

25th year OF PUBLICATION

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Generation / Distribution of Land Pass Book

Launch / Formation of
225 Citizens Centric Online Services
1000 Cooperatives

2nd edition of District Good Governance Index -FY 2021-22

Laying of Foundation Stone of
41 Water Supply Schemes under JJM
128 roads (920.72 kms)

10 Power Distribution/ Transmission projects

Inauguration of
14 Urban Development Projects
48 roads (269.41 kms)
8 Bridges

10 Power Distribution/ Transmission Projects

by

Shri Amit Shah

Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs &
Cooperation, Government of India

in the august presence of

Shri Manoj Sinha
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K

Dr Jitendra Singh
Hon'ble Union MoS (Ind. Charge) of the Ministry of
Earth Sciences; in the Prime Minister's Office; in
the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and
Pensions; in the Department of Atomic Energy and
in the Department of Space

Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma
Hon'ble Member Parliament

04 October 2022 | Jammu

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

It's Flu Vaccine Time And Here's What To Know

Associated Press

Doctors have a message for vaccine-weary Americans: Don't skip your flu shot this fall -- and seniors, ask for a special extra-strength kind. After flu hit historically low levels during the COVID-19 pandemic, it may be poised for a comeback. The main clue: A nasty flu season just ended in Australia. While there's no way to predict if the U.S. will be as hard-hit, "last year we were going into flu season not knowing if flu was around or not. This year we know flu is back," said influenza specialist Richard Webby of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. Annual flu shots are recommended starting with 6-month-old babies. Flu is most dangerous for people 65 and older, young children, pregnant women and people with certain health problems including heart and lung diseases.

Here's what to know:
REVVED-UP SHOTS FOR SENIORS

As people get older, their immune system doesn't respond as strongly to standard flu vaccination. This year, people 65 or older are urged to get a special kind for extra protection. There are three choices. Fluzone High-Dose and Flublok each contain higher doses of the main anti-flu ingredient. The other option is Flud Adjuvanted, which has a regular dosage but contains a special ingredient that helps boost people's immune response. Seniors can ask what kind their doctor carries. But most flu vaccinations are given in pharmacies and some drugstore websites, such as CVS, automatically direct people to locations offering senior doses if their birth date shows they qualify. Webby advised making sure older relatives and friends know about the senior shots, in case they're not told when they seek vaccination. "They should at least ask, 'Do you have the shots that are better for me?'" Webby said. "The bottom line is they do work better" for this



All flu vaccines in the U.S. -- including types for people younger than 65 -- are "quadrivalent," meaning they guard against four different flu strains. Younger people have choices, too, including shots for those with egg allergies and a nasal spray version called FluMist.

age group. If a location is out of senior-targeted doses, it's better to get a standard flu shot than to skip vaccination, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All flu vaccines in the U.S. -- including types for people younger than 65 -- are "quadrivalent," meaning they guard against four different flu strains. Younger people have choices, too, including shots for those with egg allergies and a nasal spray version called FluMist.

WHY FLU EXPERTS ARE ON ALERT Australia just experienced its worst flu season in five years and what happens in Southern Hemisphere winters often foreshadows what Northern countries can expect, said Dr. Andrew Pekosz of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. And people have largely abandoned masking and distancing precautions that earlier in the pandemic

also helped prevent the spread of other respiratory bugs like the flu. "This poses a risk especially to young children who may not have had much if any previous exposure to influenza viruses prior to this season," Pekosz added. "This year we will have a true influenza season like we saw before the pandemic," said Dr. Jason Newland, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Washington University in St. Louis. He said children's hospitals already are seeing an unusual early spike in other respiratory infections including RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, and worries flu likewise will strike earlier than usual -- like it did in Australia. The CDC advises a flu vaccine by the end of October but says they can be given any time during flu season. It takes about two weeks for protection to set in. The U.S. expects 173 million to 183 million doses this year. And yes,


you can get a flu shot and an updated COVID-19 booster at the same time -- one in each arm to lessen soreness.

FLU SHOTS OF THE FUTURE The companies that make the two most widely used COVID-19 vaccines now are testing flu shots made with the same technology. One reason: When influenza mutates, the recipes of so-called mRNA vaccines could be updated more quickly than today's flu shots, most of which are made by growing influenza virus in chicken eggs. Pfizer and its partner BioNTech are recruiting 25,000 healthy U.S. adults to receive either its experimental influenza shot or a regular kind, to see how effective the new approach proves this flu season. Rival Moderna tested its version in about 6,000 people in Australia, Argentina and other countries during the Southern Hemisphere's flu season and is awaiting results.

Researchers Find Immunotherapies For Chemotherapy Resistant Breast Tumour

ANI

The researchers have identified immune cell types that could be targeted to create particular immunotherapies for chemotherapy-resistant breast tumours. Researchers from King's College London and The Institute of Cancer Research, London, with support from Breast Cancer Now, have performed a deep dive into the different immune markers within tumour tissues and blood samples of early breast cancer patients whose cancer failed to respond to chemotherapy given to them prior to surgery. The research, published in Clinical Cancer Research, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research, gives insight into the function of immune cells in patients with chemotherapy-resistant breast cancers. While chemotherapy may not kill cancer cells in these high-risk patients, immunotherapy, a type of treatment that helps the immune system to attack cancer cells, may provide a benefit. To investigate the immune environment that surrounds these chemotherapy-resistant tumours, researchers employed multiple and novel complementary technologies looking at proteins and genes on both pre-treatment and post-treatment breast cancer tissue. They also measured how 1,330 cancer and immune-related genes within cancer tissues were affected by chemotherapy.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER FOR HANDLOOMS

Applications are invited from Handloom Awardees/Clusters for selection of their participation in the various Crafts Mela-2022-23 and DilliHaat during the year 2022-23 enabling them to exhibit and sell handloom products as per details given below:-

Craft Melas

Sl. No.	Name of Crafts Mela	Location	Period of Crafts Mela
1	Surajkund Crafts Mela	Faridabad (Haryana)	01 st to 15 th February, 2023

Eligibility :- SantKabir Award/National Award/National Merit Certificate Holder/ India handloom Brand (IHB) registered holder/ State Awardees are eligible to participate. The National Awardees, National Merit Certificate holder And State Awardees and IHB holder who have participation in Suraj kund Mela in 2021& 22 are not eligible to apply. However, Santkabir Awardees can apply irrespective of previous participation in every year. Individual Weavers are not eligible to apply.

2	Toshali National Crafts Mela	Bhubaneswar (Odisha)	15 th to 27 th December, 2022
3	Shilparamam	Visakhapatnam(Andhra Pradesh)	15 th to 31 st December, 2022
4	Shilpgram	Udaipur (Rajasthan)	21 st to 30 th December, 2022
5	Shilparamam	Madhapur, Hyderabad (Telangana)	15 th to 30 th December, 2022
6	Taj Mahotsav	Agra (Uttar Pradesh)	18 th to 27 th February, 2023

Eligibility- All handloom Awardees/Cluster which include Co-operative Societies/Producer companies, SHG and Federations are eligible to participate. Awardees/Clusters which include Co-operative Societies/Producer companies, Self Help Group (SHG) and Federations, who have participated in the year 2021, are not eligible. However Sant kabir Awardees can apply irrespective of previous participation in every year. Individual Weavers are not eligible to apply.

7	Master Creation Programme	DilliHaat, INA Market, New Delhi	01 st to 15 th December. 2022
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Eligibility- Only Sant kabir Awardees, National Awardees and National Merit Certificate holders can apply. Those National Awardees, National Merit Certificate holders participated during 2021 are not eligible to apply. However, Sant kabir Awardees can apply irrespective of previous participation in every year.

Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi

Sl. No.	Slots	Sl. No.	Slots
1.	1 st to 15 th December, 2022	6.	16 th to 28 th February, 2023
2.	16 th to 31 st December, 2022	7.	1 st to 15 th March, 2023
3.	1 st to 15 th January, 2023	8	16 th to 31 st March, 2023
4.	16 th to 31 st January, 2023	9.	01 st to 15 th April, 2023
5.	1 st to 15 th February, 2023	10.	16 th to 30 th April, 2023

Eligibility

- All Handloom Clusters which include Co-operative Societies/ Producer companies, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Federations are eligible to participate
- Agency will be considered for participation after gap of one year from previous allotment to ensure adequate rotation.

All Eligible Handloom Clusters may fill only one application for all the above slots of Dilli Haat in the prescribed format and submit to their nearest Weavers Service Centre (WSC). The last date for submission of application for Crafts Melas and Dilli Haat will be fifteen days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the newspapers. All eligible cluster/participants may also apply online through the link provided on the website of office of the Development Commissioner (Handloom) www.handlooms.nic.in. For more details, one can contact the nearest Weavers Service Centre.

CBC- 41102/11/0012/2223

Development Commissioner (Handlooms)
Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110011

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (3rd Call)

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage (%age) basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/U/T/ Central Governments for the following works

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	Various works at Iqbal Institute of Culture and Philosophy.	16.56Lacs	Rs.600/-	31,100/-	29-09-2022 to 05-10-2022 (6.00 PM)	06-10-2022 (11.30 AM)	"BEE" & "CEE"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.

NIT No: - F(Fresh)(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/40/22
DATED: 29/09/22.

Executive Engineer

DIPK-NB-4204/22

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROVIDING CONSULTANCY/ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, the Executive Engineer invites online bids for Expression of interest (EOI) cum RFP for engagement of Architectural/ structural consultant for construction projects at Main Campus, and other satellite Campuses of University of Kashmir from the reputed Architects, Registered with council of Architects of India

The detailed EOI can be downloaded from the web site Jktenders.gov.in. as per the below mentioned time schedule:-

S.No	Name of Work	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender/bids	Date & Time of Opening of Bid
1.	ARCHITECTURAL CUM STRUCTURAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AT MAIN CAMPUS AND OTHER SATELLITE CAMPUSES OF UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR, HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR.	Rs.10,000/-	29-09-2022 to 13-10-2022 (upto 6.00 pm)	14-10-2022 (11.00AM)

No: F (UCD)(Exp.Int. 2022)/KU/42/22
DATED: 29-09-2022

Executive Engineer

DIPK-NB-4211/22

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SANGAM NEWS AGENCY	SANGAM
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ALTAF NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
MANZOOR NEWS AGENCY	NORPORA
JAVAIID NEWS AGENCY	AWANTIPORA
LONE NEW/ADVT AGENCY	RATNIPORA, PULWAMA
BOOZE NEWS AGNECY	AWANTIPORA
3 WAY TRAL NEWS AGENCY	TRAL
SYED MAQBOOL NEWS AGNECY	TRAL
DAR NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
SHAFI NEWS AGENCY	RAJPORA
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J&K Recorded 300% Surge In Domestic Tourist Footfall Last Year: Report

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: LG Administration's holistic investment into increasing tourist footfall in Jammu & Kashmir has proved a success as a new report by the Union Tourism Ministry has observed that the domestic footfall in J&K has increased by over 300 percent in 2021 against the previous year.

According to a report by the Union Tourism Ministry titled "India Tourism Statistics 2022", the domestic tourists' footfall in J&K increased by 349.09 percent in 2021 against 2020. The data shows that in 2020, J&K had received 2519524 Domestic



File Photo
Tourist Visit (DTV), however, the Domestic arrival increased to 11314920 in 2021. The facts emerging from the data also

DUE TO RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO COVID-19, the number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2021 decreased to 1.52 million as compared to 2.74 million in 2020, registering a negative growth of 44.5%."

revealed that J&K ranks 13 in the DTV category in India.

However, the data also revealed that J&K's foreign tourist footfall had decreased by over 68 percent in 2021 compared to the previous year.

As per the analysis, in 2020 J&K had received 5317 Foreign Tourist Visit (FTV). However, in 2021, the number of FTV

decreased to 1650—a 68.97 percent decrease in the growth rate. In 2021, J&K was also ranked 22 in the FTV category in India.

The report further said that the fall in the arrival of foreign travelers was mainly due to the unprecedented covid situation. "Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, the number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs)

in India during 2021 decreased to 1.52 million as compared to 2.74 million in 2020, registering a negative growth of 44.5%," the report observed.

According to the data, there were 3, 18,673 foreign visitors overall in 2021–22, a decrease of 23.4% from 4, 15,859 in 2020–21. The two states with the most domestic tourists visiting are Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh with 140.65 million and 86.12 million, respectively.

On World Tourism Day, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the more than 280-page paper titled "India Tourism Statistics 2022" | [More on P10](#)

DG Prisons HK Lohia Found Dead In Jammu

Police Suspects Murder, Hunt On To Nab Officer's Domestic Help



Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: Director General of Police (DGP) Prisons Hemant Kumar Lohia was on Monday found dead under suspicious circumstances at a residential house in Udaywala area of Jammu city.

As per reports, Police's preliminary investigation has stated Lohia's death as a case of murder. The reports also suggest that his body was reportedly found to have slit and burn injuries.

Early reports also suggest that the prima facie appears to be a murder and not terror related. However, police are investigating all angles.

It is pertinent to mention here that Lohia's domestic help is also said to be absconding.

"Dead body of Shri Hemant Lohia DG Prisons JK found under suspicious circumstances. First Examination of the scene of crime reveals this as a suspected murder case. The domestic help with the officer is absconding. A search for him has started. Forensic teams and crime teams are on spot. Investigation process has begun. Senior officers are on spot. J&K police family expresses grief and deep sorrow over the death of their senior officer," ADGP Jammu, Mukesh Singh said.

HM Arrives In J&K Amid Tight Security

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Amid unprecedented surety arrangements, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived here on Monday on a three-day visit of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah arrived in the evening and was received at the airport by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union minister Jitendra Singh, among others. The home minister is scheduled to meet various delegations, including those representing the Gujjar, Bakerwal and Pahari communities during his visit, officials said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has promised the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to

Paharis, a long-pending demand of the community mostly residing in Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region and Baramulla in north Kashmir, where Shah is scheduled to address public rallies over the next two days.

Gujjars and Bakerwals have expressed resentment over the proposed inclusion of Paharis in the ST category.

There is massive enthusiasm among the Paharis in anticipation of a major announcement from the home minister but at the same time, the Gujjars and the Bakerwals, apprehending dilution of the ST status, have come out to express their resentment against the proposed move. | [More on P10](#)



Police Issues Traffic Advisory for Sgr-Uri Highway

The traffic police on Monday issued an advisory for the smooth movement of vehicles along the Srinagar-Uri highway in wake of Home Minister, Amit Shah's visit to the North Kashmir's Baramulla district. The advisory was issued by the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic, Rural Kashmir on Monday in view of Shah's public rally in Baramulla's Showkat Ali Stadium scheduled to be held on Wednesday.

"In view of public rally at Showkat Ali Stadium | [More on P10](#)

Several Delegations Call On HM In Jammu

Several delegations, including representatives of the Dogra community, called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday after he arrived here on a three-day visit of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union minister Jitendra Singh were | [More on P10](#)



STUDENTS TURNED UP IN LARGE NUMBERS to witness the first-ever bird festival organised in Srinagar on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Govt Calls For Discouraging 'Culture Of Anonymous Complaints'

Instructions Issues For Lodging, Disposing Of Complaints Against Public Servants

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The government on Monday called for 'discouraging' the 'culture of anonymous or pseudonymous' complaints even as it issued a slew of instructions for lodging and disposal of the complaints against a public servant.

"In order to eradicate corruption for providing robust service delivery mechanism and increase participation of citizens in governance at various levels, citizens can draw attention of appropriate authority by making formal complaints regarding any action/inaction on part of public servant in writing or through other specified means for which complaint redressal mechanism has already been put in place in the



File Photo

Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir," reads a government circular.

It subsequently issued instructions for proper lodging and disposal of the complaints against the public servants.

Among others, it said, complaints can be lodged with appropriate authority by addressing a written communication either directly or through electronic mode or on

portal available for this purpose. "Appropriate authority, after gathering information about corruption, malpractices and misconduct may take appropriate action under law against such public servants in a time bound manner."

It however reiterated that anonymous or pseudonymous complaints or complaints containing vague, frivolous, non-specific allegations | [More on P10](#)

High-Level Panel To Take Call On Release Of Convicts

Home Secretary To Head Committee; To Meet Once In Six Months

Agencies

Srinagar: A high-level committee headed by the administrative secretary of J&K's Home department would be constituted to consider the eligible life convict prisoners for their premature release.

The new jail manual lays bare that a committee shall be constituted by the Jammu & Kashmir Government for considering the eligible life convicts for their premature release.

The committee's recommendation would be placed before the competent authority for consideration and approval.

According to the jail manual, the committee

would be headed by the additional chief secretary/principal secretary/ secretary Home department, administrative secretary Law department, head of the Prison department, a senior police officer to be nominated by the DGP, J&K not below the rank of Inspector General (IG) and administrative secretary Social Welfare department.

The jail manual, which was notified on August 17 this year, states that the committee shall meet once in six months on a date to be decided by the chairman and notified to the members, at least seven days in advance by the member secretary.

Before the | [More on P10](#)

SIU Raids In Kulgam Over Teacher's Killing

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday carried out raids at two places in this south Kashmir district in connection with the killing of a teacher Rajni Bala in May this year.

According to a police spokesperson, the raids were conducted at the residential houses of two accused persons at village Bumrath, who are involved in case FIR 49/2022, U/S 302 RPC, 7/25 Arms Act, 16, 18, 20, 23, 38, 39 UA(P/A) of P/S DH Pora pertaining to killing of teacher Rajni Bala at Gopalpora, Kulgam. During search, he said, SIU collected incriminating material & important information including bank accounts, digital devices etc. He said that proper SOPs were followed during the search operation. | [More on P10](#)

Another 'Journalist' Held In Sextortion Case

Police have arrested a person in a sextortion case in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said on Monday -- two days after a "journalist" was taken into custody following a complaint of rape and extortion. The second arrest in the case comes after Nadeem Ahmed Ganie alias Nadeem Nadu, "a self-proclaimed journalist," was arrested on Saturday from the south Kashmir district after a woman accused him of rape and extortion. "Another person has been arrested in connection with the sextortion case," a police official said. The arrested person has been identified as Salman Shah, a close friend of Ganie, the official said. Reportedly, Shah is working as a journalist in a local weekly newspaper. The arrest was affected | [More on P10](#)

J&K Logs 11 New Covid Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported 11 fresh covid-19 cases even as there was no death due to the virus during the last 24 hours, officials said on Monday. They said all cases were reported from Kashmir Valley and none from Jammu, taking the overall tally to 479174. Among the cases, 173990 are from Jammu division and 305184 from Kashmir Valley. Giving district wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 9, Pulwama 1 and Kulgam 1. There was no death due to the virus during the time. So far 4785 people have succumbed to the virus and among them include 2352 from Jammu division and 2433 from the Valley. Besides, they | [More on P10](#)

Bank Manager Escapes 'Terror' Attack

Branch manager of Grameen Bank, who hails from Dehradun, escaped unhurt after terrorists fired at him in Pattan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday, police said this evening. "Today morning, Police received information that terrorists tried to attack outsider bank manager in Pattan area of Baramulla. Senior police officers reached at the spot to ascertain the facts," a police spokesperson said in a statement. Preliminary investigation revealed that militants tried to attack Vivek Kumar son of Ashok Kumar of Dehradun, Uttarakhand at present Dhoibawan Kunzer and working as Manager of Grameen Bank at Goshbugh Pattan. However, he said, militants could not succeed.

Bullet Riddled Body of Soldier Found in Uri

An army soldier died of gunshot wounds under mysterious circumstances in Boniyar area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday. Possibility of him having committed suicide and reasons under that eventually are being also investigated, official sources said. They said the soldier identified as Rahul Bhagat son of Anand Bhagat of Maharashtra was found in a pool of blood with gunshot wounds on his chest inside the toilet of a garrison in Boniyar. GNS quoting a police official said that inquest proceedings under 174 CrPC have been initiated. "Body has taken into custody for autopsy and other medico-legal formalities."

Azad Picks Taj, Chib For Party Posts

Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday appointed two former ministers as office bearers of his newly launched party Democratic Azad Party in Jammu and Kashmir's.



According to a party statement, former ministers Taj Mohi-ud-Din and R S Chib were appointed as Treasurer and General Secretary respectively of the DAP. Notably, former chief minister of J&K Ghulam Nabi Azad recently launched his own political party after ending his decades old association with the Indian National Congress.

S H O R T T A K E S

Appointment On Compassionate Grounds "Not A Right": SC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Appointment on compassionate grounds is a concession, not a right and the object of granting such employment is to enable the affected family to tide over a sudden crisis, the Supreme Court has said.

The top court last week

on duty in April 1995.

At the time of his death, it was noted, his wife was serving and therefore not eligible for appointment on compassionate grounds.

"After a period of 24 years from the death of the employee, the respondent shall not be entitled to the appointment on compassionate ground," the



set aside the judgement of a division bench of the Kerala High Court, which confirmed the verdict of a single judge directing the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd and others to consider the case of a woman for appointment on compassionate grounds.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and Krishna Murari noted that the father of the woman was employed with Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd and died while

bench said.

According to the law laid down by the top court on appointment on compassionate grounds, equal opportunity for all government vacancies should be provided to all aspirants as mandated under Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

Article 14 of the Constitution deals with equality before law and Article 16 with equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.

46 Girls Among 53 Killed In Kabul Classroom Bombings: UN

Agencies

Kabul: Forty-six girls and young women were among those killed in a suicide bombing on an Afghan education centre last week, the UN said Monday as it announced the total death count had risen to 53.

A suicide bomber blew himself up on Friday next to women at a gender-segregated study hall packed with hundreds of students sitting a practice test for university admissions.

The attack happened in a Kabul neighbourhood home to the historically oppressed Shiite Muslim Hazara community, which has been subjected to some of the worst violence in the country's recent history.

"Our human rights team continues documenting the crime: verifying facts & establishing reliable data to counter denial & revisionism," the United Nations assistance mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) tweeted.

It raised the death count from 43 to 53, adding that a further 110 had been wounded.

Afghanistan's Taliban authorities, which have often tried to play down attacks challenging their regime,

have said 25 people were killed and 33 others wounded.

No group has so far claimed responsibility, but the jihadist Islamic State group (IS), which considers Shiites as heretics, has carried out several deadly attacks in the same area targeting girls, schools and mosques.

Education is a flashpoint issue in Afghanistan, with the Taliban blocking many girls from returning to secondary education, while IS also stands against the education of women and girls.

The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan last year brought an end to a two-decade war against a Western-backed government, leading to a significant reduction in violence, but security has begun to deteriorate in recent months.

Friday's attack has triggered sporadic women-led protests in Kabul and some other cities.

Around 50 women chanted, "Stop Hazara genocide, it's not a crime to be a Shiite", as they marched on Saturday in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighbourhood where the attack happened.

The rallies have been dispersed by Taliban forces often firing shots into the air and beating protesters.



17 Children Among 125 Killed In Indonesia Football Stampede

Agencies

Jakarta: Police and sport officials have being sent to the city of Malang to investigate an incident that ranks among the world's deadliest stadium disasters

At least seventeen children were among the 125 people killed in a football stampede in Indonesia at the weekend, officials said, as pressure builds on the Southeast Asian nation to explain how one of the world's worst stadium disasters unfolded.

Violence and hooliganism have long been features of Indonesian football, especially in places such as Jakarta, the capital, but Saturday's disaster in a small town in Java has thrown a spotlight on the problem. "My family and I didn't think it would turn out like this," said Endah Wahyuni, the elder sister of two boys, Ahmad Cahyo (15) and Muhammad Farel (14) who died after being caught in the melee.

"They loved soccer, but never watched Arema live at Kanjuruhan stadium, this was their first time," she added at her brothers' funeral on Sunday, referring to the home side they backed.

Violence and hooliganism have long been features of Indonesian football, especially in places such as Jakarta, the capital, but Saturday's disaster in a small town in Java has thrown a spotlight on the problem.

The boys were among 17 children killed, said state news agency Antara, citing figures from the women's empowerment and child protection ministry.

"Seventeen children died and seven were treated, but there is a possibility that could increase," said Nahar, a ministry official. Indonesian daily Koran Tempo ran a black front page on Monday, centred on the words "Our Football Tragedy", printed in red along with a list of the dead.

Saturday's deadly crush came as panicking spectators tried to escape the overpacked stadium after police fired tear gas to disperse fans from the losing home side who ran onto the

pitch at the end of the match.

Home side Arema FC had lost the match 3-2 to Persebaya Surabaya, though authorities had said tickets were not issued to Persebaya fans over security concerns.

The incident was a "dark day for all involved", said FIFA, the governing body for world soccer, which has asked Indonesian football authorities for a report on the incident.

Its safety regulations say firearms or "crowd control gas" should be used at matches.

Police and sport officials have being sent to the city of Malang to investigate an incident that ranks among the world's deadliest stadium disasters.

"All those responsible should be held accountable for this disaster, regardless of their status or position," Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of New York-based Human Rights Watch said on Monday. "It's not enough for the national police and the Football Association of Indonesia to conduct their own investigation because they may be tempted to downplay or undermine full accountability for officials involved," he added in a statement.

IAF Scrambled Jets After 'Bomb Threat' on Iran-China Flight Over India

Agencies

New Delhi: Indian Air Force fighter jets were scrambled to intercept an aircraft with its origin in Iran and headed to China, which was moving towards New Delhi airspace.

According to sources, inputs were received at 9:20 am by Delhi Police about a bomb threat on board a Mahan Air flight headed to Guangzhou in China from Tehran in Iran.

It triggered an alert and permission was not granted for the plane to land in Delhi and the plane was instructed by Air Traffic Control (ATC) to divert to Jaipur. Reportedly the pilot refused to divert the plane following which Indian Air Force jets were scrambled to intercept and escort the plane.

The aircraft was headed to China as its final destination, had entered Indian airspace when the alert from Indian Air Traffic Control was shared with



the plane. Indian Air Force Su-30MKI fighter jets from Punjab and Jodhpur airbases were scrambled to intercept the plane, sources told ANI.

Data from Flightradar24 showed the plane reducing altitude over the Delhi-Jaipur airspace for a brief period before it was seen making its way out of Indian airspace.

According to ATC sources,

Mahan Air requested for immediate landing at Delhi airport but Delhi ATC directed it to head to Jaipur Airport. The pilots of the Iranian carrier did not do so and eventually left Indian airspace.

The nature of the bomb threat is still unclear.

The plane was seen continuing on its flight path towards China.

EU Members Prepare New Iran Sanctions As Supreme Leader Says Riots 'Planned'

Agencies

Beurit: EU member states Germany, France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, and the Czech Republic have submitted proposals for new unilateral sanctions against Iran in response to the alleged repression of protesters by security forces, according to German daily Der Spiegel.

These measures are set to be discussed at a meeting of EU foreign ministers scheduled for 17 October, and would allegedly target 16 individuals, organizations, and

hours after being detained by the Moral Security Police on 13 September. She passed away at a hospital three days later.

Her death sparked widespread protests across the Islamic Republic, with thousands demanding answers and justice for Amini. However, many of these protests quickly turned violent as armed separatist groups clashed with security forces.

Dozens of protesters and security forces have died in the violence, as just last week at least two commanders of



institutions "responsible for the clampdown on nationwide protests."

Iran has been rocked by popular unrest for the past several weeks after the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who fell into a coma in the

the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) were killed in the capital of Sistan and Baluchestan province after armed groups launched an attack on a police station and a Mosque following Friday prayers.

Yemen Truce Ends As Ansarallah Warns Oil Companies To Exit Ksa And Uae

Agencies

Sanna: Minutes before the end of the UN-brokered truce between the Saudi-led coalition and Yemen's Ansarallah resistance group, officials from the latter warned of retaliatory actions if Riyadh's forces continue to blockade Yemen and plunder its resources.

"If the Saudi and Emirati coalition continue to deprive our Yemeni people access to their resources, our military forces can, with God's help, deprive them of their resources," the spokesperson for the Yemeni Armed Forces, Brigadier General Yahya Saree, said via Twitter late on 2 October.

Earlier, Saree gave oil companies operating in the UAE and Saudi Arabia "an opportunity to organize their situation and leave," adding that this warning will remain in place as long as the US and Saudi-backed troops prevent Yemen from exploiting their wealth.

On Sunday night, the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, issued a statement saying he "regrets that an agreement has not been reached today, as an extended and expanded truce would provide additional critical benefits to the population."

A two-month ceasefire agreement was reached between Riyadh and Sanaa on 2 April under the auspices of the UN. This agreement was extended twice in the following months, despite the Saudi-led

coalition's numerous violations of the terms.

These violations included the persistent bombardment of Ansarallah positions, the looting of Yemen's natural wealth, and the illegal seizure of UN-approved humanitarian fuel vessels.

As the clocked ticked down to the end of the truce, Ansarallah released a video in which the group's leader, Abdel Malik al-Houthi, said that if the blocked imposed by Riyadh is not lifted, the coalition would "regret it."

Earlier this year, the Yemeni armed forces carried out several successful missile and drone strikes deep inside Saudi Arabia and the UAE, hitting strategic oil facilities in an unexpected show of force from the resistance.

To mark the eight anniversary of the 21 September revolution, last month the Yemeni armed forces showed off their new military arsenal, which they claim can keep the skies of Yemen safe.

A report by the Entesaf Organization for Women and Child Rights released last month revealed that Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen has killed and injured over 13,000 Yemeni civilians since 2015.

The children's organization of the UN, UNICEF, says that "Yemen remains one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world, with around 23.7 million people in need of assistance, including almost 13 million children."

Relief For Imran Khan, Contempt Of Court Case Against Him Dropped

Islamabad: A Pakistani court on Monday accepted an apology tendered by former prime minister Imran Khan and dropped a contempt of court case against him, his defence lawyer said, a ruling that ease the threat to him of disqualification from politics.

The Islamabad High Court had deferred Khan's indictment over the contempt case after he apologised to the court in person late last month.

A convicted politician is liable to be disqualified from contesting elections and holding a public office for at least five years under Pakistani law.

"Imran Khan extended his apology in honour and respect for the judiciary, and the court today reciprocated by discharging the case against him," defence lawyer Faisal Chaudhry told Reuters.

The charges were related to a speech by Khan in which he was accused of threatening police and judi-



cial officers after one of his close aides was denied bail in a sedition case.

Khan and his legal team subsequently maintained that his remarks did not amount to a threat.

The cricket star-turned-politician has faced a spate of legal cases since his ouster in a confidence vote in April by a united opposition led by his successor, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Khan has been leading rallies since his dismissal demanding snap elections, which the ruling coalition has rejected, saying voting will be held as scheduled later next year.

Mulayam Singh Moved To ICU Says Medanta Hospital

Gurugram: Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav is admitted to the "critical care unit" of Medanta Hospital here and is being treated by a "comprehensive team of specialists", the hospital said on Monday.

The announcement from the hospital comes a day after the Samajwadi Party on Sunday said its 82-year-old patriarch's health had deteriorated.

Mulayam Singh Yadav has been under treatment at the hospital since August 22. He was admitted to the hospital in July as well, sources said.

"Sh Mulayam Singh is currently admitted in Critical Care Unit of Medanta Hospital, Gurgaon, and is being treated by a comprehensive team of specialists," the hospital said in a statement.



Sh Mulayam Singh is currently admitted in Critical Care Unit of Medanta Hospital, Gurgaon, and is being treated by a comprehensive team of specialists

His son Akhilesh Yadav, daughter-in-law Dimple Yadav and brother Shivpal Singh Yadav had

visited the hospital on Sunday. Some party workers, too, reached the hospital premises to enquire about his condition, sources said, adding they have been advised not to visit the health facility.

"Respected netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) is admitted to the ICU. His condition is stable. It is a humble request to all of you not to come to the hospital. Information about his health will be given from time to time," the SP had written on its official Twitter handle on Sunday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had also spoken to Akhilesh Yadav to enquire about his father's health.

Sources said Modi assured Akhilesh Yadav that he would extend all possible help and assistance in the SP patriarch's treatment.

UP: 12-Year-Old Rapes Minor Girl

BUDAUN: A five-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a minor boy in a village in Ughaiti area here, police said on Monday.

The accused juvenile was detained and the victim girl has been sent for medical examination, Ughaiti Station House Officer Rajiv Kumar Tomar said.

The incident took place on Sunday evening when the girl was playing outside her house and a 12-year-old boy allegedly took her to a secluded place and raped her, the SHO said.

Later, the girl somehow reached her home in a bad state and narrated the incident to her family members after which an FIR was registered in this connection, the officer said.



CITY

DC Reviews Eid-e-Milad (SAW) Arrangements At City Shrines

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In connection with the upcoming celebrations of Eid-e-Milad (SAW), the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Monday visited prominent Shrines of Srinagar including Dargah Hazratbal and Jenab Sahib Soura for onsite review of the arrangements being put in place to facilitate the devotees during auspicious days.

At Hazratbal Shrine, the DC took on spot review of the arrangements being made by all the concerned Departments for providing facilities like healthcare, uninterrupted supply of power & safe drinking water, transport, parking, firefighting arrangements, cleanliness & sanitation measures and other arrangements for convenience of the devotees expected to visit the Holy Shrine.

Aijaz directed the officers of all line Departments to ensure all necessary arrangements for smooth observance of the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad (SAW) at the Shrine for the Devotees.

The DC asked the PHE authorities to ensure adequate water supply at the Shrine so that visitors do not face any inconvenience. He instructed them to keep a sufficient number of water tankers at the premises to cater to the demand.

With regard to tackle the issue of dog menace in the area, the DC asked SMC to keep dog catchers in the area to curb nuisance of dogs in the vicinity.

Aijaz also inspected a Medical camp set up in the premises of Hazratbal Shrine by the Block Medical Office, Hazratbal. He directed for ensuring availability of adequate numbers of Doctors and paramedics, besides an ambulance service and other first aid facilities in the camp.

Gram Sabhas Carried Out In All Panchayats Of Sgr

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Swachata Activities and Gram Sabhas were carried out in all 21 Panchayats of the district Srinagar to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

On the occasion, the programmes were carried out in all four Blocks of the district viz. Harwan, Qamarwari, Khonmoh and Srinagar. Large number of people across all Panchayats of the district participated in these programmes and took pledge to keep their surroundings neat and clean.

The programmes were conducted under the supervision of Syed Farooq Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Srinagar. Campaign on Door to Door collection of solid waste was also launched in rural areas of Srinagar district to raise awareness among the rural population regarding segregation of waste and its benefits.

Gram Sabhas with respect to village development plans were also conducted.



School students attend the first ever Bird Festival organized by the J&K Tourism Department on Monday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Stray Dogs With Seasonal Myiasis, Scabies Disease Irks Locals

Agencies

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has been making efforts to treat the stray dogs for seasonal myiasis and scabies disease, which according to the authorities will end soon after the onset of winter season.

ter season.

The stray dogs with head injuries could be found everywhere in Srinagar at present while the locals here have complained that these dogs have been giving them tough times.

"In our locality, almost three-four dogs have head injuries. Due to the

fear of these dogs, the children don't come out of their homes as well," a local resident from Habba Kadal said.

Municipal Veterinary Officer (MVO) Tawheed Ahmad said that the dogs having myiasis and scabies disease are being treated almost every day.

"Our SMC teams usually catch such dogs as they need long term treatment. We administer the injections to these dogs for the treatment and later release them again," he said, adding that there was no need to panic over the issue. (KNO)

Poster Of Upcoming Festival 'Sonzal' Unveiled At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan Monday unveiled the poster of the upcoming talent-hunt youth festival 'Sonzal'-2022, an annual feature of the varsity's Department of Students' Welfare.

Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir, Dean Students' Welfare Prof Aneesa Shafi and Cultural Officer Shahid Ali Khan were present at the poster unveiling ceremony, besides a select group of students.

Sonzal-2022 is scheduled to be held from 25th October to 2nd November under the focal slogan, 'Carving A Creative Paradise', and will showcase youth talent in at least 27 events/competitions in various genres of art, culture, literary activities, fine arts and music. These include debate, elo-

cution, quiz, painting, on-spot photography, clay modeling, collage-making, mehendi design, rangoli, cartoon-making, folk dance, classical dance, one-act play, mimicry, light vocal solo, classical vocal solo, classical instrumental solo, western vocal solo, western instrumental solo, Indian group song, western group song and folk orchestra.

At the poster unveiling ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor was briefed about the arrangements being put in place for the festival, where regular bona-fide students from the varsity's teaching departments at main and satellite campuses as well as the University's affiliated and constituent colleges are eligible to participate in different activities.

"I urge the students across our campuses and colleges, especially the girl students, to come forward

and participate in Sonzal-2022 which is a very holistic platform to showcase your talent and give vent to your creative abilities," Prof Nilofer said, directing that all necessary arrangements must be put in place well in advance to ensure smooth conduct of the popular student festival.

Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir assured the University administration's full support to the festival which, he said, is an occasion for the students to develop self-confidence and exchange ideas with their peers.

Dean Students Welfare Prof Aneesa Shafi said the winners in the Sonzal events will represent the University in the North Zone Inter-University Youth Festival, and the winners of the North Zone festival will be called by the Association of Indian Universities for the All-India National Youth Festival.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 07 Rabi ul Awwal 1444	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5:07
	ZUHR	12:21
	ASR	4:32
	Magrib	6:19
	ISHA	7:39

This Day In History

- 1363 - End of the Battle of Lake Poyang; the Chinese rebel forces of Zhu Yuanzhang defeat that of his rival, Chen Youliang, one of the largest naval battles in history with 850,000 taking part (approx.)
- 1537 - The first complete English-language Bible (the Matthew Bible) is printed, with translations by William Tyndale and Miles Coverdale.
- 1914 - Dardanelles: French & British fleet bombards Turkish forts
- 1921 - League of Nations refuses to assist starving Russians
- 1922 - Protocol of Geneva signed: Austria gains independence
- 1933 - Esquire magazine is 1st published
- 1940 - 12 German aircrafts shot down above England
- 1940 - Adolf Hitler & Benito Mussolini confer at Brenner Pass in Alps
- 1949 - United Nations' permanent NYC headquarters is dedicated
- 1956 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Maralinga Australia
- 1957 - USSR launches Sputnik I, 1st artificial Earth satellite
- 1958 - Transatlantic commercial jet passenger service began (BOAC)
- 1958 - Fifth Republic of France is established.
- 1959 - USSR Luna 3 sent back 1st photos of Moon's far side
- 1960 - Courier 1B Launched; 1st active repeater satellite in orbit
- 1961 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya

From KO Archives

J&K Team For Tibet To Find Truth Of 'Shahtoosh Threat'

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah today said the Centre would be approached to seek China's permission for facilitating the visit of a team to Tibet to find if continuing Shahtoosh trade threatens antelope.

Speaking at a function held in observance of the mil-lennium's first wildlife week here this afternoon, the chief minister said the team will comprise wildlife officials and representatives of Shahtoosh traders whose trip would be sponsored by the government. "If the team feels threat to antelope as genuine, the Shahtoosh traders will have nothing to do with it", he said, adding that with this the controversy over the issue would end once for all.

The chief minister said that as a result of measures taken to preserve wildlife, their population is on increase in the state. He stressed for creating awareness among the people especially students about the need for protecting wildlife and said that two zoos would be set up at Manda in Jammu and Dachigam in Srinagar for people to see nature's fauna. He asked for prepar-ing comprehensive plans for conservation of various sanctuaries like Hokersar, Hygam and Mirgund.

Abdullah called for evolving a mechanism and adopt-ing an integrated programme for making use of dead wood as fuel by those living near forest while stringent measures would be taken for preserving the green trees. Steps have to be taken for bridging the gap between ener-gy-need and energy source. This has become imperative in view of growing pressure of forest resource since other sources of energy like electricity and LPG have become costlier and scarce. He made a fervent appeal to the people for making judicious use of electricity, generation of which is affected during winter due to lesser water flow.

(Kashmir Observer, October 04, 2000)

Inaugural Function Of Wildlife Week Held

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the occasion of 'Wildlife Week', an inaugural function organized by the Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government, Wetlands Division Kashmir in collaboration with the Department of School Education, Kashmir at Camping Ground of Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve.

sar Wetland Conservation Reserve.

Wildlife Mitras, Volunteers, Panchayat members of the villages around Hokersar Wetland Reserve and different NGOs besides others attended the event.

Range Officer, Wildlife Protection Range Lakes (Hokersar) and various officers of the department were also present at the programme.

The AEE Narbal Electric

Sub: Change of name
Consumer ID: 4304

Sir, the above bill is the name of my father, Syed Murtaza Shah S/O Syed Ali Shah, R/O Labertal Budgam, who has passed away ten years ago and as such I want to change the name of said bill in my name: Syed Hussain Shah

Syed Murtaza Shah (late) R/O Labertal, Budgam
Phone: 9419163750 / 9858448775
Date: 03/10/2022

inf

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Solina Srinagar, Kashmir - 190001

website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in>
email: jkpscsecretary@gmail.com

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530
Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

Subject: Filling Up of the Posts of Prosecuting Officer (G) In J&K Home Department Notice
Dated 03-10-2022

The J&K Public Service Commission has advertised 120 posts of Prosecuting Officer (G) in J&K Home Department vide Notification No 24-PSC (DR-P) Of 2022 dated 03-10-2022. The Notification/details are available on the J&K PSC website <http://www.jkpsc.nic.in>

DIPK-11238/22

Secretary
J&K Public Service Commission

Regd. No. A-2584

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KASHMIR OBSERVER

Home Minister's Visit

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is embarking on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir from October 4. During his stay, the union minister will review the security situation and address two rallies, one at Rajouri in Jammu and another at Baramulla in Kashmir Valley. He will also launch development projects in both regions. The security meeting on October 5 will be attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, top officials of the army, paramilitary forces, state police and civil administration.

Earlier, the home minister had visited the UT for three days in October last year. The visit was the longest than any of his predecessors had spent in J&K. In a packed schedule, the home minister made sure he paid close attention to the problems of the former state. He interacted with diverse delegations. The visit was not political in nature. The home minister tried to keep the focus on the development of J&K. Almost all his statements were more or less about improving the economy of the union territory and providing employment to the youth. He didn't, however, announce any big-ticket economic or political initiative as is otherwise expected from a high-profile visit like that of a home minister. And that too as powerful as Amit Shah.

Will this visit be any different? There is a possibility that it could be. The visit comes at a time when J&K is looking ahead to holding its Assembly elections probably early next year. So, people will expect the home minister to make some announcement to this effect. During his last year's visit, the home minister had promised that J&K statehood will be restored after elections are held and an elected government is formed. But by the time an elected government is formed in the middle of the next year, the country would already in election mode. The general elections are scheduled to be held by May 2024 and the BJP would be busy preparing for it. But there is still hope that the union government. could choose to grant statehood to J&K before the general elections.

That said, the home minister's visit has generated expectations in Kashmir. People hope he will make some big-bang policy or a political announcement. Certainly, people would be interested in knowing the union government's plans for Assembly elections and also about the grant of statehood. It will be interesting to see what Shah will say during his address to rallies in Jammu and Srinagar. But for now, we can only keep our fingers crossed.

OTHER OPINION

Russia, West and India's Conundrum

In abstaining once again on a major United Nations resolution on Ukraine, India has not surprised observers at home but has disappointed some of its friends abroad. But the issue at hand in the latest United Nations Security Council resolution — Russia's brazen violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity — has seen Delhi underline its “deep discomfort” with Moscow's action. India has been signalling its growing unease with Russia's Ukraine policy in the last few weeks. At a regional summit meeting in Samarkand last month Prime Minister Narendra Modi had told the Russian leader Vladimir Putin that this was not an “era of war”. The PM's peace message has been amplified by the external affairs minister, Subrahmanya Jaishankar, during his engagements at the UN and in Washington DC during the last few days. India was not alone in conveying its anxieties with Russian drift in Ukraine. President Xi Jinping too had expressed Chinese concerns over Russia's Ukraine policy in his meeting with Putin in Samarkand.

Putin had promised the two leaders — and major partners of Russia — that Moscow would address their concerns but was in no mood to change course on Ukraine. He embarked on a significant escalation of the conflict by ordering a general mobilisation to reverse the Russian military setbacks in Ukraine, renewing the threat to use nuclear weapons, and annexing the occupied territories that he is not even fully in control of. The rest of the world has reacted with outrage. The resolution denouncing Russia's violation of the UN Charter got 10 votes in support; Russia opposed the resolution; and India along with China, Brazil, and Gabon abstained. Even as it abstained, Delhi sought to signal that Russian actions are becoming a political embarrassment for India. While its long-standing reliance on Russia for its defence needs stops India from denouncing Russian actions, it can no longer turn a blind eye to the impact of Russian actions on its own strategic interests and political values.

Meanwhile, as Russia plunges into a prolonged confrontation with the West over Ukraine, India's growing partnership with the US and European states is coming under stress. That Delhi is acutely conscious of this danger is reflected in its active efforts to deepen multilateral cooperation with its Western partners. Last week, Delhi worked with the West to fend off the Chinese effort at the International Atomic Energy Agency to castigate Australia's acquisition of nuclear powered submarines from the Anglo-American powers. Beyond the challenge of navigating the tense dynamic among the great powers, Delhi must come to terms with the essential question in Ukraine — changing borders through use of force. As a nation brimming with diversity and confronting territorial expansionism on its frontiers, India can't accept the idea that a major power attacks its neighbour, seizes territory and annexes the occupied regions. Like the rest of the developing world, Delhi is acutely sensitive to concerns of sovereignty and territorial integrity. Delhi can't continue to let Moscow put India at odds with its natural constituency in the Global South that rejects Russian invasion of Ukraine and supports Kyiv's sovereignty.

Indian Express

We're a Mess?

J&K continues to be an unclean place. We figure nowhere in Swachh Survekshan. Cities, towns and villages continue to be unclean even 8 years after the SBM

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs completed Swachh Survekshan 2022 survey which is a Sanitation Survey conducted every year from 2016 in small and big cities across India. The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti (October 2nd 2022) announced results of Swachh Survekshan 7th edition and Swachh Survekshan Ranking List 2022. Indore city in Madhya Pradesh has topped for the 6th time. It is said that this Swachh Survekshan (sanitation survey) is the world's largest survey conducted on the issue of cleanliness and sanitation conducted by the Government of India through its Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) programme which was launched on October 2nd 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This survey is an annual affair conducted since the 2016 wherein details of sanitation, cleanliness and hygiene are collected in cities and towns across India.

Swachh Survekshan was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) which was basically aimed at making India open-defecation free and make India clean and free of open defecation by 2nd October 2019.

As mentioned above, Indore has again been ranked as the cleanest city of India for the 6th consecutive time, and it is the first 7 star garbage free city of the country. Surat in Gujarat is the second cleanest city followed by Navi Mumbai, Vishakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Bhopal. Srinagar or Jammu cities don't even figure among the list of 20 clean cities in India. This is really strange as nature had bestowed J&K with so much beauty but the disaster in the shape of waste has made us unclean and unhygienic UTs / states.

Open Defecation not a challenge in J&K

India's urban population has sharply increased from 19.9% in 1971 to 31.2% in 2011. This massive growth, along with high economic growth, has resulted in a severe challenge for Urban India, in terms of addressing the incremental infrastructural needs of a fast-growing urban population. One of the major challenges arising out of increased migration of the populace from rural areas to cities and towns in search of an improved quality of life has been the issue of access to sanitary facilities, and the attendant menace of open defecation, especially in areas housing economically weaker sections of society, where Open Defecation spots are more likely to be found.

The Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) aims to fulfil the objective of 100% Open Defecation Free status in all Urban Local Bodies in the country by October 2019. The target has almost been achieved. The Government has provided access to toilet facilities (i.e. construction of sanitary latrines – individual household toilets, community and public toilets) in towns, villages and cities but there are still many challenges across the country. Open Defecation was never a big challenge in Jammu & Kashmir. In-fact we are almost 100 % open defecation free (ODF) but we have not got rid from unscientific waste management yet. This has been a larger



It is a matter of concern that a beautiful city like Srinagar couldn't be one of the 20 cleanest cities in India as per the last 8 Swachh Survekshan surveys. Jammu & Kashmir, which was one of the cleanest states in India more than 40 years back, is now a filthy and unclean place

challenge before us and in fact a bigger challenge than open defecation.

Swachh Survekshan Grameen

Like the sanitation survey (Swachh Survekshan) launched in 2016 for urban areas, Govt of India in 2018 launched a similar survey for Rural areas which is known as Swachh Survekshan Grameen. This survey assesses the state of hygiene, cleanliness and sanitation in rural India as a part of the Centre's initiative to award open defecation free ODF plus status to villages. The ODF-plus status aims to ensure management of solid as well as liquid waste and is an upgradation of ODF status in which construction of adequate toilets was required so that people did not have to defecate in the open. As part of the 2021 rural cleanliness survey (Swachh Survekshan) as many as 17,475 villages spanning across 698 districts were covered. Following things are considered during the survey:

- 1. Direct Observation of sanitation at public places -30%
- 2. Citizen's Feedback -35%
- 3. Service Level Progress on sanitation related parameters -35%

President Droupadi Murmu on October 2nd recently conferred the awards for Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2022. In the big states category the first award for Swachh Survekshan Grameen was given to Telangana, second to Haryana and the third award was bagged by Tamil Nadu. In small states and UTs category, Andaman and Nicobar won the first award, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu second and Sikkim got the third award. Jammu & Kashmir doesn't even figure in the small states or UT category list? This is a really sad state of affairs.

The Swachh Survekshan Gramin-2022 aimed to undertake ranking of States and Districts on the basis of their performance attained on key quantitative and qualitative Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen parameters. This survey is also meant to engage rural communities on the issues of sanitation and hygiene by undertaking a massive Information Education and Communication (IEC) campaign at panchayat level.

The President also gave away Functionality Assessment awards 2022 during the October 2nd function. These awards are given by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation after assessing the performance of local water utilities in the States and UTs. The functionality assessment exercise is taken up annually since 2018 by the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to know about the status of service delivery of drinking water at individual household level. In this category, Puducherry bagged first award, Goa second and Tamil Nadu was given third award. J&K figures nowhere in this category as well?

Govt officers rule breakers

Authorities at helm are yet to set the right urban waste management system in Srinagar. We have even failed to create a scientific waste management site in Srinagar as the Achan Saidapora garbage dump site is overflowing with waste. The life of people living around Ali Jan road Srinagar from Eid Gah to Soura including Saidapora, Wanganapora, Zoonimar has become miserable and a pungent smell continues to be emitted from the garbage dump site of Achan Saidapora. The Govt has planned to set up a Waste to Energy plant as Achan, which also isn't being set up in spite of orders from National Green Tribunal (NGT). Nobody is even speaking about that project now and nobody is held accountable.

The Jammu & Kashmir cabinet on 23.10.2017 gave a nod for setting up of a waste to energy plant in Srinagar. The plant which was to be constructed under the public private partnership (PPP) at Achan Saidapora landfill site is supposed to generate 5 megawatt of electricity on a daily basis from 5 metric tons of solid waste. The company which was allotted the project had to invest Rs 120 crores and would thus get the ownership rights of this plant for a period of 25 years. The whole project was based on the build-own-operate and transfer model (BOOT). Till date we see no development on this and the Govt is a mute spectator.

The Agriculture landholding in Kashmir has come down drastically due to massive urbanisation. The shrinking farmlands will lead to food insecurity in the future and I explained this in detail during a workshop on Disaster Management at Kashmir University recently. The shrinking farmlands have a direct impact on management of solid waste. As the land is shrinking day by day there are no open spaces to create scientific landfill sites across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Rural Waste Management programme has been launched recently in J&K but the technologies which are put into use for creating compost pits etc are totally flawed and this author already exposed the same in Kashmir Observer's weekly web series Inkishaf. Trash bins have been procured in huge numbers and placed in villages as well. They have got filled with garbage but there is nobody to clear them? Even the officials of the panchayat or block office are confused about what to do next after placing the trash bins in villages?

Conclusion

Even basic issues like sanitation and waste management are falling behind. Our cities, towns and villages could have been ranked among the first ten across the country as we had no open defecation issue and that would have fetched us good points at national level surveys in urban and rural areas. I believe the Govt officials have not been able to highlight this before surveying teams.

Our Government departments, local bodies have themselves become the rule breakers as garbage dump sites have been created in every nook and corner of towns, citizens and villages. When the law enforcing agencies do all these criminal acts, what can we expect from citizens?

It is a matter of concern that a beautiful city like Srinagar couldn't be one of the 20 cleanest cities in India as per the last 8 Swachh Survekshan surveys. Jammu & Kashmir, which was one of the cleanest states in India more than 40 years back, is now a filthy and unclean place.

The government needs to take this issue very seriously and they must grill the administration over it especially at a time when Swachh Survekshan results are out.

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is also Anant Fellow for Climate Action

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



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Employment Despair

UNEMPLOYMENT is a very serious problem for the young people in Kashmir. There are thousands of people who do not have any work to do and are not even able to find work for themselves. Unemployment refers to the situation where a person wants to work but cannot find employment in the labour market, and that is a phenomenon which is widely common in Kashmir. There are so many young dynamic and talented people who deserve to hold good positions but are not being provided with the right

opportunities. It is ironic how jobs and opportunities are still achievable only through sifarish even in the 21st century and it might sound surprising or people might argue that it is not the case anymore, but truly it is. Besides the lack of jobs, lockdowns to contain the coronavirus for two consecutive years forced many industries to shut down thus increasing unemployment, making the scenario even worse. Also, an unemployed person is more likely to do socially unacceptable work to earn bread. Thus, very often in a society

where there are a huge number of unemployed people, there will be a great proliferation of thieves, snatchers, bank-robbers and much more serious anti-social elements.

Unemployment has aided to the deteriorating mental health condition of the youth, many young people nowadays are committing suicide owing to a spectrum of social deprivations including unemployment. The government needs to pay heed to the plea of qualified young people and find more ways to create jobs. Moreover, people should focus on becoming

job creators and not job seekers and they should not lose hope on not finding a job but rather work towards building their own ways of income so that they overcome unemployment for themselves and for people who would eventually work for them and their venture. The deserving students of Kashmir have been deprived of the right opportunities for long enough, now it is time for the authorities to stand up and create a productive platform for the talented youth of the valley.

Fazil Mir

Popular Culture FTW

Learning To Live With Covid As Endemic

Krista Collier-Jarvis

In 2021, conversations began on whether the COVID-19 pandemic will, or even can, end. As a literary and cultural theorist, I started looking for shifts in stories about pandemics and contagion. It turns out that several stories also question how and when a pandemic becomes endemic.

The 2020 film Peninsula, a sequel to the Korean zombie film, Train to Busan, ends with a group of survivors rescued and transported to a zombie-free Hong Kong. In it, Jooni (played by Re Lee) spent her formative years living through the zombie epidemic. When she is rescued, she responds to being informed that she's "going to a better place" by admitting that "this place wasn't bad either."

Jooni's response points toward the shift in contagion narratives that has emerged since the spread of COVID-19. This shift marks a rejection of the push-for-survival narratives in favour of something more indicative of an endemic.

FOUND WITHIN

Contagion follows a general cycle: outbreak, epidemic, pandemic and endemic. The determinants of each stage rely upon the rate of spread within a specified geographic region.

Etymologically, the word "endemic" has its origins with the Greek words *én* and *démos*, meaning "in the people." Thus, it refers to something that is regularly found within a population.

Infectious disease physician Stephen Parodi asserts that an endemic just means that a disease, while still prevalent within a population, no longer disrupts our daily lives.

Similarly, genomics and viral evolution researcher Aris Katzourakis argues that endemics occur when infection rates are static — neither rising nor falling. Because this stasis occurs differently with each situation, there is no set threshold at which a pandemic becomes endemic.

Not all diseases reach endemic status. And, if endemic status is reached, it does not mean the virus is gone, but rather that things have become "normal."

SURVIVAL NARRATIVES

We're most likely familiar with contagion narratives. After all, Steven Soderbergh's 2011 film Contagion, was the most watched film



on Canadian Netflix in March 2020. Conveniently, this was when most Canadian provinces went into lockdown during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In survival-based contagion narratives, characters often discuss methods for survival and generally refer to themselves as survivors. Contagion chronicles the transmission of a deadly virus that is brought from Hong Kong to the United States. In response, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control is tasked with tracing its origins and finding a cure. The film follows Mitch Emhoff (Matt Damon), who is immune, as he tries to keep his daughter safe in a crumbling

“Endemic narratives acknowledge that existing within an infected space alongside a virus is not necessarily a bad thing, and that not all inhabitants within infected spaces desire to leave. It is rare in endemic narratives for a character to become infected

Minneapolis.

Ultimately, a vaccine is successfully synthesized, but only after millions have succumbed to the virus.

Like many science fiction and horror films that envision some sort of apocalyptic end, Contagion focuses on the basic requirements for survival:

shelter, food, water and medicine. However, it also deals with the breakdown of government systems and the violence that accompanies it.

A "NEW" NORMAL

In contrast, contagion narratives that have turned endemic take place

many years after the initial outbreak. In these stories, the infected population is regularly present, but the remaining uninfected population isn't regularly infected.

A spin-off to the zombie series The Walking Dead takes place a decade after the initial outbreak. In the two seasons of The Walking Dead: World Beyond (2020-2021) four young protagonists — Hope (Alexa Mansour), Iris (Aliyah Royale), Silas (Hal Cumpston) and Elton (Nicolas Cantu) — represent the first generation to come of age within the zombie-infested world.

The four youth spent their formative years in an infected world

— similar to Jooni in Peninsula. For these characters, zombies are part of their daily lives, and their constant presence is normalized.

The setting in World Beyond has electricity, helicopters and modern medicine. Characters in endemic narratives have regular access to shelter, food, water and medicine, so they don't need to resort to violence over limited resources. And notably, they also don't often refer to themselves as survivors.

Endemic narratives acknowledge that existing within an infected space alongside a virus is not necessarily a bad thing, and that not all inhabitants within infected spaces desire to leave. It is rare in endemic narratives for a character to become infected.

Instead of going out on zombie-killing expeditions in the manner that occurs frequently in the other Walking Dead stories, the characters in World Beyond generally leave the zombies alone. They mark the zombies with different colours of spray-paint to chronicle what they call "migration patterns."

The zombies have therefore just become another species for the characters to live alongside — something more endemic.

The Walking Dead, Fear the Walking Dead (2015-), Z Nation (2014-18), and many other survival-based stories seem to return to the past. In contrast, endemic narratives maintain a present and sometimes even future-looking approach.

LEARNING FROM STORIES

According to film producer and media professor Mick Broderick, survival stories maintain a status quo. They seek a "nostalgically yearned-for less-complex existence." It provides solace to imagine an earlier, simpler time when living through a pandemic.

However, the shift from survival to endemic in contagion narratives provides us with many important possibilities. The one I think is quite relevant right now is that it presents us with a way of living with contagion. After all, watching these characters survive a pandemic helps us imagine that we can too.

By arrangements with The Conversation

It's Nobel Season: Five Things to Know

AFP

Since 1901, the Nobel prizes have been awarded to men, women and organisations for work that has led to great advances for mankind, in line with the wishes of inventor Alfred Nobel.

The winners of this year's prizes will be announced daily from Monday, October 3 through October 10.

Here are five things to know about the prizes and their creator.

Since 1974, the statutes of the Nobel Foundation stipulate that the prize may not be given posthumously. But a person may be awarded if she or he dies between the time of the announcement in October and the formal prize ceremony in December.

Before the change, only two people had won a Nobel posthumously.

One was Dag Hammarskjöld, the Swedish secretary general of the United Nations who died in a plane crash in 1961 but was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize later the same year.

And in 1931, the Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded posthumously to another Swede, Erik Axel Karlfeldt.

In 2011, the medicine prize committee selected Ralph Steinman of Canada, unaware that he had passed away just three days before the prize announcement.

Nevertheless, the foundation decided to give him the award.

The Nobel prizes come with a tidy award sum, currently set at 10 million kronor (\$905,000) per discipline, along with an 18-carat gold medal.

The 2021 Peace Prize laureate, Russia's Dmitry Muratov, turned his gold disc into a fortune to benefit Ukrainian children displaced by the war.

In June, his 196-gram medal -- including 150 grams of gold -- sold at auction for a whopping \$103.5 million to an anonymous philanthropist. That smashed the previous record for a Nobel medal 21-fold.

On April 12, 1888, Alfred Nobel's elder brother Ludvig died in Cannes, France.

But newspaper Le Figaro mixed up the brothers and announced Alfred's death on its front page under a rather inflammatory headline:

happened because the incident is not mentioned in his correspondence, his biographer Ingrid Carlberg told AFP.

As for the visitors who came to offer their condolences at the inventor's Parisian mansion, they were surprised to be greeted by a very much alive Alfred, as reported by Le Figaro the following day.

A man of many talents, Swedish physicist and chemist Svante Arrhenius won the 1903



"A man who can hardly be called a benefactor of humanity died yesterday in Cannes. He is Nobel, inventor of dynamite".

Many credit this slight as the inspiration for Nobel's creation of the prizes, pointing to the wording in his will that the awards should go to those who "have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind".

"But we can only imagine" that this is what

Chemistry Prize for his "electrolytic theory of dissociation".

But he is now more widely recognised for his other pioneering work: at the end of the 19th century, he was the first to theorise that the combustion of fossil energy -- which at the time was primarily coal -- emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and leads to global warming.

According to his calculations, a doubling of CO2 emissions would heat the planet by five degrees Celsius; current models suggest a range between 2.6 and 3.9 degrees Celsius.

However, completely unaware of just how much fossil fuel the world would go on to consume, Arrhenius underestimated the speed at which this level would be reached, predicting it would take...3,000 years.

With 120 years under their belt and a name associated throughout the world with excellence, the Nobel prizes are considered the creme de la creme of awards.

But some critics consider them to be archaic, often honouring discoveries made decades ago and not taking into account newer scientific fields.

The Right Livelihood Award was therefore created in 1980 by a German-Swedish philanthropist after the Nobel Foundation refused to create two new prizes for the environment and international development.

Finland created the one-million-euro Millennium Technology Prize in 2002 to recognise the role technology plays in solving global challenges, while the \$1 million Kavli Prizes in Norway have since 2008 honoured discoveries in the fields of astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience.

But the richest prize of them all is the most recent one, the Breakthrough Prize created in 2010 by a group of Silicon Valley entrepreneurs. Dubbed the "Oscars for Science", they come with a cheque for \$3 million, more than three times the winnings of a Nobel Prize.

by AFP - Agence France Presse

Thousands Flock Ancient Hill Temple In Bhaderwah To Celebrate Ashtami

Press Trust Of India

BHADERWAH: After two years of lull due to Covid, thousands of devotees thronged the ancient Asht-bhuja' temple on a hilltop in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district here on Monday to celebrate 'Ashtami', the eighth day of Navratri, officials said.

Ashtami, a prelude to Dussehra, is an important religious symbol of the Nagas here. To mark the festivities, about 20,000 people, largely the Nagas, gathered at the 8,000-feet-high temple which is also known as the temple of Goddess Sheetla at Rehoshra Dhar, they said.

Rehoshra Dhar is devoid of people in a distance of about eight-kilometre due to ice, and its lower reaches host the ancient Naga cult that comes alive during Navratri, especially on Ashtami.

Located on a mountain pass, 43 km away from Bhaderwah town, the temple is believed to have its origins in Mughal emperor Babar's era.

Navratri, considered the last festival during the harvest season, marks the beginning of autumn. The season is followed by harsh winters here.

The traditional celebrations started early in the morning

with the opening of kewaars (doors) of the historic temple and the Nagas sacrificed dozens of sheep to the deity according to their ancient custom, the officials said.

Chief organiser and sarpanch of Sunarthawa Panchayat Rakesh Charak said, "This is the most ancient festival of this area. Due to the pandemic, the festival remained suspended for two years. Navratri is incomplete without paying obeisance to the goddess on Ashtami here at Rehoshra. We are delighted to be here again."

Pratibha Rajput, a young devotee, said, "Before four months of dull life (winter) during which we mostly remain indoors, this festival not only rejuvenates us but also gives us a chance to meet our relatives and friends. Besides, all our wishes are fulfilled by Rehoshra Mata."

'Charri Mubarak' (holy mace) from Chinta, Shourara, Nalthi, Chirala, Sunarthawa, Atalgarh, Rainda and Dalain reached the temple at 12 pm, after which devotees began celebrating Ashtami with the traditional Dekhu dance.

Volunteers of Chinta village served langar to devotees while the administration had made adequate security arrangements for their safety, the officials said.

20K Mulberry Saplings To Be Planted Along NH-44



Agencies

SRINAGAR: To safeguard the environment in the Kashmir Valley and to promote sericulture sector, Central Silk Board in collaboration with National Highway's Authority of India under a pilot project has started plantation of mulberry saplings on 54 kilometre stretch on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway from Pampore to Qazigund.

Officials told a local news agency KNO that the collaborative project aims to provide green cover on National Highways with mulberry trees in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand.

They said inauguration of Pilot Project "Development of Mulberry (Morus spp) Plantation on National Highways on the sides of carriageways in Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand was done by Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Upendra Prasad Singh at Galander Pampore on Saturday.

"In J&K, a distance of 54.2 km will be covered along the carriageways of Srinagar-Banihal Section of NH-44 at a cost of Rs 161.105 lakhs, where a total of 19,283 mulberry saplings will

be planted in J&K in the selected sites of NH-44 from Gallander to Qazigund. On the other hand, a total of 34.43 km will be covered with 55490 mulberry saplings at selected sites of national highways in Uttarakhand," they said.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of J&K's Forest Force, Dr Mohit Gera said that they are promoting mulberry as it is good fodder and is being used for silk worm cultivation.

"The programme of forest department is 'One Beat Guard One Village' and we are including mulberry in the programme too," he said.

Meanwhile, secretary Ministry of Textiles, Upendra Prasad Singh said that mulberry leaves are a feeding material for silk worms and most of the mulberry silk is produced in Karnataka but Kashmir is also the dominant centre and more silk can be produced in J&K.

He added that plantation of mulberry will provide greenery as well as feeding material to silk wormers and around 55 km are under mulberry cultivation in Galander and module is being repeated in other places as well.

Corruption Practice

Govt Asks ATC, J&K To Enquire, Submit Report In 21 Days

Agencies

SRINAGAR: UT government on Monday directed Additional Transport Commissioner, J&K, Raman Kumar Kesar, JKAS, Additional Transport Commissioner, J&K to conduct an enquiry into the allegations mentioned in the confidential report against Sh. Akhther Mohi-ud-din, MVI and

Commissioner, J&K, Jammu, Rahul Sharma reads that "sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of sh. Raman Kumar Kesar, JKAS, Additional Transport Commissioner, J&K to conduct an enquiry into the allegations mentioned in the confidential report against Sh. Akhther Mohi-ud-din, MVI and

Sh. Raja Umar Khan, MVI presently posted in ARTO Office, Budgam."

Gurmukh Singh, JKAS Joint Transport Commissioner has been asked to assist ATC, J&K in the matter and it was directed that the enquiry report shall be submitted within 21 days. (KNO)

Monika Kohli Appointed Additional AG In J&K High Court

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Leading lawyer Monika Kohli has been appointed as the Additional Advocate General in the Jammu wing of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

An order to this effect was issued by the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

The order issued by Achal Sethi, secretary to the government, Department of Law and Parliamentary Affairs (judicial administration section) stated that Kohli's appointment is for a period of one year which shall be extended subject to satisfactory performance of the advocate.

Enrolled as an advocate on the rolls of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court with effect from April 1999, Kohli is the standing counsel for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the HC and has been handling some sensitive cases related to terrorism.

She is the chief prosecutor in



two key cases against Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik the 1989 abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of the then Union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, and the killing of four Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel in 1990.

She has been representing the CBI as a retainer counsel in the HC since 2015 and had successfully opposed Malik's bail plea in the two sensational crimes which took place when militancy broke out in the

Kashmir valley.

Besides the two cases, Kohli has handled numerous matters in various courts including the Supreme Court, high courts of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Haryana and Delhi, and National, State and District Consumer Protection Tribunals over the past two decades.

She practised as an advocate on the panel of the advocate general of the Jammu and Kashmir HC and was appointed as panel advocate for Food Corporation of India, State Bank of India and Jammu Development Authority.

She was also empanelled as a pro bono lawyer in the Nyaya Bandhu Panel for voluntary work for rendering free legal aid and advice to the marginalised sections of society.

She has also worked as a pro bono lawyer with District Legal Services Authority (DLA) and was appointed as Amicus Curiae by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BJP Let Down People Of J&K On All Fronts: JKPCC President

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani accused the BJP on Monday of putting the Union Territory's interests and development "subservient to the pleasure of its vested interests".

He said the "lack of cohesion and vision" has made the people of Jammu and Kashmir suffer on the development front.

Addressing a meeting convened to discuss the current political scenario of Jammu and Kashmir and organisational affairs at the party headquarters here, the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president made a particular mention of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and dared its leadership to list its achievements with regard to fulfilling the developmental needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Despite being in power at

the Centre and in Jammu and Kashmir, the party has failed miserably when it comes to governance and let Jammu and Kashmir down on all fronts," he said, adding that the BJP has nothing to showcase as its achievement.

Slamming the saffron party for putting Jammu and Kashmir's interests and development "subservient to the pleasure of its vested interests", Wani, in a statement, said, "The treachery and deceit of the BJP is haunting the people of Jammu who reposed their unflinching faith and support to it with the hope that Jammu may perhaps get a better deal as during the days of its wilderness in the opposition, BJP leaders were crying hoarse over discrimination and neglect."

He accused the BJP of reversing some of the prestigious projects launched during the tenure of the Congress government for the Jammu region.

"Not only on the front of development, but equally in terms of instilling a sense of confidence among people, the BJP has miserably failed," Wani said.

Referring to the issues confronting the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the Congress leader said in the absence of an elected government, the lieutenant governor-led administration has failed to give a push to the schemes and projects aimed at overall development and welfare of various areas and different segments of the society.

"We will keep pursuing and highlighting every issue, major or minor, to see Jammu and Kashmir progress and prosper, notwithstanding the odds," the Congress leader said, adding that the support, cooperation and feedback of people will be useful for the party to get their grievances addressed timely and properly.

RDA, DAK Dismayed Over Surrendering Of JK Medical Seats In All India Quota

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Resident Doctors Association (RDA) GMC Srinagar and Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Monday in a joint statement expressed dismay over Jammu & Kashmir Government's decision of surrendering MBBS and Postgraduate (MD/MS) seats in All India Quota from the current session.

"Pooling of medical seats will open flood gates for outsiders and will impact JK aspirants gravely," said DAK President Dr. Nisar ul Hassan. "Contributing medical seats in All India Quota will block job avenues for locals and will increase unemployment among doctors in JK," he said.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said non-local doctors after completing their respective courses will move back to their native places which would result in a great void in healthcare system of the region.

"Pooling would further decrease the doctor-patient ratio that would deteriorate the healthcare delivery system in J&K. It would also mean depriving the people of JK the services of specialist doctors," he said.

President RDA Dr Junaid Rashid said the move would be detrimental to the healthcare system of the region and the biggest casualty of the pooling would be patient care.

"Participating in All India Quota for MBBS and PG seats would be against the rights and interests of JK aspirants."

General Secretary RDA Dr Faisal Rather said JK has a limited source of education and scientific exposure. A large number of students have no exposure to modern tools of education.

"With the prevailing circumstances and frequent internet blockage, it is difficult for local students to compete at All India level" he said.

Spokesperson RDA Dr Muzafar Amin Shah urged JK Government to opt out of All India Quota and keep all medical seats available for local candidates.

"JK Government recently has decided to participate in AIQ counselling from this year and contribute 50% of post graduate & 15% of MBBS seats to All India Quota," he said.

"Earlier, J&K has been reserving all the medical seats for local students and opting out of AIQ," he added.

Dr Farooq Commences 4-Day Tour Of Chenab Valley

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Monday began a four-day tour of Chenab valley, urging the party workers to intensify their public outreach and inform people about the designs of anti-J&K forces.

On the first day, the former chief minister drove to Warwan valley of Kishtwar after making a brief stopover at Kokernag in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, a party spokesman said.

Interacting with party workers, he implored upon them to get eligible youth registered as voters in their respective areas.

The party is fighting a just, democratic, legal and political battle against the decisions of

August 5, 2019 at multiple levels...the people of J&K also have to play by registering and subsequently coming out in large numbers to vote, whenever elections are held, Abdullah said.

On August 5, 2019, the BJP-led central government revoked Article 370 of the constitution guaranteeing special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating it into two Union Territories.

Asking workers to intensify their public outreach, Abdullah said, our workers have a bigger role to play this time.

Our region is at crossroads, it requires us to remain united as never before. It also requires our party men to educate and inform people about the designs of the anti J&K forces, he said without naming anyone.

New Land Laws A Major Step Towards Progressive Development Of J&K: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The new land laws are being hailed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir as a major step towards the development and progress of J&K.

The historic initiative of the government is revamping the agriculture and allied sectors besides ensuring holistic development of all sectors.

The J&K Government is constantly working towards creating a modern, efficient, transparent and citizen-friendly UT which protects and safeguards the land.

The new land laws which replaced old laws that existed in the erstwhile state of J&K will also help revamp the agriculture sector, foster rapid industrialisation, aid economic growth and create jobs.

Key amendments were made to four major state laws that governed the ownership, sale, and

purchase of land in the erstwhile state. These are The J&K Development Act, 1970, The J&K Land Revenue Act, 1996, The Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976 and The J&K Land Grants Act, 1960.

The designation of land for industrial purposes will open up greater employment avenues for the youth who have always yearned for the industrial revolution in J&K so that they can get better employment opportunities.

According to the new land law, agricultural land can only be sold to an agriculturist and he has been defined as a person who cultivates land personally in the UT. The term 'agriculture land' unambiguously is defined to include not just agriculture but horticulture and allied agro-activities as well. The most extensive definition includes not just horticulture but poultry, Animal Husbandry, among others.

PIB Jammu Organises Rural Media Workshop Vartalap At Reasi

Observer News Service

REASI: To build a direct interface between PIB Jammu and the journalists working at district and sub-district levels across Jammu division, Press Information Bureau, Jammu, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India Monday organised Rural Media Workshop (Vartalap) at Reasi.

The workshop was inaugurated jointly by Additional Director General, Northern Region, Rajinder Chaudhry and Deputy Commissioner, Reasi, Babila Rakhwal in the presence of Ayushi Puri, Assistant Director, PIB Jammu.

In his address, Additional Director General, Northern Region, Rajinder Chaudhry said that Media plays a pivotal role in information dissemination during every outreach program of the government for the welfare of the masses as people get to know about different welfare schemes/centrally sponsored schemes of the govern-

ment only through media.

He further said that the media should also concentrate on writing good features, research articles by way of developmental reporting to move beyond what is called normal reporting.

In her inaugural address, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi, Babila Rakhwal appreciated the efforts of Press Information Bureau, Jammu for organizing this media workshop and said that such kinds of media workshops as well as media tours organized from time to time help media persons to grow as quality media persons.

She further said that reporting should be unbiased, impartial and must include both the sides of the story so as to maintain a balance in the news reports. She maintained that responsible reporting makes inspiring media persons which can play a great role in the development of the district.

Chief Medical Officer, Reasi, Dr. Ravinder Manhas said that Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Man-



tri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme is a game changer in the delivery of health services throughout the country. It provides free medical treatment to the masses, especially to those who could not afford the treatment earlier, he added.

Chief Education Officer, Reasi, Sunita Bali, while speaking on National Education Policy, said that the policy seeks to restructure

school curricula and pedagogy in a new '5+3+3+4' design, so that school education can be made relevant to the needs and interests of learners at different developmental stages.

She further said that NEP-2020 lays emphasis on promoting multilingualism and Indian languages; the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and

beyond, will be the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language.

About the role of Information Technology, she said that IT has made the teaching learning process much easier as the digitization of study material has brought a revolution in the education system.

District Information Officer, Reasi, Rajinder Dingra said that

J&K has seen a new dawn of development with massive activities going on in every sector be it construction of highways, railway projects, hydroelectric projects, medical colleges, rural electrification, development of water bodies under Amrit Sarovar etc. "The day is not far when J&K will be among the top performing UTs/States of the country in every sector," he added. He further said that Media has a great role to play by highlighting the achievements of the government in J&K in various sectors.

Defence PRO Udhampur, Lt. Col. Abhinav Navneet speaking on 'Security Challenges and Ground Reporting' explained their different aspects. "These can be socio-political, territorial, economic or environmental" he added.

He mentioned that 'Mobile Journalism' has become a challenge for today's world where netizens can report in real-time. He

also urged media persons to develop a 'Journalist's Talisman' on the lines of 'Gandhi's Talisman' to promote responsible journalism.

Joint Director, Central Bureau of Communication J&K, Ghulam Abbas emphasised on the importance of media ethics. Speaking on 'Social Media as a tool for Information Dissemination', he said that social media portals can act as NGOs and do social service which was seen during pandemic times. He further said that fake reporting by social media handles affects their credibility and such portals need to gain the level of credibility which All India Radio has.

Assistant Director, Press Information Bureau, Ayushi Puri, in her concluding remarks emphasised on the importance of 'Rural Media Workshop' "Vartalap" which provides a platform for journalists working at district level to gain some insights about their role in development Journalism & responsible reporting.

Women SHGs To Run Canteens In Govt Offices Under RLM



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Stepping further towards emancipating women as a self reliant member of the society, the Jammu and Kashmir government has roped in women Self Help Groups to operate canteens at government offices under the J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission.

In a first, the Kashmir State Taxes Department, Kashmir, has commenced such canteen facility from its main complex at Excise and Taxation Complex, Soolina which was inaugurated by Commissioner Secretary Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kour in presence of Commissioner State Taxes, J&K, Dr Rashmi Singh.

The space and infrastructure for running the canteen has been provided by the department while the services are to be managed by a team of eight members of different Self Help Groups from Ganderbal district under UMEED scheme of Na-

tional Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Department of Rural Development.

Mandeep Kour, while terming the move an encouraging initiative towards women empowerment, appreciated the efforts of Mission Director J&K RLM and officers of State Taxes department for facilitating the Self Help Groups earn their livelihood through such initiatives. She highlighted that the new canteen, being run by women Self Help Group, set up in the department will become a role model for similar canteens in other districts and government departments.

Dr. Rashmi Singh, while interacting with the members of Self Help Groups, highlighted that collaboration on one hand fulfils the need of the department by making available affordable and hygienic food options within the complex to its employees besides boosting microenterprises being set up by women belonging to economically weaker sections of the society on the other hand.

Dulloo Reviews Containment Measures Taken Against LSD

Asks the department to intensify the process of vaccination and fogging



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo Monday emphasised upon the officers of Animal Husbandry department to intensify the process of vaccination and fogging in all the rural areas where the Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) has spread among cattle and milch animals.

The meeting was attended by the officers from Animal Husbandry, SKUAST, CAHOS and other officers from allied departments. Out station officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

On the occasion the ACS urged all the veterinarians to be pres-

ent in the field for vaccination and other supervision purposes so that the task is monitored and performed professionally. He asked them that the treatment protocol already framed and circulated should be strictly complied with. He made out that veterinary doctors posted in offices for other official purposes should be sent to field for serving people at this hour of need.

Dulloo enjoined upon them to increase the sampling and testing in coming days. He maintained that 200 tests should be performed each day by every laboratory in both the divisions. He took note of the current trend followed in vaccination and its progress in each district.

SBI Report Flags Freebies Time-Bomb, Asks Supreme Court To Cap Spends

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: With states after states competing to offer freebies, a report has suggested that the Supreme Court-led panel could cap such welfare schemes at 1 per cent of the state's GDP or 1 per cent of its own tax collection.

Citing the examples of just three states, a report penned by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the group chief economic adviser to State Bank of India, said annual pension liabilities of the poor states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan are estimated at ₹3 lakh crore.

When looked in relation to these states own tax revenue, pension liabilities are quite high for Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh at 217, 190 and 207 per cent respectively.

While for states contemplating the change, it would be as high as 450 per cent of own tax revenue in case of Himachal Pradesh, 138 per cent of own tax revenue in case of Gujarat and 242 per cent of own tax revenue for Punjab, which is also planning to revert to the old pension system wherein the beneficiaries pay nothing.

Ghosh also points out that according to the latest available information, the off-budget borrowings of states, which are loans raised by state-owned entities and guaranteed by the states, have reached around 4.5 percent of GDP in 2022 and the extent of such guarantees have achieved significant proportion of GDP for various states.

The report suggests that the apex court panel fix a band, say 1 per cent of GSDP or 1 per cent of state own tax collections or 1 per cent of state revenue expenditure for these welfare



schemes, he says.

Such guarantee amount is significant at 11.7 per cent of GDP for Telangana, 10.8 per cent for Sikkim, 9.8 per cent for Andhra, 7.1 per cent for Rajasthan, and 6.3 per cent for UP. While the power sector accounts for almost 40 per cent of these guarantees, other beneficiaries include sectors like irrigation, infrastructure development, food and water supply.

On the cost of the election promises made by various political parties in the poll-bound states as percentage of revenue receipts and own tax revenue of these states it is 1-3 and 2-10 in Himachal 5-8, and 8-13 in Gujarat respectively.

The unfunded pension liabilities of the state which have gone back to the old pension scheme or pay as you go scheme, or planning to do so as percentage of own tax revenue, it's a staggering 450 for Himachal, 138 for Gujarat, 207 for Chhattisgarh, 190 for Rajasthan, 217 for Jharkhand and 242 for Punjab.

The combined liabilities of the states which have reverted to the old pension scheme/or have promised to do so stood at ₹3,45,505 crore in FY20 and the same will go up as percentage of

GSDP of Chattisgarh to 1.9 and incremental burden of 60,000 crore from ₹6,638 crore in FY20.

For Jharkhand it was ₹6,005 crore and will be 1.7 per cent of GSDP and will increase by ₹54,000 crore; Rajasthan ₹20,761 crore, 6 per cent and will jump by ₹1.87 lakh crore; Punjab - ₹10,294 crore, 3 per cent and will rise by ₹92,000 crore, Himachal-Rs 5,490 crore, 1.6 per cent of GSDP and will rise by ₹49,000 crore and for Gujarat the pension burden was ₹17,663 crore in FY20 and will jump to 5.1 per cent of GDP and will rise by 1.59 lakh crore.

When the freebies announced by the states in FY23 are compared to percentage of the each of the state's GDP and revenue receipts and own tax revenue, they are more staggering.

Quoting from a recent RBI paper on financial assistance/cash transfers, utility subsidies, loan or fee waivers and interest free loans announced by the states in their latest budgets, estimate expenditure on freebies range from 0.1-2.7 per cent of GSDP for different states. The freebies have exceeded 2 percent of GSDP for some of the highly indebted states such as Andhra and Punjab.

India Has A \$1.2 Trillion Plan To Snatch Factories From China

Bloomberg

In India, half of all infrastructure projects are delayed, and one in four run over their estimated budget. Prime Minister Narendra Modi believes technology is the solution to these perennial and notorious bottlenecks.

Under a 100-trillion-rupee (\$1.2 trillion) mega project called PM Gati Shakti -- Hindi for the strength of speed -- PM Modi's administration is creating a digital platform that combines 16 ministries. The portal will offer investors and companies a one-stop solution for the design of projects, seamless approvals, and easier estimation of costs.

"The mission is to implement projects without time overrun and cost overrun," Amrit Lal Meena, special secretary of logistics in the ministry of commerce and industry, said



in an interview in New Delhi. "Global companies choosing India as their manufacturing center is the objective."

Fast-tracking projects will give India an advantage, especially with China still largely closed to the outside world and companies increasingly adopting a China-plus-one policy -- finding other countries to expand in or source from -- to diversify their businesses and supply chains. Asia's third-largest economy not only offers cheap labour, but also a talent pool of largely English-speaking

workers, even though rickety infrastructure keeps many investors away.

"The only way to compete with China, apart from the fact there are political requirements of countries to move away, is to be as competitive on the cost as you can be," said Anshuman Sinha, a partner at Kearney India who leads transport and infrastructure practices. "Gati Shakti is about making it easier to have a flow of goods and manufactured components across the length and breadth of the country."

Don't Carry Ads Of Online Betting Platforms: Centre To Digital Media Firms

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday issued advisories to news websites, OTT platforms and private satellite channels asking them to refrain from carrying advertisements of offshore betting sites.

"...the private satellite television channels are strongly advised to refrain advertisements of online offshore betting platforms and/or their surrogate news websites or any such product/service depicting these platforms in a surrogate manner," the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting advisory said.

It also warned private satellite television channels of penal action under applicable laws for violation of the advisory.

In a separate advisory to publishers of news and current affairs content on digital media and OTT platforms, the ministry issued a similar directive and asked them not to target such advertisements towards the Indian audience.

The ministry said that some online offshore betting platforms have started using news websites as surrogate products to advertise themselves.

It said that in the advertisements of the surrogate news websites operated by the online betting platforms, the logos of the news websites were strik-



ingly similar to the betting platform.

"The concerned betting platforms and the corresponding news websites are also not registered with any legal authority under Indian laws," the advisory said, adding that the online offshore betting platforms appear to be promoting betting and gambling under the garb of news through surrogate advertising.

The advisory said that the Department of Consumer Affairs has also informed that online betting platforms have been advertising themselves as professional sports blogs and sports news websites.

It has also provided an indicative list of online betting platforms which are using news for surrogate advertising.

The advisory said relevant laws have declared the advertisement of betting platforms an illegal activity and such ads cannot be shown on digital media or TV channels

In Air India's New Menu, Gourmet Meals, Decadent Desserts, And Much More



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Tatas-owned Air India has introduced a new in-flight menu on domestic routes amid the onset of the festive season.

Since being taken over by the Tatas in January this year, the loss-making airline has been making efforts to revamp services, expand its fleet and increase its overall market share in the fast-growing domestic aviation space.

The new in-flight menu, featuring an assortment of gourmet meals, trendy appetisers and decadent desserts, showcases India's locally sourced culinary influence, it said in a release.

I asked if they serve Navratri food on @airindiain flight, for my surprise they had a full fledged Navratri alt, loved the way a woke sitting next, who ordered chicken meal, was cribbing looking at my lavish Navratri special Bhoj!

Thank you @TataCompanies thank you #AirIndiapic.twitter.com/XGp1eaEmDF

— Vishal Chaturvedi # (@filmervishal) September 30, 2022

The menu was introduced on October 1.

"The new menu choices have been curated to ensure that the flyers enjoy a gourmet meal with emphasis on health and well-being... We are excited to roll out this new menu on domestic routes, and are hard at work preparing a revamp of the international menu as well," Sandeep Verma, Head of Inflight Services at Air India, said.

Last month, Air India unveiled 'Vihaan.AI', a comprehensive transformation plan with a detailed road map for the next five years under which the airline aims to have a domestic market share of 30 per cent and significantly strengthen its international operations.

Meanwhile, Vistara -- a joint venture between Tatas and Singapore Airlines -- has started offering live television channels on its Dreamliner aircraft from October 1.

SHORT TAKES

J&K Bank launches Loyalty Rewards Program

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank Monday launched its Customer Loyalty Rewards Program besides inaugurating the online platform - J&K Bank Loyalty Rewards Portal designed in collaboration with EasyRewardz - for its customers to manage their rewards journey.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash inaugurated the Loyalty Rewards Portal at the Bank's corporate headquarters here in presence of General Managers, Deputy General Manager, Founder-Director EasyRewardz Tejas Kadakiya and other senior officers of the Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "Keeping the customer-journey at the heart of our operational strategy, we have today launched this Loyalty Rewards Program to ensure that for every digital transaction our valuable customers get some benefit in the form of vouchers, deals, recharge, shopping and cashbacks. Such exciting rewards journeys will deepen our engagement with customers."

"The loyalty rewards portal has also been designed for customers to avail and manage the rewarding benefits with ease through better choice and redemption experience. The idea is to promote and encourage digital transactions in a vibrant ecosystem of easily available offers and benefits with customer at its center as net-winner", he added.

FM Urged To Extend GST Exemption On Export Freight

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA: An organisation of exporters wrote to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, urging her to extend the Goods and Services Tax (GST) exemption on export freight that lapsed on September 30.

The Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) expressed concern that if the exemption is not extended, it will add to their liquidity challenges amid rising interest rates.

Since its introduction in 2018, the government had extended the exemption twice till September this year.

"Overseas freight rates had increased by 300-350 per cent from pre-Covid levels. Now, there has been a slight decline in such rates, but these are still 200-250 per cent higher than that of the 2019 levels," FIEO President A Sakthivel said.

If the exemption is not renewed, exporters will be required to pay GST at 18 per cent on export freight, which will increase the logistical costs for Indian goods in the international market, he said.

"Due to the recent increase in interest rates by the Reserve Bank of India, the GST payments on such high freight cost will have a significant negative impact on exporters' liquidity," Sakthivel said.

Rupee Declines By 42 Paise To 81.82 Against Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The rupee fell by 42 paise to close at 81.82 against the US dollar on Monday, snapping its two-session gaining streak as heavy selling in domestic equities and a spike in crude oil prices weighed on the local unit.

Besides, a stronger greenback against key rivals and weak macro data put pressure on the domestic currency, forex dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened weak at 81.65, fell further to 81.98 against the American currency. It finally ended at 81.82, down 42 paise over its previous close. In the previous session, the rupee settled at 81.40 against the greenback.

"The rupee weakened against the dollar on Monday amid weak risk sentiment and as oil importers picked up dollar expecting a big rise in crude prices as OPEC+ was considering slashing output to support a recent downturn in prices.

"Meanwhile, domestic equities fell as concerns rose around FPI outflows from equities and weighed on the local unit. In the overseas markets, the dollar index was rebounded while the Euro remained flat," Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said

Sensex, Nifty Fall Over 1% On Weak Global Trends

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Key stock indices Sensex and Nifty declined over 1 per cent at close on Monday amid weak global market trends and continued foreign fund outflows.

Benchmark BSE Sensex tumbled 638.11 points or 1.11 per cent to settle at 56,788.81. During the day, it tanked 743.52 points or 1.29 per cent to 56,683.40.

The broader NSE Nifty fell by 207 points or 1.21 per cent to end at 16,887.35. Among the Sensex stocks, Maruti, Hindustan Unilever, IndusInd Bank, ITC, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the major laggards.

Dr Reddy's, NTPC, Bharti Airtel and Wipro were the winners.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Hong Kong settled lower, while Tokyo ended higher.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading lower in mid-session deals after oil prices rose by more than USD 3 per barrel amid dire warnings over energy shortages in Europe. The US markets ended in negative territory on Friday.

Sensex had jumped 1,016.96 points or 1.80 per cent to settle at 57,426.92 on Friday. The Nifty climbed 276.25 points or 1.64 per cent to end at 17,094.35.

Manufacturing Activities Ease In September

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Manufacturing activities in India eased marginally in September but remained in good shape amid companies hiring more workers and cooling price pressures, according to a monthly survey released on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) indicated a strong improvement in the health of the Indian manufacturing industry, as companies stepped up production in tandem with a sustained increase in new work intakes. The PMI at 55.1 in September continued to be in expansion mode for the 15th consecutive month but was slightly lower than 56.2 recorded in August.

"Rates of expansion remained historically high, despite easing from August. To accommodate higher sales and greater output needs, firms hired extra workers and acquired more inputs. The upturn in input buying was aided by cooling price pressures. "Purchasing costs rose at the slowest pace in just under two years, while output charge inflation receded to a seven-month low," the survey said.

A PMI score above 50 indicates expansion and a print below that level reflects contraction in manufacturing activities.

Anish Dayal Singh takes charge as ITBP DG; Thaosen as CRPF chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Senior IPS officers Anish Dayal Singh and Sujoy Lal Thaosen on Monday took charge as the new director general of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the CRPF respectively.

Singh, a 1988-batch officer of Manipur cadre, was first handed over the ceremonial baton by his batchmate S L Thaosen, who has been holding the additional charge of the about 90,000-personnel-strong mountain-warfare trained force since August after Sanjay Arora was appointed Delhi Police Commissioner.

Before taking charge at the ITBP headquarters at Lodhi Road, Singh was accorded a guard of honour following which senior officers gave him a presentation on the operations and deployment of the force.

The officer belongs to the Manipur cadre and has become the 32nd DG of the ITBP.

He has been serving as a special director in the Intelligence Bureau where he handled several sensitive assignments.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by the prime minister had on October 1 issued the order for the appointment of Singh who has service till December 2024.

Thaosen, through the same

order, was appointed the new CRPF DG. The Madhya Pradesh cadre Indian Police Service (IPS) officer has been serving as the SSB DG with the additional charge of ITBP. He will superannuate in November, 2023.

An ex-SPG (special protection group) officer, Thaosen was also given a guard of honour before he took charge as the 37th DG of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the country's largest paramilitary force with about 3.25 lakh personnel.

He was given an overview of the force by senior CRPF officers, including about the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is embarking on a three-day visit to the Union Territory beginning Monday evening.

An order issued by the Union Home ministry on Monday also gave the additional charge of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) to Singh "till the appointment and joining of the regular incumbent or until further orders whichever is earlier".

The SSB guards fence-less Indian borders with its neighbours, Nepal and Bhutan.

The ITBP is primarily tasked to guard the 3,488-km stretch of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China apart from rendering a variety of duties in the internal security domain of the country.

CBI arrests Russian national in JEE-Mains exam manipulation case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The CBI on Monday arrested a Russian national in connection with its probe into alleged manipulation of JEE (Mains) examination last year, officials said.

The central agency had issued a 'Look Out Circular' against Mikhail Shargin, suspected to be main hacker, for alleged manipulation of the prestigious examination, they said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was alerted by the Bureau of Immigration when Shargin arrived at Indira Gandhi International Airport here from Almaty, Kazakhstan, at 0120 hours, they said, adding that he was immediately detained by the CBI and was questioned in connection with the JEE manipulation case.

"During investigation, it came to light that some foreign nationals were involved in compromising many online examinations, including JEE (Mains), colluding with other accused in the instant case," a CBI spokesperson said.

The investigation indicated that Shargin had allegedly tampered with the iLeon software, the platform on which the JEE (Main)-2021 examination was conducted, and also helped other accused in hacking the computer systems of suspect candidates during the



examination, the officials said.

In September last year, the agency had booked Affinity Education Pvt Ltd and its three directors, Siddharth Krishna, Vishwambhar Mani Tripathi and Govind Varshney, besides other touts and associates for alleged manipulation of examination.

It was alleged that the three directors, in conspiracy with other associates and touts, were manipulating the online examination of JEE (Mains) and facilitating aspiring students to get admission into top National Institutes of

Technology in consideration of huge amounts by solving the applicants' question papers through remote access from a chosen examination centre in Sonapat (Haryana).

"It was also alleged that the accused used to obtain class 10 and 12 mark sheets, user IDs, passwords, and post dated cheques of aspiring students in different parts of the country as security and once admission was done, they used to collect heavy amount ranging from Rs 12-15 lakh (approx) per candidate," the spokesperson said.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 03

J&K Recorded

at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

"India received 677.63 million domestic tourist visits in 2021, an increase of 11.05 percent from 610.22 million in 2020. Due to worldwide pandemic limitations, fewer foreign visitors came. As a result, India received 1.05 million foreign tourist visitors in 2021 than that in 2020 (7.17 million), representing a negative 85.29 percent growth rate," reads the report.

Sharing data about the 10 Most Popular Centrally Protected Ticketed Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Monument for Domestic Visitors in 2021-22, the data says that no monument from J&K has made it to the list.

Meanwhile, the data observed that the domestic footfall at three sites under ASI in J&K increased by 177.9 percent in 2021-22 against 2020-21. In 2020-21, Palace Complex at Ramnagar in Udhampur had recorded 2129 domestic tourist footfall but in 2021-22, the ASI site registered a growth rate of 162.8 percent as the domestic arrival increased to 5595.

The Avantiswamin Temple in Pulwama had recorded 5706 domestic footfall in 2020-21 but in 2021-22, the number of domestic tourists arriving at the ASI site increased to 24957, registering a 337.4 percent growth rate. The Group of Temples at Kiramchi in Udhampur recorded a 26.9 percent growth rate in 2021-22 against 2020-21. 5816 domestic tourists had arrived at the ASI site in 2020-21, which increased to 7383 in 2021-22.

According to research, the Taj Mahal, a UNESCO world heritage site, was among the top 10 centrally protected ticketed sites for domestic tourists in 2021-2022. The Red Fort and the Qutub Minar, both UNESCO-recognized structures in Delhi, came in second and third place, respectively, behind the Mughal-era mausoleum, which took the top spot.

The Ministry of Tourism brings out an Annual Publication called "India Tourism Statistics" every year giving details of international and domestic tourism, including details about the classified hotels etc. The Ministry also estimates month wise Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) figures and Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEE) from tourism, and this is brought out within a time lag of 15 days.

It is pertinent to mention here that more than ten million tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir this year, making it one of the most successful tourism years ever in the scenic valley which has witnessed a relatively plunging tourist footfall in the last three years.

The figures were placed by Union Minister for Tourism G K Reddy in July this year. As per Reddy, 1.05 crore, which is over 10 million, tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir in the first six months of the calendar year 2022

HM Arrives

Hundreds of Gujar and Bakerwal college students gathered here and

staged a peaceful march to oppose the likely inclusion of the Pahari-speaking people in the ST category.

The STs have been granted 10 per cent reservation in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly for the first time after a recent delimitation exercise. Nine seats have been reserved for the STs, while seven are reserved for the Scheduled Castes (SCs).

Gujjars and Bakerwals also staged a protest in Shopian district of south Kashmir, threatening to intensify the agitation if Paharis are given the ST status.

Welcoming the visit of the home minister, the Jammu and Kashmir Gujjar Bakerwals Organisations Coordination Committee appreciated the steps taken by the BJP-led Centre for the betterment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in general and that of the STs in particular.

"For the last 30 years, no central or state government implemented the law relating to the STs in Jammu and Kashmir. It is the current government that provided political reservation and implemented the Forest Rights Act in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," convenor of the committee Anwar Choudhary told reporters here.

However, he appealed to Shah to allay the apprehensions that the ST status of the Gujjars, Bakerwals, Gadis and Sippis shall not be diluted by including any other section of people from Jammu and Kashmir in the category.

Senior BJP leader Arshad Choudhary, who is from the Gujjar community, said the demand of the Paharis for the ST status is "spurious and unjustifiable", and said the tribals got the ST status after decades of relentless struggle and secured 10 per cent reservation in jobs and education.

"The conspirators are all out to jeopardise the legitimate rights and interests of the tribals and render them unreal and ineffective socially, educationally, economically and politically, and create a pre-1991-like situation, and all this is utterly unacceptable to us," he said.

The speculation over the likely announcement of ST status to Paharis has also sparked off a political row within the National Conference.

Taking head-on with his party, senior NC leader and former law-maker Kafeel ur Rehman has urged the people to attend Shah's rally and demonstrate the collective strength of Pahari community.

Another NC leader Mushtaq Bukahri and several others have quit the party only to come out in open to support the BJP on the issue of granting ST status to Paharis.

Former Deputy Chief Minister, Muzafar Baig has also appealed the members of Pahari community to attend Shah's Baramulla rally.

Meanwhile, security has been tightened across Jammu and Kashmir for the three-day visit of the Home Minister, officials said.

Officials on Monday said a multi-tier security arrangement has been put in place for the Union Home minister's visit and drones are being used for aerial surveillance as well.

The checking on Jammu-Poonch and Srinagar-Baramulla highways has been intensified, while additional police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed to keep a close watch on the situation, they said.

"Police and CRPF personnel have been deployed at several places in Srinagar as well as elsewhere in the Valley as part of the security measures," an official said.

Patrolling has been intensified at many places, especially on the Srinagar-Baramulla-Kupwara highway, the official added.

"High-resolution camera-equipped drones are keeping a vigil at many locations and are aiding the security forces in maintaining surveillance," the official said.

Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, who visited both the venues last week, said attempts are being made by terrorist and their handlers to disrupt peace in Jammu and Kashmir but all necessary security arrangements are in place for the high-profile visit and

"... to sabotage the VIP visit or any such activity that sends a positive message to the people, the terrorists and their handlers across the border try to show that all is not well (on the security front)," the police chief had said here on Sunday.

Terrorists had on Sunday attacked a security forces team in Pulwama district of the Union territory, killing a special police officer (SPO) and injuring a CRPF jawan,

Twin blasts had ripped apart two parked buses in Udhampur district of Jammu region within eight hours during the intervening night of September 28 and 29, and injured two persons.

Also, a former militant was arrested and five improvised explosive devices including three sticky bombs had been seized.

However, the DGP said by and large things were improving with each passing day and they have tried to hit the terror ecosystem on various fronts as a result of which the security scenario is much better today than it was four years back.

"There is a drastic change in the overall security situation in J&K as born out by facts and figures and not based on mere claims...a very large number of successful operations have been conducted," he had said.

Officials said Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh visited Rajouri this morning and reviewed the security arrangements at a high-level meeting on the eve of the home minister's rally.

Officials said security has also been intensified in Jammu and the holy town of Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district.

Shah is scheduled to visit the shrine and offer his prayers on the last day of the Navratri festival on Tuesday before leaving for Rajouri to address the rally, the officials said.

They said the Home Minister is likely to meet several delegations including those from Gujjar and Bakerwal besides meeting some senior BJP leaders, shortly after his

arrival here.

He will also inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for development works in the Jammu region after returning from Rajouri.

The Home Minister is scheduled to leave for Kashmir on Tuesday evening and will address the public rally at Baramulla on Wednesday. The BJP's J-K president, Ravinder Raina, said Shah's rallies will be "historic".

"These will be the biggest rallies in the history of Rajouri-Poonch and north Kashmir," he said.

Asked whether Shah will make any announcement about assembly elections in J-K, Raina said deciding the poll schedule was the prerogative of the Election Commission of India, but the BJP was ready for elections.

"Elections will happen. ... It is the job of the ECI (to announce the poll schedule). But the BJP is ready for the polls," he said.

Shah will also inaugurate and lay the foundation of several developmental works in Srinagar besides chairing a high-level security review meeting along with Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday.

Police Issues Traffic

Baramulla on 5th of October-2022, motorists who are intending to travel from Srinagar to Baramulla and Uri and vice-versa are advised to adopt designated routes to reach their destinations on said date," reads the advisory.

According to the advisory, the traffic from Srinagar to Baramulla and Uri will pass through Pattan - Sangrama - Sopore - Fruit Mandi - Ladoora - Azad Gunj - Khanpora Bridge. Similarly, Srinagar bound vehicles will take Khanpora Bridge - Azad Gunj - Ladoora- Fruit Mandi- Sopore- Sangrama and Pattan route to reach Srinagar.

The Home Minister arrived in Jammu on Monday evening amid unprecedented security arrangements in the Union Territory. Shah is scheduled to address a public rally in Baramulla in which over 30,000 people, including senior BJP leaders of the Valley and Jammu division are expected to take part.

Several Delegations

also present during the meetings, the officials said.

A delegation of the Dogra community, led by the Jammu and Kashmir unit chief of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Ravinder Raina, and also comprising senior party leaders Ajat Shatru Singh, Devender Singh Rana and S S Slathia, among others, thanked the Centre for declaring a state holiday on the birth anniversary of the last Dogra ruler of the region, Maharaja Hari Singh, on September 23.

Yuva Rajput Sabha and Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha leaders were also part of the delegation, the officials said.

Sharing the pictures of the meeting on his Twitter handle, Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared a state holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh

SC Seeks Centre's Reply On Plea Seeking Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking Law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has sought a response of the Centre to a plea seeking framing of a comprehensive anti-trafficking law incorporating Victim Protection Protocol' for the pre and post rescue stages of rehabilitation of commercially and sexually exploited women and children.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justice J B Pardiwala took note of the submissions of lawyer Aparna Bhat, appearing for NGO Prajwala', that the top court had way back on December 9, 2015 asked the Centre to set up the Organized Crime Investigative Agency (OCIA) to effectively deal with the offence of trafficking of women and children.

Issue notice, returnable on November 01...Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General instructed by Ms. Ruchi Kohli, learned counsel, accepts notice. The response to the application be filed on or before October 31, 2022, the top court said in the order.

The NGO, in its interim plea, said a new comprehensive legislation is needed as sex trafficking is a multi-million dollar business and the traffickers are constantly evolving newer methods of perpetrating the crime.

It has sought a direction to the Centre to forthwith comply

with the directions passed by the top court in 2015 and file a complete status report.

The plea said the apex court in its order of December 9, 2015 had disposed of the 2004 PIL saying the Ministry of Home Affairs shall set up the Organized Crime Investigative Agency' (OCIA). We hope that before 30th September, 2016 OCIA shall be set up and also hope that it is made functional before 1st December, 2016 looking at the importance of the issue before us.

It said the apex court had then recorded that the Ministry of Women and Child Development, as per a policy decision, would set up a Committee under chairmanship of its Secretary for preparing a comprehensive legislation dealing with the subject of trafficking.

It said a Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill 2018, was presented and cleared in the Lok Sabha.

That for reasons best known to the Union, the Bill lapsed as it was not presented in the Rajya Sabha and the election of a new government in 2019. Despite the passage of three years after the new government has assumed office, there have been no steps to reintroduce the bill or create any infrastructure for complying with the order, it said.

complaint lodged with the court of competent jurisdiction by the public servant to whom the false complaint was made or by some other public servant to whom he is subordinate."

Also, it said, if a person making a false complaint is a public servant, departmental action may also be considered against them as an alternative to prosecution.

The government said that these instructions have been brought to notice of all administrative departments and autonomous bodies etc., public servants and general public for strict adherence.

High-Level Panel

notification of the new jail manual, two provincial-level review boards headed by DGP Prisons were empowered to remission convicts for the remission of sentence of convicts.

The convicts were released on Independence Day and Republic Day—(KNO)

SIU Raids In

"It is pertinent to mention that both the accused persons are presently detained in Central jail Kotbalwal. Searches were conducted to collect more evidence of their involvement in other terror crimes," the spokesperson said.

"Searches are aimed at dismantling the terror ecosystem in the district by identifying various over ground workers and supporters of terrorism," he added.

Another 'Journalist'

during the night after raids were conducted at a few places in the south Kashmir district, the official added.

According to the complaint, the accused ruled the victim through his WhatsApp group made for people seeking help and forced her into a sexual relationship after sedating her fraudulently.

"Srinagar police arrested a self-proclaimed journalist Nadeem Ahmed Ganie @ Nadeem Nadu, a resident of Qazibagh, Anantnag, in a rape case on a complaint received from a girl," a police spokesman had said on Saturday.

The victim has also alleged that the accused took her objectionable pictures after sedating her and used these to blackmail her into forced sexual intercourse many times.

"The accused also took her gold ornaments in the course of blackmailing her. Pertinent to mention, the lady was a student in an institution in central Kashmir at the time of the occurrence of this crime," the spokesman added.

The police registered a case under various sections including 376 IPC (rape) in Women police station Srinagar and have constituted a special investigation team to investigate the matter.

J&K Logs 11

said, eight Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—three from Jammu division and five from Kashmir Valley. There are now 114 4 active cases— 42 in Jammu and 72 in Kashmir.

Indonesia Stampede: Survivors Recall Stinging Tear Gas In Deadly Football Melee

Agencies

MALANG: Dicky Kurniawan felt the sharp sting in his eyes as Indonesian police fired tear gas into the football stadium.

From his seat near an exit, he said he watched the melee unfold Saturday night as angry fans poured into the field to demand answers after host Arema FC of East Java's Malang city lost to Persebaya Surabaya, its first defeat ever on its home turf. The mob threw bottles and other objects, and the violence spread outside the stadium, where police cars were overturned and torched.

Kurniawan, 22, was shocked when police fired tear gas at spectators in the stands. As the stinging gas spread through the stadium, Kurniawan grabbed his girlfriend and — like everyone else — dashed to the exits.

The mass rush led to a stampede that killed nearly three dozen people almost instantly. The death toll reached 125 and hundreds more were injured in one of the world's deadliest tragedies at a sporting event. More than 40,000 spectators were at the match, all Arema fans because the organizer had banned Persebaya Surabaya

supporters due to Indonesia's history of violent football rivalries.

"The chaos was on the field, but they fired the tear gas into the stadium stands," Kurniawan said as he described the tragedy from his hospital bed. He received bruises on his face but said he was fortunate to survive.

"Now I am done watching football in the stadium," Kurniawan said.

In the bed next to Kurniawan, teenager Farel Panji also had a lucky escape.

Panji, 16, had just left his seat to go to the exit when the tear gas came. As people ran past him to get to the exit, Panji said he got pushed down by the crowd and collapsed.

"I fainted for a while. When I woke up, I was still in the stadium seating area," Panji said. He got home safely and was taken to the hospital the next day. Wearing an Arema jersey, Panji said Saturday's incident did not stop him from loving the club.

Malang's Dr. Saiful Anwar General Hospital, one of several used to treat victims, was filled Sunday with grieving relatives waiting to identify bodies in the morgue or for infor-

mation about their loved ones.

Police say 323 people were injured in the crush, with some still in critical condition. At least 17 children were among the dead and seven other children are being treated at hospitals, according to the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection.

Arema's Chilean coach, Javier Roca, led the players and other officials in paying respect to the dead in a ceremony Monday.

Wearing black shirts, the team gathered at the statue of a lion head outside Kanjuruhan Stadium. Dozens of Arema supporters also attended, and started to cry when the players poured rose petals around the statue and prayed together.

"We came here as a team, asking forgiveness from the families impacted by this tragedy, those who lost their loved ones or the ones who are still being treated in the hospital," Roca said.

He said football violence must stop.

"We feel like we got a punishment," he said. "One match result is not worth paying with the lives of people, let alone more than 100 people." (AP)



JKSC To 'Tighten Noose' On Defunct Associations

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) on Monday said that it is "tightening noose over non-functional associations of J&K" to ensure interests of the players in various disciplines is not jeopardised due to defunct sports entities. Several decisions were taken to streamline the functioning of the sports associations at an emergent meeting on Monday afternoon.

Termining the decisions as significant step towards making J&K hub of sports calibre and competence, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, said that the sports activities under no circumstances shall stop as it tantamount to fiddling with the career of our youth.

He added that the defunct associations for unknown reasons have ceased to function and this shall not be tolerated any more.

It was decided in the meeting presided over by Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull, that all the sports activities under the scope of any de-registered, de-recognized as well as non-functional associations shall be brought within the ambit of flagship programme, "My Youth My Pride".

Secretary said, "Although the basic purpose of these sports associations was to identify talent and ensure its grooming besides facilitate the talented lot by way of fielding them for national and international teams but few associations have deviated from the standards and are draining their energies in matters not related to sports."

Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Joint Secretary Sports Council said that 36th national Games are being conducted in Gujarat and there are many disciplines where J&K has not sent its team because association is either suspended or not functional.

The Sports Council official said that Billiards and Snooker activities shall start soon in Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex's Sports Club as the concerned association is defunct from quite some time now. Erstwhile Kayaking, Canoeing and lawn tennis associations have been suspended for want of fresh elections. The Yogasana Association stands de-recognised by the government of India and new recognised Yogasana Sports Association shall come into being in J&K soon. Besides, the Handball Association is battling some dispute but the activities shall go ahead and players will not suffer on this account.



India Women To Open T20 WC Against Pakistan



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India will open their campaign in the 2023 women's T20 World Cup against arch-rivals Pakistan on February 12 in Cape Town, according to the fixture announced by the ICC on Monday.

India have been placed in Group 2 along with England, West Indies, Pakistan and qualifiers Ireland in the February 10-26 tournament to be held in South Africa.

India's second match will also be played in Cape Town against the West Indies on February 15 before they take on England and Ireland on February 18 and 20 in Gqeberha.

Hosts South Africa will take on Sri Lanka in the inaugural match in Cape Town. The final will be held on February 26, also in Cape

Town, with a reserve day available on the next day in case of major interruptions in play on the designated date.

Cape Town, Paarl and Gqeberha will host the matches of the tournament with the knockout matches set to be played in Cape Town. Twenty-three matches will be played in the 10-team tournament.

Bangladesh and Ireland complete the list of participating teams, joining Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies in the eighth edition of the Women's T20 World Cup.

Five-time title winners and defending champions Australia are grouped alongside their Trans-Tasmanian rivals New Zealand, hosts South Africa, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in Group 1.

India Rest Virat Kohli, KL Rahul For Final T20I Match Against South Africa

Press Trust of India

INDORE: It may be an inconsequential game on paper but Indian bowlers await another tough test against South Africa ahead of the T20 World Cup when the two teams meet in the final game of the three-match series here on Tuesday.

Having sealed their first-ever series against South Africa at home, Indian team management has decided to rest its premier batter Virat Kohli and vice-captain KL Rahul for the final game.

It is expected that standby batter Shreyas Iyer will replace Kohli for the final game in the playing XI. With Rahul also rested, either Suryakumar Yadav or Rishabh Pant will open alongside with Rohit Sharma.

With no second reserve batter in the squad, Shahbaz Ahmed or one among Mohammed Siraj or Umesh Yadav could get a look-in.

Since their early exit from the



T20 World Cup 12 months ago, the Indian batting has come a long way and looks formidable ahead of the next edition beginning later this month.

Kohli has batted a 140 plus strike rate since the Asia Cup that includes three 50s and a much-awaited hundred. Skipper Rohit has come up with impactful innings over the course

of the six games at home against Australia and South Africa.

Number four Suryakumar Yadav is in a league of his own and seems to be batting at a much higher level than his teammates, so much so that Rohit is contemplating to play him straight in the team's World Cup opener against Pakistan on October 23.

Haaland's Goal Prowess Evoking Memories Of Ronaldo, Messi



Agencies

MANCHESTER: While Erling Haaland plundered his latest hat-trick in a season that threatens to see him smash Premier League scoring records, Cristiano Ronaldo sat, glum-faced, on the sidelines.

Here was confirmation of a passing of the guard. We have entered the Haaland era, with the reigns of Ronaldo and Lionel Messi cast aside.

The Manchester City striker has the scoring power of those two greats at their height.

Haaland's three goals in a 6-3 rout of Ronaldo's Manchester United on Sunday pushed his total to 17 in 11 games for the Premier League champion — 10 if the Community Shield is discounted. It is a mark of his devastating threat.

With 14 in the league, he is on course to surpass the 23 scored by last season's joint Golden Boot winners, Mo Salah and Son Heung-Min, in just six games' time.

It all just feels too easy for the 22-year-old, who at 1.93 meters (6-foot-4) tall towers over

most rivals — and weighing in at 86.17kg (189 pounds), has the power to brush off the attentions of any center back who can get close to him.

Messi's finest campaign saw him score an incredible 73 goals in all competitions for Barcelona in 2011-12, including 50 in the Spanish league.

Ronaldo was at his most prolific in 2014-15 for Real Madrid, when he struck 61.

But Haaland is on course to threaten those figures. In the league, he is tracking at 66 goals for a 38-game campaign.

Cricket Australia Sorry For Historical Child Sex Abuse



Reuters

MELBOURNE: Australia's cricket board has apologised to survivors of child sexual abuse who were involved in the sport and called on its members to join a national redress scheme.

The apology comes weeks after jailed former cricket coach and convicted paedophile Ian King had nearly three years added to his sentence over an historical sexual offence involving a teenage boy.

Cricket Australia's chair Lachlan Henderson said historical child sex abuse was "an appalling issue" that society and many sports, including cricket, were grappling with.

"We can't change what happened but we need to do what we can to assist victims," Henderson said in a statement on

Monday.

"On behalf of CA I want to apologise to anyone who has suffered sexual abuse while involved in Australian cricket.

"While we now have a rigorous set of policies and procedures around child safety, we need to ensure we are supporting anyone who has experienced past abuse as best we can."

CA is pushing its member states and territories to sign up to a redress scheme set up by the Australian government in 2018 to compensate victims of institutional child sex abuse.

"We are encouraging all states and territories to join the National Redress Scheme (NRS) and the CA board is currently exploring other ways that Australian Cricket can further help victims of abuse," Henderson added.

Real Madrid Chief Pushes For Breakaway Super League

Reuters

MADRID: Real Madrid President Florentino Perez said European football is "sick" and that changes are needed to stop younger fans drifting away from the sport, again touting the prospect of a Super League made up of the continent's elite clubs.

Perez is one of the key architects of the European Super League, which folded less than 48 hours after it was announced last year in April due to an outcry by fans, governments and players. This led to teams like Manchester United, Liverpool, Manchester City, Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal, AC Milan, Inter Milan and Atletico Madrid pulling out, but others, like Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus still hold on.

"Our beloved sport is sick, especially in Europe and, of course, in Spain," Perez told the club's general assembly on Sunday.

"Football is losing its position as the world's leading global sport. The most worrying fact is that young people are becoming less and less interested in football. The current competitions, as designed today, do not attract spectators' interest, except in



the final stages."

The Super League sued UEFA and FIFA at a Spanish court, which sought guidance from the Luxembourg-based Court of Justice of the European Union, which will deliver its ruling next year.

Perez also pointed out how infrequently top teams in football face each other and said midweek European competition should offer fans the opportunity of matches between "the strongest teams and with the best players in the world" throughout the year.

Gandhi Look-alike As 'Asura' at Kolkata Puja Stokes Row

Press trust of India

KOLKATA: Outraged over the installation of a Mahishasur idol that resembled Mahatma Gandhi at a pandal in southwest Kolkata, people on social media sought immediate arrest of Hindu Mahasabha leaders who organised the Durga puja.

Organisers Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha, however, claimed that it was a "coincidence" that the Mahishasur idol, which had a bald head and was dressed in a white dhoti and round glasses, bore resemblance to Gandhi, but social media was not convinced.

"Immediately arrest the officials of Hindu Mahasabha for depicting Mahatma Gandhi as asura in a Durga Puja at Kolkata," tweeted one Atanu Chakravarty, tagging Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

As the photos of the Durga Puja pandal went viral on social media, the Kolkata Police told the Mahasabha to change the look of the idol and also asked journalist Indradeep Bhattacha-

liberate attempt" to demonise freedom fighters.

"Nope, this isn't coincidence. This is a deliberate attempt to change the narrative to suit the current narrative of demonising our freedom movement heroes. We have truly lost our moral compass as a nation," Chaturvedi tweeted.

One Partha Pratim Bhattacharya on Facebook urged the police to take action against the organisers of the Durga Puja as the idol "has hurt the religious sentiments of many Hindus like me".

"I don't have an inkling as to what steps the law enforcement people are taking to curb this nuisance. It's a shame for us, Indians and Bengalis is particular," Kumar Mukherjee posted on Facebook.

"It's such a disgrace to my city!" posted Dwaipayan Banerjee. According to mythology, Goddess Durga slew Mahishasur in an epic battle to end his evil reign. Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha state working president Chandrachur Goswami told PTI that the organisation

didn't want to hurt anybody's sentiments.

"The Durga idol that was worshipped here initially had a Mahishasur whose face looked similar to that of Mahatma Gandhi. The similarities are just a coincidence. After photos of it went viral, a police team visited the pandal and asked us to make changes to the face," he said.



ryya, who shared it on Twitter, to delete the photograph as it "may create tension" amid the festival.

"The Hindu Mahasabha claimed to have changed the idol on Kolkata Police's request and 'put moustache and hair' on it. What an easy solution found by KP," tweeted Ujjaini.

Priyanka Chaturvedi of Shiv Sena alleged that this was a "de-

Swedish Scientist Svante Paabo Wins Nobel Prize In Medicine



Agenceis

Swedish scientist Svante Paabo has won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discoveries "concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution", the awarding body said.

"Through his pioneering research, Svante Paabo accomplished something seemingly impossible: sequencing the genome of the Neanderthal, an extinct relative of present-day humans. He also made the sensational discovery of a previously unknown hominin, Denisova," the Nobel committee said on Monday.

The jury highlighted that Paabo, the director of the department of genetics at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, had also discovered that gene transfer had oc-

curred from these now extinct hominins to Homo sapiens following the migration out of Africa some 70,000 years ago.

"This ancient flow of genes to present-day humans has physiological relevance today, for example affecting how our immune system reacts to infections", the jury said.

Moreover, COVID-19 patients with a snippet of Neanderthal DNA run a higher risk of severe complications from the disease, Paabo reported in a 2020 study.

Commenting on the Swedish scientist's work, Juleen Zierath, from the Nobel Committee, told Al Jazeera in Stockholm: "Humankind has been interested in our origins forever, and Svante Paabo was able to solve part of that puzzle for us by sequencing the genome of some of our closest relatives – the Neanderthal

and the Denisova.

"We now understand better what makes us unique from these close relatives."

Speechless

The prize, arguably among the most prestigious in the scientific world, is awarded by the Nobel Assembly of Sweden's Karolinska Institute and is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$900,357).

Thomas Perlmann, the secretary for the Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine who called Paabo with the news of his win, said the 67-year-old was "overwhelmed" and "speechless".

"He asked if he could tell anyone and asked if he could tell his wife and I said that was OK. He was incredibly thrilled about this award," Perlmann added.

THROUGH HIS PIONEERING RESEARCH, Svante Paabo accomplished something seemingly impossible: sequencing the genome of the Neanderthal, an extinct relative of present-day humans. He also made the sensational discovery of a previously unknown hominin, Denisova."

India Shows Off First Home-Made Attack Helicopters

Agenceis

Jodhpur: The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Monday inducted the first fleet of indigenously-built Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), which has been developed primarily for mountain warfare after a requirement for it was felt during the Kargil war in 1999.

Developed by state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), the 5.8-tonne twin-engine gunship chopper is armed with air-to-air missiles, 20 mm turret guns, rocket systems and other weapons.

The fleet comprising four helicopters was inducted into the IAF at a ceremony at the Jodhpur Air Force Station in presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary and other senior military officials.

The LCH would be an effective platform in hitting enemy targets, tanks, bunkers, drones and other assets in high-altitude regions, military officials said.

In his address, Singh described the induction of the indigenously-built LCH into the IAF as a "momentous occasion" for India's defence production.

velopments.... security of the country has been our foremost priority and it will remain so," he said.

The defence minister also complimented the IAF for reposing confidence in indigenously developed platforms.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhary said the capabilities of LCH are on a par with the helicopters of its class globally.

The helicopters were given a traditional water-canon salute that followed a multi-religious prayer ceremony.

The need for developing a light combat helicopter for mountain warfare was felt during the Kargil War in 1999.

"Subsequently, the IAF and HAL began exploring the possibility of developing the platform with a capacity to carry an adequate weapon load, sufficient fuel and still be capable of operating in the higher reaches of the Himalayan ranges," said an official.

By mid-2010, the prototype of LCH completed a major flight test and it was deemed to have fulfilled the desired parameters.

In February 2020, the LCH was declared ready for production. In March, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet



"The IAF has been playing an important role in protecting India's sovereignty and I am confident that its overall capability will enhance further following induction of LCH," Singh said in his address.

"We have been focusing on boosting the country's defence production following certain de-

Committee on Security (CCS) approved the procurement of 15 indigenously developed Limited Series Production (LSP) LCH at a cost of Rs 3,887 crore.

The defence ministry had said 10 helicopters would be for the IAF and five will be for the Indian Army.

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