Addressing the gathering, Atal Dulloo maintained that this Samellan will provide a roadmap for future progression of Bee Keeping sector and the feedback from this Samellan will give better insights for the government to approach the sector as per the needs of bee keepers. The ACS said that Bee Keeping has very much potential and sustainability in J&K and it is emerging as one of the viable sectors having maximum chances of employability.

We Cannot Afford To Lose Sheen of IBC: FM

Pres Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Amid concerns in certain quarters over the pace of the insolvency resolution process, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said that one can neither afford to have the legislation "lose its sheen" nor let early stress warnings go unnoticed.

The minister, who is also in charge of the corporate affairs ministry, touched upon the disruptions being faced by companies due to global developments and emphasised that "we have to keep our ears very close to the ground to know actually what is developing in the system (due to global developments)".

In the context of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which provides for a market-linked and time-bound resolution of distressed companies, Sitharaman stressed the importance of resolution professionals and that the efforts are more to keep companies as going concern.

"I want all of us, including me, to be conscious that we cannot afford to have IBC lose its sheen... whatever it takes for all of us to keep it (IBC) as sparkling as it was when we brought it..." she said while speaking at a function here to celebrate the sixth annual day of IBBI.

Unemployment Rate Drops To 6.43% In Sep: CMIE

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: India's unemployment rate has drastically dropped to 6.43 per cent in September due to an increase in labour participation in the rural and urban areas, according to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

During August, India's unemployment rate surged to a one-year high of 8.3 per cent as employment sequentially fell by 2 million to 394.6 million.

"In September, the unemployment rate has fallen significantly with an increase in labour participation in both urban and rural areas," CMIE managing director Mahesh Vyas told PTI over the phone on Saturday. The unemployment rate in the rural areas fell to 5.84 per cent in September from 7.68 per cent in August, while in the urban areas it dropped to 7.70 per cent against 9.57 per cent in the previous month, according to the data.

The nearly 8 million increase in labour participation is a sign that the economy of the country is doing well, Vyas added.

According to the CMIE data, the unemployment rate was the highest in Rajasthan at 23.8 per cent in September, followed by Jammu and Kashmir at 23.2 per cent, Haryana at 22.9 per cent, Tripura at 17 per cent, Jharkhand at 12.2 per cent and Bihar at 11.4 per cent.

Rs 2 Additional Excise Duty On Fuel Deferred

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government has put off by one month the levy of an additional Rs 2 per litre excise duty on petrol that is not doped with ethanol, and by six months for diesel that is not blended with bio-diesel. The government relaxed the deadline for supplying ethanol-blended petrol to avoid the extra levy to November 2022 and that for supply of bio-diesel doped diesel to April 2023 in a bid to give the industry more time to implement the oil import cutting measure.

The finance ministry, in a Gazette notification issued late on Friday (September 30), stated that the additional excise tax on petrol will now be levied from November 1, 2022 and that on diesel from April 2023.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had in her Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 2022 brought a Rs 2 per litre additional levy on petrol and diesel that is not blended with ethanol and bio-diesel, respectively. This duty was to be applicable from October 1, 2022, but now has been deferred to November 1 for petrol and April 1, 2023 for diesel. Presently, 10 per cent ethanol, extracted from sugarcane or surplus foodgrain, is blended or mixed in petrol (meaning 10 per cent of ethanol mixed with 90 per cent of petrol) with a view to cutting oil import dependence and providing farmers with an additional source of income.

UPI Transactions Up Over 3% At 678 Crore In Sep

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: UPI transactions grew by over 3 per cent to 6.78 billion in September from a month ago, data from NPCI showed on Saturday.

In August 2020, the total number of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) based digital financial transactions stood at 6.57 billion (657 crore).

In value terms, 6.78 billion (678 crore) transactions in last month corresponds to transactions worth Rs 11.16 lakh crore, up from Rs 10.73 lakh crore in August, as per the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) data.

In July, India processed 6.28 billion UPI transactions worth Rs 10.62 lakh crore.

UPI is becoming a preferred mode among users and it is simple to use, fast and a secure payment method. Among other payments methods under the NPCI umbrella, the instant inter-bank payments through IMPS stood at 462.69 million (46.27 crore) in September slightly lower from 466.91 million (46.69 crore) in the preceding month. In July, it was 460.83 million (46.03 crore).

Aadhaar number based AePS transactions stood at 102.66 million in September, as against 105.65 million a month earlier.

7 Children From Kargil With Congenital Heart Ailments Undergo Surgery At Gurugram Hospital

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Seven underprivileged children from Kargil suffering from structural congenital heart defects underwent surgery at a private hospital in Haryana's Gurugram, a statement said.

These children were part of a group of 300 who were screened for cardiovascular issues at a camp organised in Kargil recently.

The three-day camp was organised at the 300-bed district hospital in Kurbathang by Paras Hospitals, Gurugram in association with Dream for Change Foundation and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil.

Of the 300 children who were examined at the camp, around 50 were diagnosed with structural congenital heart defects. Out of these 50, seven required early open heart surgery and cardiac interventions, the statement issued by Paras Hospitals said.

It was difficult to make parents understand the complications but the doctors patiently suggested immediate cardiac surgery and intervention for the seven vulnerable cases at Paras Hospital, Gurugram, it said.

The heart diseases in children varied from simple heart defect requiring medical management to complex congenital heart defects requiring early surgery to



give them a one-time complete cure and prevent their progression to an inoperable state, said Dr Mahesh Wadhvani, chief, cardiac surgery and head of department, paediatric and adult cardiac surgery at Paras Hospitals.

"The cardiac camp initiative in Kargil has helped a lot of patients there who otherwise would have suffered miserably... in search of proper diagnosis. There were cases of having a hole in the heart among children and this led to a shocking loss in their weight," he said.

"We came across one-year-old babies weighing 5-6 kgs and 15-16 years old (children) with a weight of around 25-30 kgs. From having a hole in the heart (Patent Ductus Arteriosis) to complex cyanotic heart diseases, their conditions were miserable and we are proud to say that all these babies underwent successful open-heart surgery and interventions," he said.

The patients were discharged within a week and are back to their normal lives, he said.

Bolstering National Security Has Been Our Top Priority: Rajnath

Press Trust of India

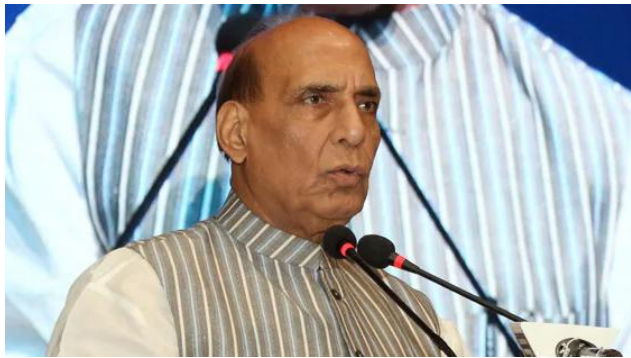
New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that bolstering national security has been the top priority of the government.

He was launched several digital initiatives of Defence Accounts Department (DAD) during its 275th annual day celebrations here on October 1.

"Bolstering national security has been our top priority since the beginning. The allocation of a total budget of Rs 5.25 lakh crore to the Ministry of Defence in 2022-23 is a testament to that unwavering resolve. The DAD is playing a crucial role in this endeavour," Singh was quoted as saying in a statement by the ministry.

He also said the DAD should bolster their support to the government's efforts through "speedy decisions, as delays not only lead to loss of time and money, but also adversely impact the combat readiness of the country".

The digital initiatives launched by him include System for Pension Administration (Raksha) (SPARSH) mobile app; Pay System for Agniveers; International Air Ticket booking module in Defence Travel System (DTS); Defence



Accounts Receipts and Payment System (DARPAN); Defence Civilian Pay system and Defence Accounts Human Resource Management System, the statement said.

On the occasion, Singh also gave away the Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence 2022 to three teams for exhibiting exemplary initiative in implementing key department projects - development, testing and implementation of SPARSH; implementation of E-Concurrence in DRDO and Pay and Accounts Office (PAO) Bharati: Your PAO, a call away 24x7.

Describing SPARSH as a landmark step, Singh said it is the government's endeavour to provide best services to the serving personnel, ex-servicemen and their families during the soldiers' lifetime as well as after death.

the department can play in realising the vision of 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence.

"68 per cent of capital procurement budget has been earmarked for the domestic industry during financial year 2022-23, which underlines the government's commitment towards achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing," he said.

The minister elaborated on the committee constituted under the chairmanship of the defence secretary for the performance and efficiency audit of various aspects of Ministry of Defence.

This committee, through audit, will review the work being done in the ministry from a new and creative perspective, he said, stressing that DAD can play an important role in the process. This will not only increase the efficiency of the services, but also reduce wasteful expenditure, he added.

Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, Financial Advisor (Defence Services) Rasika Chaube, Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) Avinash Dikshit and other senior officials of the ministry were present during the event.

CRPF, ITBP Gets New Chiefs



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers Sujoy Lal Thaoson and Anish Dayal Singh have been appointed as the new director generals of the CRPF and ITBP respectively, a government order said Saturday.

Thaoson, a 1988-batch officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, is currently working as the director general (DG) of the border guarding force Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and holding the additional charge of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) DG post fell vacant on Friday after IPS officer Kuldeep Singh (1986-batch) retired.

Anish Dayal Singh, a 1988-batch officer (Manipur cadre), is currently serving as a special director in the Intelligence Bureau.

Thaoson's scheduled retirement is in November this year, while Singh will superannuate in December, 2024. The order for their appointment was issued by the Personnel Ministry after sanction from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by the prime minister.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Joblessness Rate

Another credible labor survey report which substantiates the chronic unemployment scenario in the region was published by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The urban unemployment since the highly infective second Covid wave in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, remained at very high levels, as per the periodic labor force survey (PLFS) data.

However, as per the administration, unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir has remained a big concern for the past 70 years and in the absence of a private sector, people used to do anything to get a prestigious government job as it was considered a guarantee for a secure future.

For the first time in history of J-K, recruitments have been done on merit basis, in a transparent manner which is a living example of how corruption-free, transparent and just system contributes to the progress of the marginalized class and wherever wrongdoings were alleged, investigation was launched by credible and top law enforcement agencies, the administration said.

Even J&K's Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, last year, had said his focus is on providing job opportunities to 80 percent of the young population within the next five years.

Meanwhile, as per CMIE, India's national average was recorded at 6.4 percent where urban rate stood at 7.7 percent and rural rate was recorded at 5.9 percent.

Home Minister

Shah will also address a public meeting at Baramulla before launching and laying foundation stones for various development projects in Srinagar.

Security Up

checked at several places in the district. Earlier on last week, Jammu and Kashmir police chief - Dilbag Singh visited the district and chaired a

meeting of civil and police officers to review the security arrangements. The DGP emphasized upon the officers to keep an eye on the activities of suspicious elements who always try to find an opportunity to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere.

Meanwhile, in a first of its kind in the district especially in Sopore town - which once used to be the hotbed of militant/anti-national activities Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are on wheels and have been continuously announcing people to participate in the Union Home Minister Amit Shah's rally.

Pertinent to mention, Shah is scheduled to visit Baramulla on October 5 and address a mega rally there. He is also scheduled to make announcements about various welfare schemes for Paharis and Schedule Tribe people in Baramulla.

BJP Expects

Baramulla district. Party's General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul said that the party has already started preparations for Amit Shah's rally and that the corner meetings have been started to finalize the arrangements.

Today, BJP's J&K unit president Ravinder Raina chaired a meeting of party leaders to review the arrangements.

The discussion on several issues was held threadbare and it was conveyed to the leaders that every arrangement should be finalized well on time and there should be no loophole in the arrangements.

Koul told a local news agency KNO that Raina will be chairing a meeting tomorrow in Bandipora to discuss and finalize the arrangements for the rally. "The people from different parts of the Valley would participate in the rally and we are expecting a gathering of 30,000 participants from Srinagar, south Kashmir and mostly from Bandipora, Baramulla and other nearby places," Koul said.

Pertinently, Shah is scheduled to visit Jammu and Kashmir on October

04 and will address gatherings in Baramulla.

J&K Govt

been completed. The work will start soon," Wani said.

He said the government will also establish some ghats for the shikara and the people will be able to tour the lake easily. The lake is spread over a total area of 130 square kilometres. It was designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention in 1990.

The government is also going to construct two Delta Parks on the banks of Wular—One near Wular vintage park in Garoora and another in Watlab area of Sopore.

According to officials, non-motorable walkway is proposed to be developed by upgrading the Wular Lake to add not only to the beauty of the waterbody but also consolidate its boundaries permanently and prevent encroachment.

Chief Planning Officer, Bandipora Imtiyaz Ahmad told Kashmir Observer that the district administration is also planning to build a big monument at the Wular vintage park.

The government is also encouraging other ecotourism activities such as boating, bird watching, fishing, adventure sports etc.

"This is being done in order to generate livelihood and bring prosperity to wetland dwellers which will eventually lead to conservation of Lake," said the official.

He said the government is also building a few huts and camping sites and food kiosks for the tourists near the lake.

Apart from this the government is also building a Musical Water Fountain with Laser, Light & Sound Show in the lake similar to one in the Dal Lake.

"It will be more beautiful than Dal Lake," Mudassir Mehmood Malik, the coordinator of WCMA, told Kashmir Observer.

The WCMA is also working on the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of Wular Lake. In 2018, the

UT administration had sanctioned the 200-crore Wular Action Plan for the conservation and management of the lake.

Wani said that so far 1 lakh willows have also been removed from the lake during restoration works so far which has generated revenue of Rs 24 crore to the government. He said the dredging has increased the capacity of the lake.

"Few years ago, you wouldn't be able to see the water near the Garoora area of the district but we removed 64 lakh cubic meter silt from an area of 4.5 sq kms during the restoration process," Wani added.

Around 30 villages are dwelling on the banks of the lake. It also supports the livelihood of a huge population and is a habitat for migratory water birds.

The Lake is famous for its finest variety of fish and chestnut. The lake produces around four metric tons of water chestnuts annually and 5,000 tons of fish annually, Mehmood Malik told Kashmir Observer.

'Journalist' Held

that the accused took her objectionable pictures after sedating her and used these to blackmail her into forced sexual intercourse many times," it reads.

It added that the accused also took her gold ornaments in the course of blackmailing her.

"Pertinent to mention that the lady was a student in an institution in central Kashmir at the time of the occurrence of this crime."

It further reads that a case under FIR no 50/22 in sections 376,384,506 of IPC has been registered in Women PS Srinagar.

"Investigation into the case is going on to unearth more facts and some more allegations made by the victim in this case. Keeping in view the heinous nature of the crime, a SIT has been constituted headed by DySP Hqs Owais Wani and comprising of DySP PC. Sleet Shah, SHO Women PS,

Khalida Parveen, and ASI Mohd Yousuf Shah as members."

The statement further reads that Srinagar Police assures all its citizens that crime against women will not be tolerated at all and stringent punishment will be given to those involved.

Govt Rubbishes

apple carrying trucks moved from Qazigund to other parts of the country via NH 44 in the month of September, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the entire backlog of trucks at Qazigund was cleared on September 26.

Besides, the spokesperson said that the daily flow of apple trucks from Kashmir valley to other parts of the country is only 1100 apple trucks per day not the higher figures of 2000 or 2500 apple trucks per day, as is being claimed by vested interests.

Revealing more details, the spokesperson said that the daily flow of trucks from the Kashmir Valley towards Jammu and other parts of the country is only about 1600 trucks per day.

"Keeping in view that the down HMV traffic moves on alternate days, the maximum stranded trucks at Qazigund is only 1600 trucks unless the down movement is hampered by partial or complete closure of the NH 44 due to shooting stones, landslides or repair work," the spokesperson said.

He further said that due to the shooting stones from September 24 to September 30, the National Highway remained blocked for 35 hours and 5 minutes while for repair works it remained closed for 17 hours and 31 minutes.

"It may be noted that NHAI had requested for no traffic window of 4 hours per day for 5 days starting 24th Sept 2022, for repair works which were allowed by the Government," the spokesperson added.

Imbibe Wisdom

Jayanti is a moment of contemplation for all of us to rededicate ourselves towards establishing a peaceful

and harmonious society with equality and justice for all.

"Mahatma Gandhi's lifelong campaigns for the cause of the downtrodden, deprived, and oppressed sections of society and his relentless pursuit of promoting communal harmony and national integration have guided us to establish a citizen-centric governance structure that promotes social equity, social justice and ensures the well being of all," Sinha said.

The LG, the spokesperson said, urged the people to imbibe wisdom from Gandhiji's thoughts and actions to realize the dream of a Swachh and Aatma-Nirbhar Bharat.

Sinha, he said, also paid tributes to former Prime Minister of India, Lal Bahadur Shastri on his Birth Anniversary.

The spokesperson said that the LG recalled his slogan of Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, which is still etched in the national conscience and motivates the entire nation.

"His indefatigable spirit of service to humanity will continue to inspire generations. We should rededicate ourselves to Shastri Ji's ideals and strive to translate them into action," Sinha said.

Drug Peddler

against him in Doda and nearby Ramban district under the NDPS Act," he said.

Kumar's detention will act as a deterrent for criminals and smugglers still at large, besides saving the lives of a number of youths, the spokesperson said.

"He was a serious threat to the youths and got them involved in consuming and selling drugs. The police laid a trap and kept him under close surveillance and apprehended him on the basis of intelligence," he added.

Kumar is the second peddler booked under the PIT NDPS Act in the district in the past two weeks, while 32 others have been taken into preventive custody.

The police have also registered 36 FIRs against 40 peddlers in the district this year, the spokesperson added.

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

KASHMIR
OBSERVER



IND vs SA 2nd T20I: India Eye Rare Series Win Against South Africa As Bumrah Question Lingers

Press Trust of India

GUWAHATI: It may be unsettled after an unexpected injury to Jasprit Bumrah but the Indian team would aim to continue its winning run and complete a rare home-series win against South Africa when the two sides clash in the second T20 International, here Sunday.

Bumrah was expected to play a key role in Indian team's campaign in the Australian conditions but his "back stress fracture" has ruled him out of the ICC flagship event, starting in three weeks' time.

Umesh Yadav and Mohammad Siraj have been added to the squad as injury replacements but they do not figure in the World Cup-bound squad, as of now.

The burning question is, will the two remaining T20Is give the team management scope to test Bumrah's replacement.

The seasoned Mohammad Shami, who is in the World Cup squad as stand-by, is not here for the South Africa series.

For the SA series, the team has a fit-again Deepak Chahar who also figures in the World Cup standby.

Siraj, on the other hand, has struggled of late and has inspired very little confidence.

It's a different debate altogether that Bhuvneshwar, who is short on



experience -- three T20Is -- in Australia has started leaking runs and no longer holds the ace, as it was seen in their Asia Cup elimination last month.

But India will head to Australia with their star-studded batting providing the big confidence. The

top four, including their star batter Virat Kohli, look in their zone.

That KL Rahul also returned among runs with a slow but steady fifty in the first T20I was a big confidence-booster.

It's just that their middle-order with the likes of Rishabh Pant and

Dinesh Karthik seemingly looks short on game time.

Pant, who is likely to be the X-factor in Australia, has not got any batting opportunities at all since returning from the Asia Cup where he had a mixed campaign.

Karthik, the designated Indian

finisher, on the other hand has faced nine balls in last seven games as pushing them higher would not be a bad play.

ELUSIVE SERIES WIN IN SIGHT

From the series' perspective, India will be chasing their first ever vic-

tory over the Proteas in the format at home soil and a win will seal it. It's a different thing that it would hold little significance in the bigger picture.

That they have struggled in the world tournaments is not a secret and the 2007 champions, who last made the semifinal in 2016, would hope to avoid a repeat of 2021 UAE edition when they failed to make the knockouts.

Bavuma would hope that they put up a much-improved show and also the toss of the coin comes in his favour so as to test the Indian batting up front.

TEAMS (FROM)

INDIA: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Umesh Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Shahbaz Ahmed and Mohammad Siraj.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (Captain), Quinton de Kock (wk), Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs. Match starts 7pm IST.

DPS Srinagar Wins Under-17 Inter-School Basketball



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: DPS Srinagar on Saturday said that its basketball team has won the Under-17 Inter-School Basketball tournament organised by District Sports and Youth Service and Sports at Gindun Stadium Rajbagh.

The school defeated Tyndale Biscoe School in finals by 49-10 putting on a stellar show of skill and teamwork that left gaping holes in the defence of their opponent. In the semi-finals, DPS Srinagar defeated Burn Hall School to secure their place in

the finals.

Commenting on the win, Principal Shafaq Afshan said, "It is a great pleasure for us that our students continue to enrich our legacy in sporting excellence. Congratulations to the winners."

Chairman Vijay Dhar congratulated the winning team and said, "A healthy mind exists in a healthy body and both are vital to a healthy society. At DPS Srinagar we are committed to the idea of creating a healthy and thriving society, and this win stands as proof of our commitment. Congratulations to all."

Great To Play Alongside Gayle, Harbhajan In LLC: Lee



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former Australian fast bowling great Brett Lee is happy that he will have Chris Gayle and Harbhajan Singh for company in the ongoing Legends League Cricket (LLC).

Lee, who will represent Manipal Tigers, had also played the inaugural edition in Oman's capital city of Muscat.

"It has been a great experience playing the Legends League," Lee said on Saturday.

"The phase 1 in Oman was great one and I am glad that I am back for season 2.

After checking in, I had a nice interaction with Christopher Gayle," Lee added.

What brought him here is a nice get together with on field foes turn off field buddies in LLC.

"Playing with former opposition players and guys who were in opposition but teammates as well, one tourney I am looking forward to," Lee said.

"In this edition, I am looking for a duel with my old teammate Mitchell Johnson as we haven't played a lot against each other. Also it would be fun to play alongside Harbhajan Singh."

Bumrah Injury: Coach Dravid 'Hoping For The Best'



Press Trust of India

GUWAHATI: Indian head coach Rahul Dravid is not ready to give up on injured Jasprit Bumrah and expects the pacer to be fit in time for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022.

Bumrah had sustained a back injury and was being monitored by their medical team at the NCA.

"I have not gone deeply into the medical reports. I rely on the experts to tell me what it is. They ruled him out for this

series and he is being assessed. We will know in due course what happens in the future. Obviously, till he is completely ruled out, till I get official confirmation that he is ruled out, we will always be hopeful. We will always hope for the best for us as a team and also for Jasprit as an individual. We will always hope for the best," said Rahul Dravid in the pre-match press conference ahead of the second T20I against South Africa.

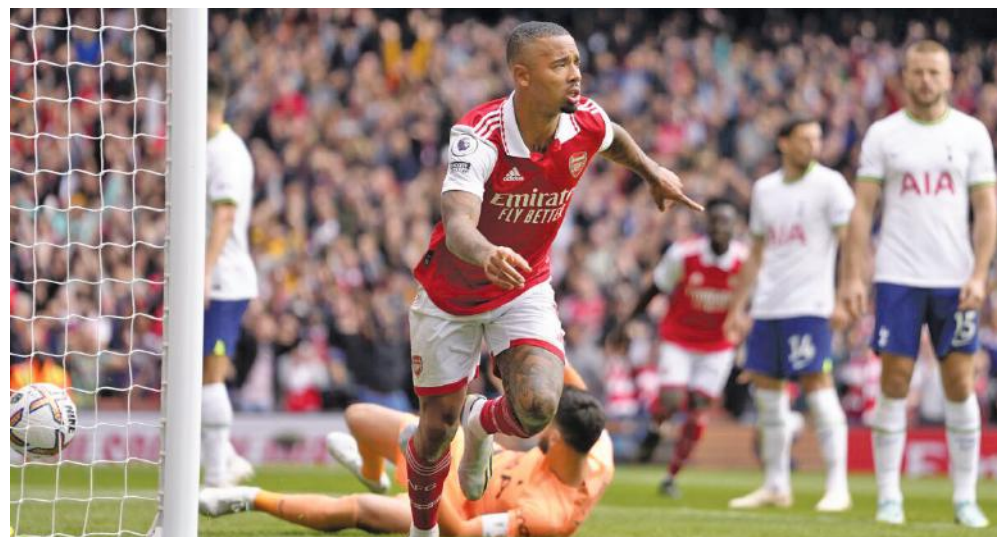
"As of now, he has been officially ruled out of this T20 series

of South Africa for these two games. He has gone to the NCA and we are waiting for the official confirmation on the next steps," added Rahul Dravid.

Mohammed Siraj was named as the replacement for injured Bumrah for the remainder of the T20I series against South Africa.

Bumrah's spate of injuries has become a matter of debate. Bumrah played all the 14 IPL matches for his franchise Mumbai Indians and since then he only featured in six International matches in four months.

Arsenal Beats 10-Man Tottenham 3-1 To Stay Atop EPL Table



Agencies

LONDON: Gabriel Jesus marked his first north London derby with a goal as Arsenal beat 10-man Tottenham 3-1 on Saturday to strengthen its grip on first place in the Premier League.

Jesus took advantage of a defensive blunder to make it 2-1 early in the second half and Tottenham's chances of a come-

back were then ruined by Emerson Royal earning a straight red card for a needless studs-up challenge on Gabriel Martinelli in the 62nd minute.

Granit Xhaka quickly capitalized on the man-advantage by adding the third goal five minutes later as Arsenal built a four-point gap to Spurs and Manchester City atop the table.

Tottenham would have

climbed above Arsenal into first with a win, but instead saw its 13-game unbeaten run in the league stretching back to last season come to an end.

City can climb back within one point of Arsenal with a win over crosstown rival Manchester United on Sunday.

Jesus scored 95 goals in six seasons at Man City — but never netted in the Manchester derby. (AP)

Pakistan Batter Haider Ali In Hospital With Viral Illness



Agencies

LAHORE: Pakistan cricketer Haider Ali was taken to hospital because of a viral illness during the Twenty20 against England.

Ali is the second Pakistan T20 World Cup player admitted to hospital during the series after fast bowler Naseem Shah, who also fell ill. He scored 18 runs off 14 balls but the middle-order also batter felt dizzy in the dressing room and was substituted. Pakistan ultimately lost the sixth T20.

Ali has had a below-par series, scoring 11, 3, 4 and 18.

Paceman Shah spent two nights in a local hospital in Lahore due to pneumonia. He was ruled out of the remaining two T20s of the seven-match series after testing positive for COVID-19 on Thursday.

Shah will isolate for two days, and the Pakistan Cricket Board said he will fly out to New Zealand with the team on Monday for a triangular T20 series also featuring Bangladesh, a prelude to the T20 World Cup in Australia.

Pakistan and England will play the deciding match in the seven-match T20I series on Sunday. The match starts 8:00 pm. (AP)

Russia Questions IOC For Making Athletes Condemn War

Reuters

Russia accused the head of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Saturday of violating Olympic principles by suggesting that its athletes might be allowed to return to competition, provided they did not support the invasion of Ukraine.

Responding to the idea from IOC President Thomas Bach, the head of the Russian Wrestling Federation, Mikhail Mamiashvili, said that Olympic participation should not require athletes to become traitors.

He told the RIA news agency that the Olympics "do not have a principled position that one must be a traitor to the Motherland."

Russian news agencies quoted Sports Minister Oleg Matytsin as saying: "The main task of the international Olympic movement is to provide athletes with equal access to participation in the Olympic Games, regardless of their views and religions, tradi-

tions and citizenship."

Matytsin said Russia would keep talking to the IOC and hoped it would change its stance.

"Bach's latest statement goes against Olympic principles," he



said.

In February, the IOC issued guidance to sports governing bodies to remove athletes from Russia and Belarus which let Moscow use its territory as a launchpad for the February 24 invasion of Ukraine, from competitions.

Russia, which traditionally prides itself as an Olympic powerhouse, has been barred from competing under its flag or playing its national anthem at successive Games as punishment for widespread doping violations.

WhatsApp Bans Over 23.28 Lakh Indian Accounts In August

AGENCEIS

New Delhi: WhatsApp banned over 23.28 lakh Indian accounts in August, of which over 10 lakh accounts were proactively taken down before any report from users, the messaging platform said on Saturday.

This is lower than the level seen in the previous month. Over 23.87 lakh Indian accounts were banned by WhatsApp in July.

"Between 1 August, 2022 and 31 August, 2022, 2,328,000 WhatsApp accounts were banned. 1,008,000 of these accounts were proactively banned, before any reports from users," WhatsApp said in its monthly compliance report.

An Indian account is identified via a +91 phone number.

Over 22 lakh Indian accounts were banned by WhatsApp in June on the basis of complaints received via its grievance redressal channel and through its own mechanism to detect violations. Earlier, 19 lakh such accounts were banned by WhatsApp in May, 16 lakh accounts in April, and 18.05 lakh in March.

The tougher IT rules, which came into effect last year, mandate large digital platforms (with over 50 lakh users) to publish compliance reports every month, mentioning the details of complaints received and action taken.

Big social media firms have drawn flak in the past over hate speech, misinformation and fake news circulating on their platforms. Concerns have been flagged by some quarters time and again over digital platforms acting arbitrarily in pulling down content, and 'de-platforming' users.

The government is in the midst of formulating new social media norms that propose to give users a grievance appeal mechanism against arbitrary content moderation, inaction, or takedown decisions of big tech companies.

According to the latest report, as many as 598 grievance reports were received, and 19 accounts were "actioned" between August 1 and August 31, 2022.

Of the total reports received, 449 pertained to 'ban appeal' while others were in the categories of account support, product support and safety, among others.

"We respond to all grievances received except in cases where a grievance is deemed to be a duplicate of a previous ticket. An account is 'actioned' when an account is banned or a previously banned account is restored, as a result of a complaint," the report said.

The IT ministry, in June, circulated the draft rules that propose a panel to hear user appeals against inaction on complaints made, or against content-related decisions taken by grievance officers of social media platforms.

At present, "there is no appellate mechanism provided by intermediaries nor is there any credible self-regulatory mechanism in place," the ministry had said.

The government had last year notified IT rules to make digital intermediaries more accountable and responsible for content hosted on their platforms.

In its compliance report, WhatsApp said: "We will continue with the transparency to our work and include information about our efforts in future reports."



5G Launched In India - A 1GB File Will Now Download In...

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Reliance Jio, the nation's biggest telecom firm, will expand 5G telephony services offering ultra-high-speed internet connectivity to every part of the country by December 2023, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Saturday.

Jio had in September 2016 made an entry into the telecom sector, offering free voice calls and dirt-cheap data, forcing the competition to either match or fold up/consolidate.

Ambani has now promised affordable 5G services.

"Today, I want to reiterate Jio's commitment to deliver 5G to every town, every taluka, and every tehsil of our country by December 2023," he said at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) conference here.

Ambani had at his flagship Reliance Industries Ltd's annual shareholder meeting in August announced the rollout of 5G services across multiple key cities, including metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, by Diwali.

Most of Jio's 5G is developed in India, and hence carries the stamp of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', he said, adding 5G and 5G-enabled digital solutions can bring affordable and high-quality education and skill development within the reach of common Indians.

It can deliver high-quality healthcare to rural and remote areas by turning existing hospitals into smart hospitals without much additional investment, making the services of the best doctors digitally available anywhere in India as well as improving the speed and accuracy of diagnostics and enabling real-time clinical decision making.

5G can also bridge the gap between urban and rural India by accelerating digitisation and intelligent data management of



agriculture, services, trade, industry, informal sector, transportation and energy infrastructure, he said.

"By bringing AI into every domain, 5G can power India's emergence as the world's intelligence capital. This will help India become a major exporter of high-value digital solutions and services," he said, adding all these will trigger a huge explosion of entrepreneurship in the country, which in turn will attract even larger investments and create millions of new jobs.

Ambani said by harnessing the combined power of demography and digital technologies, India can become the world's leading digital society, accelerating growth by making the country a USD 40 trillion economy by 2047, up from USD 3 trillion now and increasing per capita income rapidly to over USD 20,000, from USD 2,000.

"It will not be an exaggeration to say that 5G is like a Digital Kamadhenu, the heavenly cow that grants whatever we desire," he said.

With 5G, India will take longer and faster strides towards 'Sab Ka Digital Saath and Sab Ka Digital Vikas', he said. "India

may have started a little late, but we'll finish first by rolling out 5G services that are of higher quality and more affordable than anywhere else in the world." Ambani further said 5G is much more than just the next generation of connectivity technology, offering foundational technology that unlocks the full potential of other transformative technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), internet of things, robotics, blockchain, and metaverse.

Speaking to reporters later, Ambani said Jio's 5G services will be launched by Diwali, but did not comment on tariffs. The company's 5G services will be affordable, he said, adding "Jio is always affordable".

"Today is a historic day where as a country we started 5G, and I am very grateful to the PM for his Digital India vision... We have implemented his vision and I think this is really a new era in terms of connectivity, and what the PM has outlined, we in the telecom industry will work together to achieve this and make India and Indian connectivity ecosystem best in the world and the most affordable in the world," Ambani said.

Maharashtra Is India's Third Cleanest State. First Two Are...

Agenceis

New Delhi: Indore was adjudged India's cleanest city for the sixth time in a row, while Surat and Navi Mumbai followed it on the next two spots in the Central government's annual cleanliness survey, the results of which were announced Saturday.

In the category of best performing states in 'Swachh Survekshan Awards 2022', Madhya Pradesh has secured the first position, followed by Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

Indore and Surat retained their top positions in the big cities category this year, while Vijaywada lost its third spot to Navi Mumbai.

Among the states having fewer than 100 urban local bodies, Tripura has bagged the top rank, according to the survey results.

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday gave away the awards to the winners at an event here also attended by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh

Puri and others.

In the category of cities having population fewer than one lakh, Maharashtra's Panchgani was ranked number one, followed by Chhattisgarh's Patan (NP) and Maharashtra's Karhad.

Haridwar was adjudged the cleanest Ganga town in the category of more than 1 lakh population, followed by Varanasi and Rishikesh. PTI BUN Bijnor was ranked the first among Ganga towns with fewer than one lakh population, followed by Kannauj and Garhmukteshwar respectively.

In to the survey, Maharashtra's Deolali was adjudged the country's cleanest Cantonment Board.

The 7th edition of Swachh Survekshan was conducted to study the progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) and rank the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) based on various cleanliness and sanitation parameters.

The Survekshan has evolved from being an assessment of 73 cities in 2016 to covering 4,354 cities this year.



INDORE AND SURAT RETAINED THEIR TOP positions in the big cities category this year, while Vijaywada lost its third spot to Navi Mumbai.

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