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Allen Institute Felicitates Top Rankers In NEET-2022

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Allen Career Institute Srinagar felicitated the top rankers in the NEET (UG)-2022 at a function attended by Director of Education Kashmir, Tasaduq Hussain Mir at SKICC Srinagar.

The function was the felicitation ceremony of Allen Sharp-2022 and cash rewards were distributed among toppers.

During the ceremony, top-rank holders of the Scholarship Examination which was conducted on July 31, 2022, and August 21, 2022, were felicitated. Cash rewards of Rs 6,27,100 and scholarships up to 90% were distributed among various rank holders of class 8th, 9th, 10 and 11th classes.

Rank 1 holders of classes 10th and 11th were presented with the highest cash rewards of Rs 51,786 each and other cash rewards were Rs 25,786, Rs 15,786 and Rs 5,786 for Ranks 2, 3, and Rank 20 respectively, a total amount of Rs 6.27 lakhs were distributed among various students of Kashmir.

It was the first kind of

ceremony which included various cultural performances by the students of Allen Srinagar which made the event exciting and different.

Allen Srinagar also felicitated around 52 school principals of various prominent Schools of Kashmir and provided them with the certificate of acknowledgement and presented token of gratitude.

Besides, the ceremony celebrated NEET(UG)-2022 Results, and felicitated its toppers. Nouman Javed Bhat with J&K(UT) Rank-4 and AIR-920 was among the students felicitated.

Amit Mohan Agarwal, Mentor, Allen Srinagar, said that in the NEET-UG results, students of Allen Srinagar had achieved records in just the second year of its establishment. Nouman Javed Bhat, a student of Allen, has secured AIR-920 and scored 679 marks out of 720. Nouman has been Allen Srinagar's classroom student for two years. Along with Nouman other students Mohammad Mohsin Sheikh with 648 Marks, Muzammil Farooq with 646 Marks and many more students achieved the milestone.

Iram Colony Residents Decry Dilapidated Roads

Agencies

Srinagar: The Residents of Sector-F Iram Lane Natipora Srinagar on Wednesday expressed serious concern over the dilapidated road conditions and accused authorities of turning a deaf ear to the "sufferings" faced by them.

The residents said that the poor road conditions have caused numerous problems for the residents which include increasing the travel time besides water logging. The locals also accused the administration of failing to macadamize this vital road. "The road is lying in shambles for a long time," they said.

The residents claimed that the locality comprises about 400 households and said that during rainy days it becomes almost impossible to even to walk on this road with the result

that students are unable to go to the schools during bad weather.

"Dilapidated roads in our area had left us in panic for a long time. The present condition of road is horrible that the passer-by's have to go through difficulties. The entire roads up to sector-E have been macadamized however only sector-F has been left at the mercy of God" said a local resident.

The residents said that a number of representations were made by them to the concerned authorities but to no avail.

"We made representation to Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation as well as other concerned authorities but nothing concrete has happened on the ground," they said and urged the authorities concerned to lay a road to alleviate sufferings facing the people.(CNS)

Indigenous Vaccines Against Sheep Diseases Inaugurated

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo on Thursday inaugurated indigenous production of vaccines for sheep diseases and embryo transfer technology at Disease Investigation Laboratory (DIL) Nowshera.

Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, Director Research SKUAST-K, Ex Director Education SKUAST-K, Heads of Departments, faculty members, senior scientists and others were also present on the occasion.

Dulloo inaugurated indigenous production of Food Rot Vaccine, Sheep Pox Vaccine and introduction of Embryo Transfer Technology in Small Ruminants.

The ACS termed the launching of vaccines and embryo transfer technology as proud moment for Sheep Husbandry Department and congratulated the faculty, scientists of the Department and SKUAST-K due to which we are able to succeed in the SKUAST-K of these vaccines and also

helped in providing technical know how in Embryo Transfer Technology.

He said these vaccines will help the sheep farmers in great extent by reducing economic losses to their livestock.

Dulloo observed that J&K is importing around 60 percent of mutton from outside and there is scope, opportunity and challenge as well for which we have to formulate certain strategy which will help pur Sheep rearers.

"We have to develop a strategy and we are working on it. We are actively working on how to reduce the mutton gap in next five years and make J&K self reliant in mutton production," he said.

He said that embryo transfer technology will prove a game changer as the population of sheep will increase and quality mutton will also be better as compared what we have today.

Also, the ACS also inspected several laboratories of DIL which include Bacteriology Lab, Viral Diagnostic Lab, Cell Culture Lab, Foot Rot and Sheep Pox Labs.



Despite Repeated Requests, Authorities Have Failed To Remove Electric Poles From The Middle Of The Road At Rainawari. KO Photo

Corrupt Employees In SMC Being Shown Door: Commissioner

Agencies

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has started the process of removing employees allegedly involved in malpractices and corruption.

Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Athar Aamir Khan said that they have started the process of removing 'corrupt' employees and action has already been taken against 35 employees.

"We recently started the process of removing 4 permanent employees among which one has been forcefully retired," the Commissioner said adding that they have completed regular departmental enquires and initiated action against 52 employees for their involvement in 'corruption.'

"There was a clear-cut policy from day one that any kind of corruption and dereliction of duties won't be tolerated. Action is not being taken against lower rung



We recently started the process of removing 4 permanent employees among which one has been forcefully retired

employees only but these include senior officials, ward officers, and building inspectors as well," Athar Aamir Khan said.

He said it is a continuous process and they have been taking action from day one. "If there is any delinquency from any official, immediate action is taken," he said adding that at the same time bona fide employees are always encouraged.

"If somebody will pressurize our bona fide employees, malign their image, we won't tolerate that and will file cases against those elements," Khan said.

Meanwhile, Srinagar Mayor, Junaid Azim Mattu in a tweet informed that: the process to clean the SMC of corrupt elements has been formally started this morning. There will be absolutely no sympathy for those who have indulged in brazen corruption. This is a strong and welcome step to take the ongoing investigation to its logical conclusion." (KNT)

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HIGHWAY STATUS
Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Open)
Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:06
ZUHR	12:19
ASR	4:29
Magrib	6:12
ISHA	7: 31

HIJRI CALENDAR
10 Rabi ul Awwal
1444

This Day In History

- 1929 - Ramsay MacDonald is first British Prime Minister to address US Congress
- 1940 - World War II: the McCollum memo proposes bringing the U.S. into the war in Europe by provoking the Japanese to attack the United States.
- 1941 - German army occupies Viarna, USSR
- 1942 - US & UK government announce establishment of United Nations
- 1954 - Hassan el Hodeiby, leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, arrested in Egypt.
- 1971 - Northern Ireland Prime Minister Brian Faulkner meets with British Prime Minister Edward Heath; they agree to send an additional 1,500 British Army troops to Northern Ireland.
- Event of interestEvent of Interest
- 1976 - Hua Guofeng succeeds Mao as Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China
- 1977 - USSR adoption of the Fourth Soviet Constitution.
- 1981 - Hosni Mubarak becomes acting-president of Egypt
- 1986 - First edition of new British newspaper "Independent" published
- 1988 - Latvian flag raised in Riga for first time since annexation by USSR

From KO Archives

Top Ikhwan With Family Eliminated

Tral Mine Blast Leaves 12 Dead

Observer News Service

Srinagar-Ghulam Nabi Jan alias Nabjan a top counter insurgent of affiliated to Ikhwan group, operating in Tral area - and eleven others, including five children and three women, most of them his relatives, died in a massive land mine explosion near Tral this afternoon.

The explosion, which was heard in the three kilometers radius area from the site of occurrence, police said, was carried out by suspected separatist militants. No militant group has owned the responsibility so far.

As per the preliminary details that reached the police control room here this evening, Jan and his family were headed to Tral town in an ambassador taxi, when suspected militants exploded a land mine near Bajwani, Kahila at exact 2-30 p.m. this afternoon, destroying the car completely.

All aboard were killed on spot. Police had difficult time in identifying the dead, which included four children and three women --- all relatives of Ghulam Nabi Jan. The ambassador taxi, police sources said, was blown into smithereens.

Among the dead is Jan's wife Fatima Begum, their eight-month old daughter, Rukaiya, Jan's brother-in-law, Showket Najar, and a close relative Shakeela wife of Hus-sain Jan. Besides Jan's relatives the driver of the car, Ri-yaz Ahmed of Noorpora, Tral and Jan's PSO, Mohammad Yaqoob of 3rd battalion J K police, were killed.

The incident occurred near a bridge at Bajwani when Jan and his relatives were heading to Tral town from Machama village, Jan's ancestral village, where he had gone after a long time. The incident spread panic in the village as the explosion was massive and shook Bajwani and its adjoining localities.

Senior police and security Officers rushed to the spot to take stock of the situation and talk to the witnesses. Troops sealed off Bajwani and few other quarters to trace out the militants suspected of carrying out the attack.

This is the third major strike against Ikhwanis by suspected separatist militants in the past four months.

In June this year entire top brass of JK Ikhwan was eliminated in a similar land mine explosion at Sumbhal. The explosion that was carried out in Ikhwan stronghold of Sumbhal left five top Ikhwan commanders dead, including its chief commander.

Five Ikhwanis were killed in Rafiabab last month at the residence of an Ikhwan.

(Kashmir Observer, October 07, 1998)

Climate Change Made 2022 Drought "20 Times More Likely": Report

Agenceis

Paris: Human-caused climate change made this summer's drought across the Northern Hemisphere at least 20 times more likely, according to a rapid analysis released Wednesday that warns such extreme dry periods will become increasingly common with global heating.

The three months from June-August were the hottest in Europe since records began, and the exceptionally high temperatures led to the worst drought the continent has witnessed since the Middle Ages.

Crops withered in European breadbaskets, as the historic dry spell drove record wildfire intensity and placed severe pressure on the continent's power grid.

Successive heatwaves between June and July, which saw temperatures top 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in Britain for the first time, saw some 24,000 excess deaths in Europe.

China and North America also experienced unusually high temperatures and exceptionally low rainfall over the period.

An international team of climate scientists have determined the warming caused by human activity made such extreme weather significantly more likely than it would have been at the dawn of the industrial age.

The World Weather Attribution service calculated that the agricultural and ecological drought over the Northern Hemisphere was at least 20 times likelier thanks to global heating.

"The 2022 summer has shown how human-induced climate change is increasing the risks of agricultural and ecological droughts in densely populated and cultivated regions of the North Hemisphere," said Sonia Seneviratne, a professor at the Institute for Atmospheric and Climate Science at ETH Zurich in Switzerland and one of the study contributors.

- 'Faster than expected' -

To quantify the effect of human-caused climate change on soil moisture levels, the team analysed weather data and computer simulations to compare the real climate as it is today -- that is, some 1.2C hotter than pre-industrial levels -- with a climate absent of any human-induced heating.

They found that western and central Europe experienced particularly severe drought and substantially reduced crop yields.

Moisture in the top 7cm of soil across the Northern Hemisphere was made five times likelier to experience severe drought due to climate change, the study found.



Bodies Of Kidnapped Punjab-Origin Sikh Family Found In California

Agenceis

A Punjab-origin Sikh family of four, including an eight-month-old child, who were kidnapped from Merced County in California, was found dead, authorities said on Thursday.

"It's horribly, horribly senseless," Merced County Sheriff Vern Warnke said. "We found the four people from the kidnapping and they are in fact deceased."

He said the man in custody was convicted in 2005 in a case involving armed robbery and false imprisonment. The man was paroled in 2015 and knew the victims.

The victim family, from Hoshiarpur in Punjab, was kidnapped on October 3.

Earlier, Merced County Sheriff's Office in a statement said 36-year-old Jasdeep Singh, 27-year-old Jasleen Kaur, their eight-month-old child and 39-year-old Amandeep Singh were taken against their will from a business.

Merced County Sheriff's Office in a statement on October 4 said the detectives received information that one of the victim's ATM cards was used at an ATM located at a bank in the City of Atwater.

"Investigators obtained the surveillance photo of a subject making a bank transaction where the person is similar in appearance to the original kidnapping scene."

"At approximately noon, working in conjunction with our local law enforcement partners, the Sheriff's Office received information that identified Jesus Manuel Salgado (48-years-old) as a person of interest in this investigation."

"Prior to law enforcement involvement, Salgado attempted to take his own life. Salgado is in our custody, currently receiving medical attention and in critical condition."

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Pak Govt Issues Nationwide Alert Amid Heightened Risk Of Terror Attacks By TTP



Agenceis

Islamabad: The Pakistan government has issued a nationwide alert to authorities to maintain "extreme vigilance" amid a heightened risk of terrorist attacks by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) after peace talks with the dreaded terror group have stalled, a media report said on Thursday.

The federal government said it had learnt that the TTP high command met recently in Paktika, Afghanistan, to discuss the deadlock in peace talks and the fate of the negotiations with the Pakistani government after the killing of TTP commanders Omar Khalid Khorasani and Aftab Parkay.

The letter urged all authorities in four provinces to heighten security and exercise enhanced vigilance to avoid any untoward incident, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement, instructing forces that targeted search and strike missions be carried out wherever militant activity is reported.

In a letter circulated last month, the Ministry of Interior warned that more than year-long peace negotiations between the TTP and the government of Pakistan "had come to a standstill", which has led to unease within

the TTP's ranks, the Dawn newspaper reported.

It noted that the TTP accuses the Pakistani government of failing to fulfil its main demand -- the reversal of the merger of former Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa -- as well as continuing to detain TTP members while a truce was still being negotiated.

The letter was addressed to the home and chief secretaries of the four provinces as well as the Islamabad chief commissioner, the report said.

The ministry warned that the terror group or its splinter factions might also seek to escalate terrorist activities in the coming days to avenge the killing of their commanders and to show strength in case there is no further progress in peace negotiations.

The notice said the TTP top brass, fearing a complete breakdown of the talks, decided to move their families to secure places as they feared Pakistani security forces would launch a kinetic operation in case of failure of talks.

Some of the militants' families may be moved to Karachi and its adjoining areas, the notice warned.

The interior ministry also took grave notice of reports that TTP

militants are attempting to migrate to North and South Waziristan from Afghanistan to set up camp for future attacks. It described reports of the arrival of TTP militants in areas neighbouring the Pak-Afghan border as well as deeper within Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as "a worrisome phenomenon".

It said that known militant commanders based in Waziristan -- Abu Yaha, Molvi Munawar and Maatob Ali Jan alias Sailab -- have been in contact with the TTP high command in Afghanistan for further directions regarding moving to the area to intensify terrorist activities.

The government also highlighted the risk of TTP sub-groups defecting to the militant Islamic State (ISKP) or joining hands with the Hafiz Gul Bahadur group to resume terrorist activities.

The interior ministry said targeted strike operations might be launched in areas where militants' presence is reported and that law enforcement officials should ensure heightened security measures in their respective jurisdictions to avoid any untoward incident, according to the Dawn report.

Pakistan last year launched talks with TTP with the facilitation of an interim Afghan government but no headway has been made.

Sharif Govt To Call Out Army If Imran Khan Calls For Islamabad March

Agenceis

Islamabad: After Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry claimed all the arrangements for his party's long march to Islamabad were in their final stages, the Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government decided to call out army and deploy troops in the capital city if PTI chief Imran Khan gave a call for the march.

According to Dawn newspaper, the decision was taken on Tuesday at a meeting, chaired by Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah.

Citing official sources, the publication reported that the Pakistan Army would be deployed in the capital city's Red Zone to stop the entry of protestors.

Pakistan Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that the cabinet had decided it would not allow PTI to enter Islamabad under any circumstances.

Earlier, PTI Chairman Imran Khan directed party workers to get ready for the 'Haqeeqi Azadi March' in Islamabad and asked his party's leaders and workers to take an oath that they will participate in the long march considering it a jihad for the country.

In the meeting, the members were briefed that around 20,000 people were expected to participate in the long march. The top security huddle decided to engage the Sindh Police, Rangers and FC to ensure law and order in the federal capital during the long march.



The Pakistan Army, under Article 245 of the Constitution, will secure public buildings and the Diplomatic Enclave in the Red Zone.

In the meeting, the members decided to impose a complete ban on carrying weapons. It was also decided that action would be taken against the federal employees who planned to support the PTI's long march, reported Geo News.

Earlier, on Monday, during a party meeting held at his Bani Gala residence in the federal capital, Imran Khan urged party workers from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab province to get all preparations ready for the decisive round of anti-government protests, The Express Tribune reported.

"This time freedom march will be carried out with full preparation," the former PM said as quoted by the publication.

The ousted prime minister claimed that there is only one way for Pakistan to come out of the prevailing situation and that is to ensure fresh general elections in the country.

17 Migrants Dead After Ship Capsizes Off Greece Coast



Agenceis

Athens: At least 16 women migrants and one boy died when their vessel sank off the Greek island of Lesbos early on Thursday, in the second maritime disaster involving refugees in the Aegean Sea in under a day, the country's coastguard said.

The sunken boat was carrying about 40 people, the coastguard said, citing people who had been rescued so far. There were 17 bodies recovered, a coast guard official said. Ten women were rescued and around a dozen people were presumed missing.

The boat sank east of Lesbos, which lies close to Turkey's coast. Greek Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi tweeted a call for Turkey to take "immediate action to prevent all irregular departures due to harsh weather conditions."

"Already today many lives lost in the Aegean, people are drowning in unseaworthy vessels. EU must act," he wrote.

In the earlier incident, Greek authorities rescued 80 migrants - among them 18 minors - whose boat sank after hitting a rocky area in stormy waters near the island of Kythira in southern Greece on Wednesday.

According to those rescued, 15

were still missing and a search and rescue operation was being conducted along the wider coast of Lesbos for migrants who may have made it to shore. Three were found trapped in a remote area.

"Strong winds blowing in the area are making our work difficult," coast guard spokesman Nikos Kokkalas told state TV ERT.

Greece was at the front line of a European migration crisis in 2015 and 2016, when around a million refugees fleeing war and poverty in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan arrived in the country, mainly via Turkey.

The number of arrivals has fallen sharply since then. But Greek authorities say they have recently seen a sharp increase in attempted entries through the country's islands and land border with Turkey. On Thursday, Shipping Minister Plakiotakis accused Turkey of not preventing human traffickers from exploiting migrants and urged it to respect a 2016 deal with the European Union to keep refugees and migrants away from Europe.

"As long as the Turkish coast guard does not prevent their actions, traffickers will pile unfortunate people, without safety measures, into boats that cannot withstand the weather conditions," he said.

Former Cop Kills 38, Including 22 Children, At Daycare Centre In Thailand

Agenceis

Bangkok: A former policeman killed 38 people, including 22 children, in a knife and gun rampage at a daycare centre in Thailand on Thursday, later shooting dead his wife and child at their home before turning his weapon on himself, police said.

The children at the daycare centre in Uthai Sawan, a town 500 km northeast of Bangkok, were mostly stabbed to death, they said.

Police identified the attacker as a former member of the force who was dismissed from his post last year over drug allegations and he was facing trial on a drugs charge.

The man had been in court earlier in the day and had then gone to the daycare centre to collect his child, police spokesperson Paisal Luesomboon told broadcaster ThaiPBS.

When he did not find his child there, he began the killing spree, Paisal said. "He started shooting, slashing, killing children at the Utai Sawan daycare centre," Paisal said.

Videos posted on social media showed sheets covering what appeared to be the bodies of children lying in pools of blood in the garden of the daycare centre.



Reuters could not immediately authenticate the footage.

About 30 children were at the facility when the attacker arrived, fewer than usual, as heavy rain had kept many people away, district official Jidapa Boonsom, who was working in a nearby office at the time.

"The shooter came in around lunch time and shot four or five officials at the childcare centre first," Jidapa told Reuters.

At first people thought the shots were fireworks, she said. "It's really shocking. We were

very scared and running to hide once we knew it was shooting. So many children got killed. I've never seen anything like it."

The attacker forced his way into a locked room where the children were sleeping, Jidapa said. She said she thought he killed children there with a knife, adding that a teacher who was eight months pregnant was also stabbed to death.

Drugs charge

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha, in a statement on Facebook, called the shooting a "shocking incident".

NEWS MAKERS

Of Mothers And Sons: Sonia, Rahul Bond Captured On Camera

Agenceis

Pandavapura: The son bending to tie his mother's shoelaces and every now and then putting a protective arm around her as they walked... those were the vignettes captured on camera and in the memories of many Congress workers as party chief Sonia Gandhi joined Rahul and others for the Bharat Jodo Yatra on Thursday.

Amid cheers and slogan-shouting by party workers, Sonia Gandhi walked besides her son Rahul Gandhi and other leaders for a few kilometres in Karnataka's Mandya district. And there were several Kodak moments.

"We have weathered many a storm and will overcome all challenges. Together we will unite India," Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi and posted a photograph



of him walking with his mother, his arm around her. The Congress also posted a picture of mother and son.

"Those shielded by love fear

nothing! On the road, marching ahead," it said on Twitter.

Another post from the party simply said "Ma" with a heart and the

photograph of Rahul Gandhi tying Sonia Gandhi's shoelaces. The picture prompted Congress leader Shashi Tharoor to put out a post in Hindi, which said, "There are blessings even when she breathes, no one can replace a mother as mothers are mothers."

Sonia Gandhi, 75, joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra on the 27th day here and walked for around half an hour. She was scheduled to walk for a short distance but went on for longer and refused to turn back.

At one point, the Congress president was seen walking with a small child who held on to Rahul Gandhi's hand. At another, a young girl, her hair braided with flowers, crossed a rope barricade to meet the two Congress leaders.

Sonia Gandhi was supposed to be at the yatra for just half an hour but stayed on for few hours and left for Delhi in the evening.

Even My Wife Doesn't Scold Me As Much As L-G Soes: Kejriwal

Agenceis

New Delhi: With his government at loggerheads with Delhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena over multiple issues, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said even his wife does not "scold" him as much as the LG.

The AAP supremo, tongue firmly in cheek, said in a tweet he has not received as many "love letters" from his wife "in the entire life" as he has from the LG in just six months.

"LG sahib, chill a bit!" Kejriwal said in his tweet in Hindi. "And ask your super boss also to chill a bit."

Kejriwal's remarks came days after Saxena in a letter accused the chief minister and his min-



isterial colleagues of showing "utter disregard" towards the commemoration of the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri by not attending events at Raj Ghat and Vijay Ghat. Saxena had termed their absence "unacceptable" and "appalling", saying such events call for

"commemoration of much beyond the issuing of symbolic advertisements in newspapers that your government very promptly did".

Last week, Saxena had written to Kejriwal to expedite permissions for felling of trees, citing the delay in infrastructure projects.

"Even my wife does not scold me as much as the LG sahib. My wife has not written me as many love letters in the entire life as LG sahib has in the past six months," he said in the tweet in Hindi.

After Saxena took over as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi in May, he has ordered probes into a host of initiatives of the Kejriwal government including the now withdrawn excise policy, construction of classrooms, and hospitals.

Azad's Party Begins Process To Set Up Zonal, District Committees

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Democratic Azad Party (DAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad has formed various teams for submitting proposals for constituting zonal and district committees of the party ahead of the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

The six panels having senior leaders as members were asked to complete the exercise of their respective zones within 10 days and submit the recommendations of the proposed zonal and district committees by October 18, a party leader said on Thursday.

The former chief minister's decision to select zonal and district committees of his newly floated party came at a time when Home Minister Amit Shah assured the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the Assembly elections would be held after the completion of the ongoing exercise of electoral rolls.

Azad announced the formation of three teams each for Jammu and Kashmir divisions to cover all the 20 districts.

"Once our zonal and district committees are constituted, zonal and district office bearers will be asked to go to the block and panchayat level to constitute the block committees and panchayat committees," he said.

An 11-member Central zone Jammu headed by former deputy chief minister Tara Chand will

cover Jammu (urban and rural), Kathua, Samba and Udhampur districts, nine-member Chenab valley zone under the leadership of G M Saroori will cover Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar and Reasi districts and six-member Pir Panjal Zone headed by Ashok Sharma will cover Rajouri and Poonch districts in Jammu province, the party leader said quoting a communication from Azad.

In Kashmir valley, Taj Mohi-uddin led north Kashmir Zone will cover Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts, Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed-led south Kashmir zone will cover Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian districts, while the members of central Kashmir zone comprising Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal districts are being finalised.

On criteria for the selection of president and office bearers of the zonal committees and district committees, the leader said Azad had made it clear that each office bearer, particularly the president of the zone and district, should be able to dedicate minimum 20 days per month for the party, especially till the elections are over.

"The office bearers, particularly the presidents of zonal and district committees, must have their own transport to visit their respective areas. The president and office bearers should be educated enough to receive and pass on messages in English, Hindi and Urdu," he said quoting the guidelines issued by Azad.

Elementary Class Examination Likely In March

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The prolonged uncertainty on whether elementary class examinations will be held in March next year or as per previous routine is expected to end in the next couple of days, officials said on Thursday.

Director School Education Kashmir Dr Tassaduq Hussain said that the decision will be announced within two days.

"We have sent a proposal for the T-2 examinations to be conducted in March and most probably the examination will be held in March and final decision will be within two days or this week."

Official sources told a local news agency GNS that the government was likely to conduct the examinations in the ensuing March session.

On early September this year, the authorities announced that the Classes 10 and 12 board examinations conducted by the J&K Board of School Education (JKBOSE) in Kashmir from this academic session will now be conducted along with the Jammu division in March instead of October-November to have a "uniform academic calendar." However there remains uncertainty on whether the elementary class examinations will be held in March or as per the past practice.

Hussain also said that authorities are hoping to keep schools open till the end of December in Kashmir Valley if the weather permits.

"Winter vacation will depend on weather conditions. If weather conditions permit, we will continue up to December end," he said.

HIGHWAY HICCUPS

Govt Directs Construction Firms To Ensure Hassle-Free Traffic

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A senior government official has directed construction companies engaged in widening the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway to deploy adequate manpower and machinery at all vulnerable sliding zones to immediately clear debris and maintain hassle-free traffic.

Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar passed the directions while inspecting progress of the four-laning work on Wednesday, an official said on Thursday.

Widening of the strategic highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of India, started in 2011. The work is likely to be completed by next year after missing several deadlines.

Kumar also directed the traffic police department to regulate vehicular movement and



facilitate smooth passage of fruit-carrying vehicles from Kashmir to markets outside.

The official said Kumar visited several vulnerable spots and directed the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to expedite road clearance works to facilitate smooth traffic movement.

He also directed the NHAI to expedite the pace of work and ensure macadamization of the highway to ensure traffic was not disrupted.

Ramban Deputy Commissioner Mussarat Islam apprised the Kumar about progress of the four-laning work, including the Nashri-Ramban and Ramban-Banihal sections.

Shah's Baramulla Rally Reflects Changing Situation In Valley: BJP

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: With the Election Commission preparing the groundwork for assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, senior BJP leaders Thursday said the large turnout at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's public meeting in Baramulla was indicative of changing situation in the Valley.

With the home minister ruling out any talks with Pakistan, BJP leaders said they will have no truck with any party that advocates dialogue with the neighbouring country or has any links with the Jamaat-e-Islami, which has been banned, or the Hurriyat Conference, a separatist outfit.

"We will have no political association with any such party," a senior party leader said in an interaction with reporters when asked about the BJP's strategy in the Union territory.

The Valley's two main political parties, the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, have often spoken in favour of a dialogue with Pakistan for restoring peace in the

militancy-hit Union territory.

"Why should we speak to Pakistan which has promoted terrorism in our land for bringing peace in a part of our country? In fact, the suggestion that India should speak to Pakistan for ending terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir is an acknowledgement that the country is behind it," a leader said. "Out government is working to root out militants," he asserted.

BJP sources also discounted the possibility of having any alliance with the Democratic Azad Party, which was recently launched by Ghulam Nabi Azad after he quit the Congress. The BJP is confident of doing well in the polls whenever they are held, they said.

A top party leader claimed it was well after three decades that a senior Union cabinet minister has addressed a rally in Baramulla, a north Kashmir district once considered a hotbed of militancy, and said the Centre's welfare measures like free cooking gas connection and healthcare under 'Ayushman Bharat' enjoy a lot of traction on the ground.

Shah's rallies in Jammu divi-

sion's Rajouri on Tuesday and in Baramulla on Wednesday have boosted the party's morale as it prepares for the polls, which is likely to be announced by the Election Commission after its exercise to prepare the electoral rolls is over.

Rejecting any dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir, Shah on Wednesday said his government was more interested in talking to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and assured them that the assembly polls will be held with "full transparency".

At his first public rally in the Valley after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, Shah, in his 27-minute speech at Showkat Ali stadium in Baramulla district, trained his guns at leaders from opposition parties NC, PDP and Congress with frequent references to the "three families", "Mufti and company" and "Abdullah and sons".

"Those people who ruled here for 70 years advise me to talk to Pakistan. I have a clear intention that I don't want to talk to Pakistan, but I want to talk to my Gujjar, Pahari and Bakerwal brothers of Baramulla," he said.

TASTE OF KASHMIR

Two-Day Festival Brings Valley Cuisine, Culture To Delhi

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Mouth-watering Kashmiri delicacies, authentic hand-made shawls, and artefacts reflecting the Valley culture will be the centrepiece of the two-day Haruduk Mela', being held here from Friday.

The fair is being organised by the Kashmir Education Cultural Science Society (KECSS).

The rich Kashmiri cultural heritage, replete with its delicious food, handicrafts, heart throbbing music, and its famous hospitality will be on display during this fest.

The festival will be open to the public from 4 pm to 10 pm at the grounds of B-36 Pamposh Enclave in Greater Kailash 1.

"We have very prominent stall partners like Ahad Sons, who will be taking care of authentic Kashmiri cuisine, well-

known Kanwal Foods who are in the business since 1971, and many more such partners in the sphere of spices, food, handicrafts, artifacts, shawls, Kashmiri clothing, and carpets as well," said Savita Koul Shali, spokesperson of KECSS.

"We also have a dedicated 'Fun Zone' for our younger generations," Shali said.

Sharing details of the festival, Kapil Koul, chief coordinator for the event from KECSS, said cultural programmes have been designed to keep the interest of the masses.

The first day of the event will be a 'Kashmiri-Bollywood night' consisting of live songs and dance performances while the second day will come alive with Kashmiri folk songs and dance.

"KECSS invites everyone to enjoy the fest and there is free entry," he said

Govt Forms Panel On Modernization Plan Of J&K Police

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government on Thursday formed a committee for deliberating upon the modernization plan of Jammu and Kashmir police.

The committee headed by the Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Home department has been formed under the Scheme Assistance to State/UTs and for approving the same for submission to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, according to a government order.

The members of the committee includes Administrative Secretary Finance department, Director General of Police J&K, Special Director General of police Crime Branch J&K, Additional DGP Headquarters and Administrative Secretary Planning, Development and Monitoring Department. (GNS)

Accidental Fire Kills Soldier In Baramulla

SRINAGAR: An Army trooper was killed after his service rifle went off accidentally in Rafiabad area of Baramulla district in north Kashmir on Thursday. Official sources said that the army soldier identified as Chandar Mohan (28) died on the spot.

The soldier's body was taken for autopsy and has been handed over to Army after medico-legal formalities were completed, a police official told a local news agency GNS.

J&K Logs 5 Corona Cases

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported five fresh covid-19 cases even as there was no death due to the virus during the last 24 hours, officials said on Thursday. They said all the cases were reported from Kashmir Valley and none from Jammu region for the second day in running, taking the overall tally to 479197. Among the cases, 173998 are from Jammu division and 305199 from Kashmir Valley.

Giving district wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 1, Budgam 2, 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.

J&K Yateem Foundation Holds 3 Day Volunteers' Capacity Building Programme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to sensitise inculcate understanding about basic tenets of social service and build comprehensive capacity among volunteers, the J&K Yateem Foundation conducted three day Capacity Building Programme at its orphanage BAITUL HILAL at Chawalgam in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

The three day volunteers' workshop was part of JKYP's continuing efforts to sensitise the volunteers on ground about various issues & challenges related to voluntary social service in Jammu & Kashmir.

Speakers urged the volunteers to adopt innovative and modern methodologies in the field of social service to meet the latest challenges in the field.

Describing humility, sincerity, wisdom & selflessness as the basic tenets to serve humanity, the speakers enjoined upon the volunteers to learn and equip themselves with the knowledge, methodologies and technologies to cope up with the emerging contemporary challenges, issues and problems in the social service sector.

Addressing the gathering of about 150 senior volunteers from various parts of J&K including far flung & hilly districts like Poonch & Rajouri, the speakers appreciated the sincere spirit of volunteers to expend time, energy and own resources to join hands and hands for creating enabling environment for ensuring tangible socio economic development to economically weaker sections.

Speakers urged the participants to be pro-active in building their capacities as volunteers to help poorest among the poor and needy in a coordinated profes-



sional manner.

Noted columnist and author Dr Maroof Shah in his speech while quoting the examples of Sufi Saints stressed upon the volunteers to serve the society while following the Khankah model. He enjoined upon JKYP to establish residential quarters in Srinagar for the students and the patients coming from far flung areas so that they don't suffer on this account.

Earlier, Programme Executive Trainings and Guidance Mehmoor ur Reyaz in his welcome address asked volunteers to follow the organizational discipline in letter and spirit in their day to day activities.

Noted Islamic Scholar Showkat Shaheen while speaking on the theme "Life of prophet (PBUH) before the prophethood stressed upon the volunteers to learn from examples set by the Prophet while taking care of the down-trodden sections of the society.

Educationalist Bashir Talib while speaking on "Role of volunteers in social service" advised the management of JKYP to provide quality education to the orphan students by taking advantage of the latest educational tools and technologies.

Ex income tax officer Mr Shabir

Ahmad Handoo while giving details of the existing government schemes advised the Humanitarian Aid Organizations to avail the benefits of these schemes and strictly abide by the laws governing these organisations.

Speaking about the "Role of Social Media In Social Service Sector" PE press and PR Division emphasized the importance of social media in disseminating the message of social service work among cross sections of people. He urged the volunteers to share positive and informative content on social media platforms for the information and education about moral value system for benefit of the society.

Feroz Ahmad, CEO, Human Welfare Voluntary Organisation (HWVO), spoke on "Alternative Care for Children In Need And Role of Volunteers" laid stress on skill based education through alternative care.

Dr Sheikh Aariz, Physiotherapist, spoke on the theme "First Aid Training", shared relevant tips to deal with any emergency while undertaking social service activities particularly during disaster management activities.

District Representative Pulwama, Mohammad Amin Bhat in

his speech shared some painful incidents of disrespectful treatment meted out to deprived sections of our society. He stressed the need to tackle the issues of deserving people with utmost care keeping in view their psychological state of mind.

Secretary Finance JKYP Mohammad Ishaq Sheikh presented the detailed about the work, aims and objectives of the organisation since the inception of the organisation.

Senior volunteer Nissar ul Haq spoke on the theme "Mercy for all". While invoking holy Quran and the sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), he enjoined upon the volunteers to treat parents, spouses, relatives and the destitute with empathy and love to earn the pleasure & blessings of Almighty Allah (SWT) in this life and the Hereafter.

Social activist Javaid Ahmad Najar spoke on the theme "Need of Professionalism in social service". He enumerated 5 principles to be followed while dealing with the deserving families and individuals. He advised volunteers to work with humility and refrain from taking any kind of advantage directly or indirectly from the work related to beneficiaries.

Educationalist Shafeeq Khaki spoke about "Responsibilities towards the other creatures". Quoting Galib, Iqbal, Mir Dard and Sheikh Noordin Wali (R A), he underscored the need to provide a helping hand to every needy human being.

Ex ADDC Shiekh Ab Hamid (KAS) applauded the teachers and the management of Baitul Hilal Chawalgam for providing quality education to the students at Al Hilal Educational Institute Chawalgam KULGAM.

Allen Career Institute Srinagar Conducts "Grand Felicitation Ceremony Of Allensharp-2022



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Allen Career Institute Srinagar felicitated the top rankers in the NEET (UG)-2022 at an impressive function that the Director of Education Kashmir, Tasaduq Hussain Mir.

The cultural event was organised at SKICC Srinagar.

The function was the felicitation ceremony of Allen Sharp -2022 by distributing cash rewards.

During the ceremony, top-rank holders of the Scholarship Examination which was conducted on July 31, 2022, and August 21, 2022, were felicitated. Cash rewards of Rs 6,27,100 (Six Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand One Hundred) and scholarships up to 90% were distributed among various rank holders of class 8th, 9th, 10 and 11th classes.

Rank 1 holders of classes 10th

and 11th were presented with the highest cash rewards of Rs 51,786 each and other cash rewards were Rs 25,786, Rs 15,786 and Rs 5,786 for Ranks 2, 3, and Rank 20 respectively, a total amount of Rs 6.27 lakhs were distributed among various students of Kashmir.

The ceremony also included various event performances by the students of Allen Srinagar which made the event exciting and different. It was the first such kind of ceremony to be conducted with such a kind of zeal and enthusiasm.

Allen Srinagar also felicitated around 52 school principals of various prominent Schools of Kashmir and provided them with the certificate of acknowledgement and presented token of gratitude.

Besides, the ceremony celebrated NEET(UG)-2022 Results,

and felicitated its toppers, Nouman Javed Bhat with J&K(UT) Rank-4 and AIR-920 was among the students felicitated.

Students of Allen Career Institute have once again proved their excellence in NEET-UG 2022, the country's most prominent medical entrance exam. Amit Mohan Agarwal, Mentor, Allen Srinagar, said that in the NEET-UG results, students of Allen Srinagar had achieved records in just the second year of its establishment. Nouman Javed Bhat, a student of Allen, has secured AIR-920 and scored 679 marks out of 720. Nouman has been Allen Srinagar's classroom student for two years. Along with Nouman other students Mohammad Mohsin Sheikh with 648 Marks, Muzammil Farooq with 646 Marks and many more students achieved the milestone.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

End Of Dialogue?

With union home minister Amit Shah making it clear that India will hold no talks with Pakistan during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir, the chances of any re-engagement between the two neighbours in the near future look very bleak. This is the second time that the home minister has rejected dialogue with Pakistan over the last year - earlier he had ruled out any such possibility during his visit to the union territory in October 2021. The statement once again confirms that India has taken Kashmir off the table in any future engagement with Pakistan. The removal of Article 370 in August 2019 and the subsequent measures have fundamentally altered the ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir in most of its aspects, changing the complexion of the Kashmir issue as it existed before. The home minister's rally in Baramulla which was attended by a large gathering of people was a testament to this reality. Addressing the rally, Shah said the union government would rather talk to Gujjars, Bakerwals, Paharis and the youth of Kashmir than Pakistan.

Does this mean the end of future dialogue with Pakistan? Not necessarily. In fact, the two countries had engaged informally months after the revocation of Article 370. The back-channel talks were reported to have begun towards November 2020 and by February 2021, the two countries had reinstated the otherwise defunct 2003 ceasefire along the Line of Control. The truce was marked by a brief spell of bonhomie between. Both the then Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan and the Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa called for dialogue and resolving Kashmir in a peaceful manner. Bajwa even said that it was time for the two countries to "bury the past," and move on. India, however, remained cool to these overtures. On a positive note, the LoC truce has since lingered. The dialogue has not materialized though.

Shahbaz Sharif led coalition government in Pakistan which took over after the ouster of Imran Khan has also made no outreach to New Delhi as was expected. And expectedly so. Pakistan is so much hemmed in by internal turmoil and the economic problems that it is unlikely that Sharif would find time or in his interest to seek to rebuild the relationship with India. So, there is apparently not much in store on this front. The new government in Pakistan has just sixteen months before the national elections are called in the country. That is if no early elections are held. Similarly, in India, fresh general elections are due in one and a half years. So, there is no chance of a bilateral dialogue unless both countries see it in their interest to resume it, which looks unlikely.

OTHER OPINION

Neutrality and Abstention

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's telephone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday was a significant marker in the continuing war in Ukraine. While Mr. Modi has often spoken with Russian President Vladimir Putin and also met him last month, his conversations with Mr. Zelenskyy thus far were restricted to the period when the Government was involved in the evacuation of about 20,000 Indian students. The phone call came a few weeks after the Putin meeting, and Mr. Zelenskyy joined western leaders in complimenting Mr. Modi for his "now is not the time for war" comment. In turn, Mr. Modi told Mr. Zelenskyy that there is no military solution to the conflict. They also spoke a week after India chose to abstain from voting against Russia for conducting referendums and annexing Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, although neither leader referred to it. They also discussed the critical importance of nuclear safety, particularly the Zaporizhzhia plant, that has been of much concern for the IAEA, which is involved in brokering talks between Ukraine and Russia to enforce a nuclear protective zone around it. The plant, under Russian control, and in Oblast province where Mr. Putin recently declared "annexation", is near the scene of fighting. The MEA said that Mr. Modi "underlined that endangerment of nuclear facilities could have... catastrophic consequences for public health and environment", although he did not clarify which side the peril was posed from. Finally, Mr. Modi expressed "India's readiness to contribute to any peace efforts", to which Mr. Zelenskyy responded that he would not conduct any negotiations with the "current President of the Russian Federation".

Over the past seven months, the war and western sanctions have had a dramatic impact on global security, food, fuel and energy supplies, and it is important to keep the lines of communication open, as Mr. Modi has done, with Mr. Putin and Mr. Zelenskyy. India has an established record in global peacemaking. However, New Delhi can only play that part if it also sets out its position more clearly, and links it to its actions on the global stage. The Government's defiance of western sanctions on oil and defence trade is understandable in terms of defending India's national interests. However, it is harder to correlate Mr. Modi's comments, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's remarks, on adherence to the UN charter and the importance of protecting territorial sovereignty while India continues to abstain on all votes that criticise Russia's actions in Ukraine: including the bombing of civilians, and the annexation of occupied territories.

The Hindu

Millennials' Mathematics

How Millennials And Their Parents Save Differently

Mahoor Shaw

In a world where the millennial generation (26-41 years) accounts for around thirty per cent of the global population as of 2020, is the notion of a perceivably "lost" generation, a paradox?

Having faced multiple economic headwinds in the job market, be it a recession or the pandemic, millennials seem to have moved away from conventional lifestyles, particularly in North America and in developing South Asian countries like China and India. A shift that points to a reduced ability and/or willingness to take on significant economic and social commitments earlier in life.

In contrast to the Baby Boomers and Generation Y, millennials are more likely to define themselves as highly disciplined or disciplined financial planners. With an increasingly global mindset and factors like social responsibility, the environment and ethical choices frequently play a pivotal role in placing their money. Millennials are proving to be comfortable with cryptocurrency and point-of-sale lending alternatives.

While spending and earning styles have shifted dramatically across parents and millennials, the latter have wealth levels 34% below where they would most likely have been if the financial crisis hadn't occurred. The 2008 Recession, followed by regional political turbulences that affect the global market, and the pandemic followed by the Russia-Ukraine War have pushed most economies towards inflation or stagflation, pushing the Millennials towards being financially wary or conservative.



Though the saving pattern and financial prudence may vary across regions, the millennial generation with easy access to the internet displays more financial autonomy. They fearlessly have taken control of their funds and plan for their investments, loans and life decisions with great economic intuition

Millennials are starting to save for retirement earlier than previous generations. Millennials started saving at 24 years, whereas Gen X started saving at 30 and the Baby Boomers at 33. Among those saving for retirement: 48% put money into savings every month, 67% who have savings are utilizing employer-sponsored retirement plans 28% would rather work harder today and retire early, instead of working longer and having more free time

now and 52% who have savings are investing in the market.

With clarity in their financial goals, the millennial workforce is actively prioritising planning for the future over non-essential buying. As per the Bank of America, 73% of millennials are actively saving. The report found that the top savings priorities for millennials include building an emergency fund (51%), retirement (75%), and buying a house (32%)⁴. Millennials are struggling more financially,

Ukraine's Revenge On The West

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

that any decision will require support from all 30 member states, signalling, in effect, that there isn't going to be any direct NATO intervention in Ukraine.

However, the White House read-out on President Biden's call with Zelensky on Monday mentioned a new \$625 million security assistance package by Washington that includes additional weapons and equipment, including HIMARS, artillery systems and ammunition, and armoured vehicles. Biden "pledged to continue supporting Ukraine as it defends itself from Russian aggression for as long as it takes."

Later, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that "Recent developments... only strengthens our resolve." He added, "The capabilities we are delivering are carefully calibrated to make the most difference on the battlefield and strengthen Ukraine's hand at the negotiating table when the time is right."

The Russian military command will probably have to reset the parameters of the special military operations since its forces will henceforth be safeguarding the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. What form its takes remains to be seen. So far, the actual Russian deployment has been less than 100,000 troops.

Certainly, the induction of 300,000 troops with previous military experience will impact the overall military balance to Russia's advantage. Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu has said that another 70,000 men have also volunteered, which will put the total strength of the additional forces at around 370,000.

Now, that is a huge increase. Therefore, it is entirely conceivable that the old pattern of "grinding" the Ukrainian forces may change and the objective will be to end the war decisively.

The US decision to set up a command centre outside Ukraine (in Germany) seems to anticipate Russian attacks on command centres in Kiev and elsewhere with much bigger use of airpower.

A point of no return is fast approaching from where Russia will

have no alternative but to push for a regime change in Kiev and pave the way for an altogether new Ukrainian leadership that shakes off the Anglo-American grip and is willing to negotiate to end the war.

The attention in Europe is turning more and more towards the economic crisis with looming double-digit inflation and recession. The growing public discontent is turning into protests in many European countries already. The crisis can only deepen once winter sets in.

Conceivably, the shift in the popular mood may prompt the European governments to concentrate on their domestic issues. The most ardent votary of open-ended war with Russia is Britain, but Prime Minister Liz Truss is fighting for political survival and the Conservatives have forfeited their mandate to rule.

In Germany, the centre-right Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union opposition bloc in the Bundestag stalled a motion urging the government to "immediately" allow the export of German battle tanks and infantry fighting vehicles to Ukraine. Politico reported that "A vote on weapons deliveries in the Bundestag would have risked revealing fatal cracks in the government unity and could even have led to a defeat of (Chancellor Olaf) Scholz in parliament."

The German government also faces mounting pressure from the Eastern European allies. The Foreign Policy magazine in Washington wrote last week, "In the eyes of Berlin's NATO allies in Eastern Europe, particularly the countries that border Russia, Germany, the economic and political power centre of Europe, isn't doing nearly enough. And the longer it delays, the more it risks a long-term diplomatic fracture with those allies in the East."

In this fluid situation, the sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipeline dovetails into the energy crisis in Europe and threatens European countries with "de-industrialisation." For Germany, in particular, the country's economic model is riveted on the availability of abundant gas

than the previous generations despite reaching peak earning potential, which has impacted savings for contingencies drastically.

Against popular perception, millennials are displaying financial prudence. Ninety-five percent of Millennials report spending more time searching for savings than in prior years, via coupons, bulk deals and big discount days. A wariness exists with 72% of Millennials being significantly pessimistic about achieving financial security in retirement, compared to 43% of Boomers.

The borrowing intent and spending pattern of India's millennials are not just recreational these days, but more responsibility driven. The eventfulness of the past three years has shifted the focus of the older millennials towards maintaining a healthy savings ratio over instant gratification and more thoughtful buying behaviour and responsible consumption patterns.

Though the saving pattern and financial prudence may vary across regions, the millennial generation with easy access to the internet displays more financial autonomy. They fearlessly have taken control of their funds and plan for their investments, loans and life decisions with great economic intuition. They may delay their larger life goals like a house, car or marriage, but go for them with better preparedness and sounder financial acumen than their parents.

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

The author is an experience curator and Digital Marketer

supplies from Russia at cheap prices supplied through pipelines. Clearly, the sabotage of the Nord Stream has monumental implications.

Europe needs energy security in the short and medium term without also wrecking climate targets. It means heightened geopolitical sensitivity. On Monday, Russian energy giant Gazprom proposed to European gas customers that part of the damaged Nord Stream network could still transport fuel — but only on the newly constructed Nord Stream 2.

A Gazprom statement in its Telegram account said that one of the three lines of the Nord Stream 2 remains unaffected and the gas giant has lowered the pressure to inspect the link for damage and potential leaks. Nord Stream 2 has a shipment capacity of 55 billion cubic meters per year, which means its line B could deliver as much as 27.5 billion cubic meters per year to Germany across the Baltic Sea. However, the Nord Stream 2 requires EU approval, which is problematic given the tensions between Brussels and Moscow.

The ascendancy of the Atlanticists in the echelons of power in Berlin and their nexus with the EU bureaucrats in Brussels has so far worked splendidly for Washington. But the ground beneath the feet is shifting, as the dramatic turn in Italy's politics shows. In France, President Macron is immobilised, lacking a parliamentary majority to legislate, and is being worn down by serial crises. What all this means is that the three main power centres within the Eurozone (Germany, France and Italy) and Britain are entering a period of deep crisis. Their capacity or level of interest to fight Russia in Ukraine is getting severely limited.

Looking back at the 2014 coup in Kiev and the West's rupture with Russia, a new geopolitical landscape is forming in Europe. The European Political Community summit which began at the Prague Castle today, serves to highlight that this is a Kafkaesque moment — one last Hurrah for European integration. This must be Ukraine's revenge on Europe for staging the 2014 coup, which cut the umbilical cord binding it with Russia.

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

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

Delayed Gratification

A Tool for Successful Life

Wasim Kakroo

In this modern era of one-click transactions and window shopping, instant gratification has become a norm of the society. The idea that you must get what you want right away is reinforced by the availability of smartphones and Wi-Fi resulting in dopamine surges in the pleasure centre of our brain all day from time to time. Despite being the new norm, instant gratification isn't usually the best, though; in fact, impulse control, i.e., delayed gratification is what differentiates us from animals. The ability to delay your desires to go after your pleasurable short term objectives can help you in achieving your long term more profitable objectives.

Expecting to achieve everything you want or desire, instantly, is unrealistic. In addition, instant gratification actually leads to frustration because it creates false expectations. You can buy time for thoughtful planning and failure-based learning by developing the skill of delayed gratification. But the question is what is delayed gratification? And how can one develop this skill?

WHAT IS DELAYED GRATIFICATION?

The concept of delayed gratification refers to the ability to resist the lure of an immediate benefit in the hope that a bigger reward will come along later. It is an effective technique for acquiring the ability to live life purposefully. It relates to impulse control because people with strong impulse control frequently perform well at delayed gratification. The good news is that we can all learn this skill to a lesser or a greater degree.

Since we know that humans are hardwired to seek pleasure and avoid suffering that is why children look for instant gratification of their pleasures. As children grow into adults, their capacity to weigh risks and rewards, helps to handle this urge and allows us to postpone fulfillment rather than choosing poorly, especially if the eventual reward is bigger than the one we'd obtain right away. This is delayed gratification.

DELAYED GRATIFICATION: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Delayed gratification as a crucial life skill is the capacity to wait for a better payoff down the road. By practicing delayed gratification, you can do things like put off major purchases to save for a trip, skip dessert to lose weight, or accept a job you don't particularly enjoy but that can help you to improve your CV in the long run

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In this modern era of one-click transactions and window shopping, instant gratification has become a norm of the society

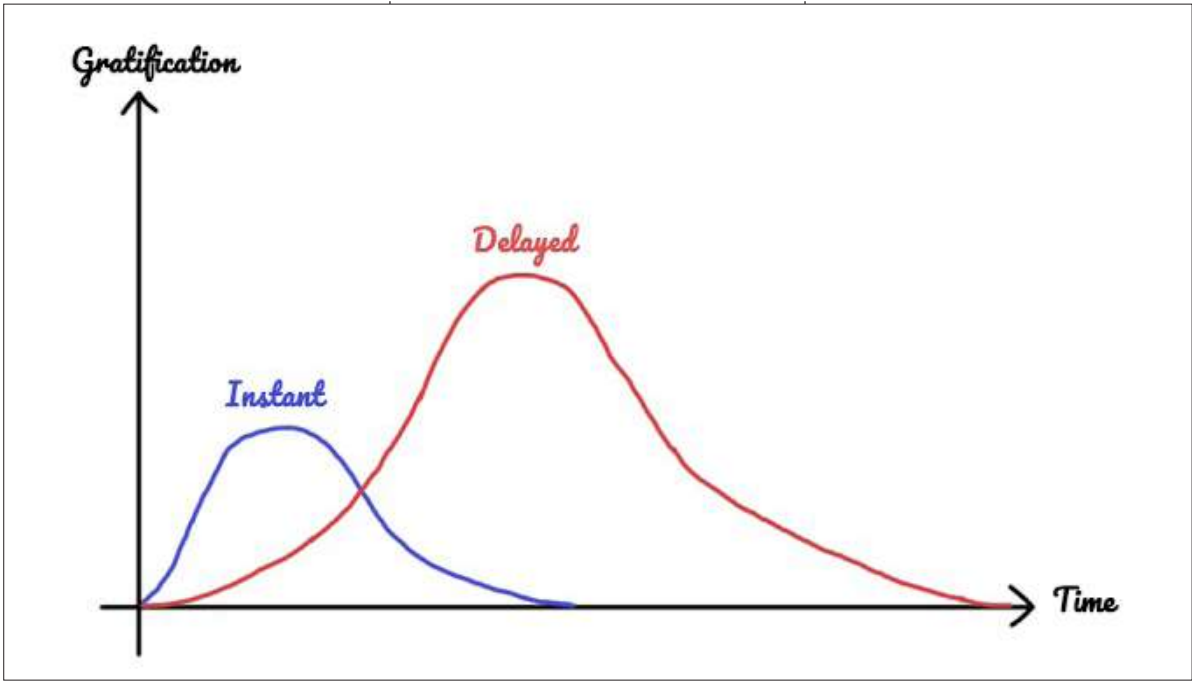
and hence can help you have a successful career later in your life.

Studies reveal that one of the most valuable personality traits that makes a person successful is the ability to delay gratification. People who learn to resist the need to immediately feel completely satisfied do better in their careers, relationships, health, and finances than those who give in to their urges immediately.

It is difficult to master the ability to delay gratification of pleasures. For those who haven't mastered impulse control, it means experiencing dissatisfaction, which is why it appears unachievable. While choosing to indulge in something now might feel nice, exercising discipline and controlling your emotions might lead to more or better rewards in the long run. Delaying gratification can help you develop more self-control over time and will ultimately speed up the process of achieving your long-term objectives.

HOW CAN PRACTICING DELAYED GRATIFICATION HELP US IN OUR DAILY LIFE?

Delayed gratification is an important life skill that can help people from all walks of life. To describe how important acquiring this skill is, let us consider the following examples:



1. RELATIONSHIPS

This skill helps you to avoid getting involved in a fight or being angry with your partner; instead, it can help you to use your communication skills to come up with a workable solution with your partner. It means, putting your phone away, forgoing the need to check social media or send texts, and deciding to spend quality time with your partner.

2. CAREER

You can use your internet time to learn things that can help you grow and advance in your profession instead of aimlessly binge-watching Netflix or scrolling through social media.

3. HEALTH

Employing the skill of delayed gratification can help you against giving in to the instant gratification of having your favorite fast food, and hence harvest the reward of a good health. You can refuse the ease, assurance, and immediate reward that comes with a simple workout as it helps you to discover your exercise motivation and enjoy the delayed gratification of health advantages later. It can also help you to deal with the tendencies to go for short cuts- gambling, illegal and unprotected sexual practices,

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drugs etc. in dealing with your frustrations and stresses of daily life.

4. FINANCES

You can reward yourself in the long run with more savings and financial independence by delaying the gratification of buying something you don't absolutely need. When you invest, you might not see immediate results, but as your money grows through compounding, the delayed gratification will be more beneficial.

HOW TO TRAIN OUR BRAIN FOR DELAYED GRATIFICATION?

1. RECOGNIZE YOUR VALUES FIRST.

Delaying gratification is not easy as it goes against the animalistic tendencies of us humans and hence

it needs sacrifices of our urges. How can we make sacrifices if we don't know what we're aiming for?

Thus, recognizing your personal and professional values is important before you attempt to improve your ability to delay gratification. Knowing what you're aiming for makes it simpler to stay focused on your goals when you're tempted.

2. START SMALL AND BUILD FROM THERE.

There's no need to begin exercising your ability to delay gratification with something that won't happen for years. Start small and work your way up before tackling your major, long-term objectives. Starting with something small still needs delaying gratification

but it may not require you to wait for too long to get the small goals

done and hence may increase your confidence to practice delayed gratification for bigger goals.

Your capacity for practicing delayed gratification for small goals will determine how long you should hold out. If you find it difficult to wait a week for a reward, for example, you might start with one day. The habit can be ingrained into your life gradually.

3. STOP BEING ON AUTOPILOT.

Do you frequently succumb to temptations without giving them much thought?

If this is the case, mindfulness training might help you become more conscious of your actions. Stop for a second when you catch yourself acting in a habitual manner. Consider your motivations for your actions. Spend some time considering your feelings. Be mindful of the little things. Every time this occurs, pause for a moment to bring your awareness to the present. You'll be able to stop the habit of seeking instant gratification the more you do this.

4. DEVELOP GRATITUDE.

One of the best ways to teach your brain to develop delayed gratification is to constantly remind yourself of all that you have. You realize you don't need the new things you've been desiring when you consider all the outfits you're already fortunate enough to own or the perfectly good car you already own. Be thankful that you have food to sustain your body rather than being angry because you only had a salad for lunch instead of a burger. When you are grateful, you naturally experience delayed gratification.

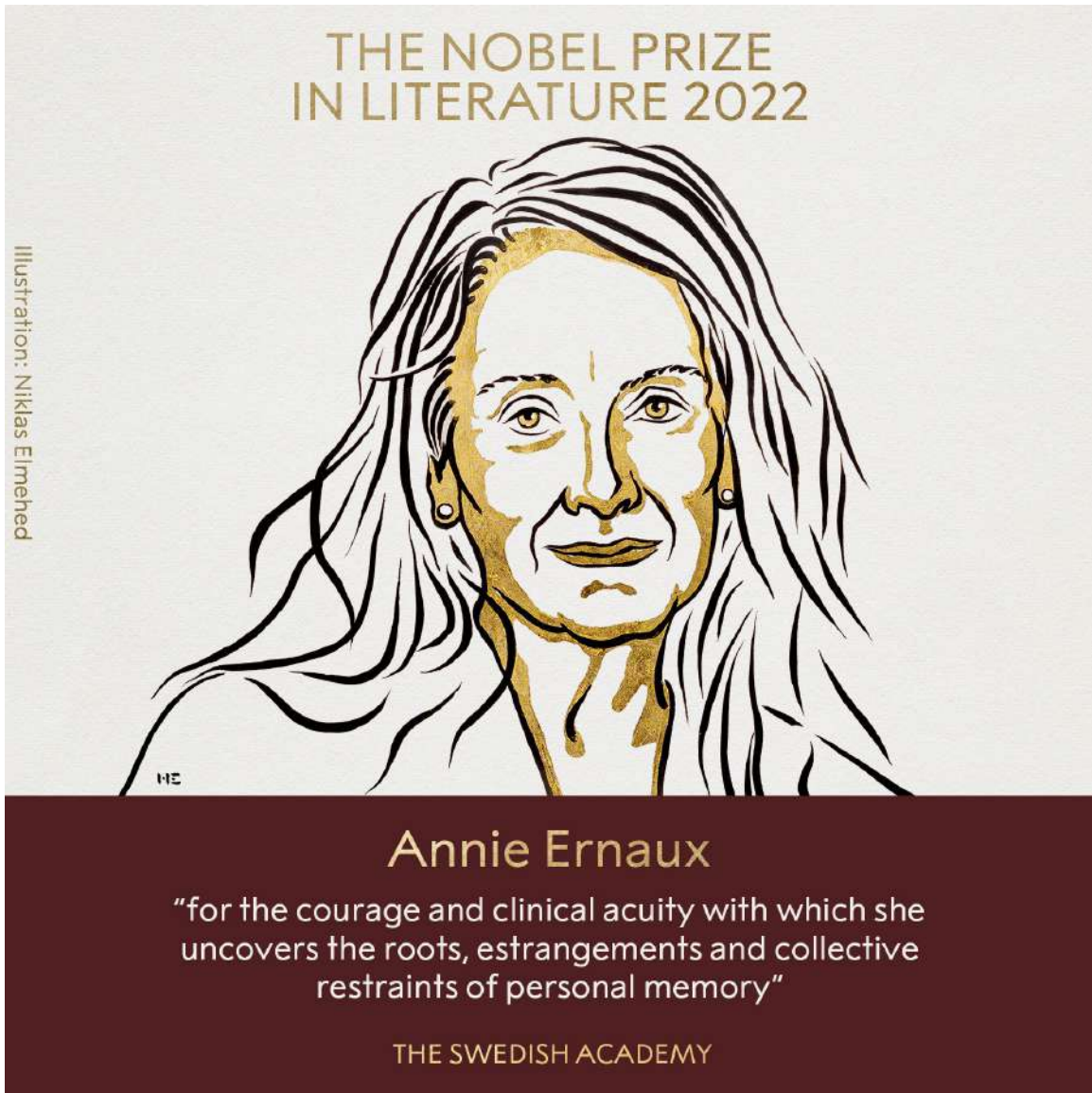
Do you ever wonder how our society's emphasis on instant gratification molds the way you and your loved ones think and behave? Delaying gratification might give you the power to refocus and recover the narrative of what really matters in your life.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

NOBEL PRIZE

French Writer Annie Ernaux Wins Big in Literature

“
In making the announcement, the committee noted the "clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory."



ANDREW LIMBONG

The French writer Annie Ernaux has been awarded the 2022 Nobel Prize in literature. The 82-year-old writer is known for works that blur the line between memoir and fiction.

In making the announcement, the committee noted the "clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory." The permanent secretary also noted during his announcement that they had not been able to reach Ernaux to let her know of the win.

Ernaux was born in 1940 in France. Her first book, Cleaned Out, in 1974, was an autobiographical novel about obtaining an abortion when it was still illegal in France. She wrote the book in secret. "My husband had made fun of me after my first manuscript," she told the New York Times in 2020. "I pretended to work on a Ph.D. thesis to have time alone."

The book was translated into English in 1990.

At the press conference for the announcement, Anders Olsson, the chair of the Nobel committee for literature, was asked if there was a political sentiment behind giving the award to someone who has written so personally about abortion. Olsson rebuffed, saying the committee focuses on literary and literary quality. That said, "it's very important for us also, that the laureate has universal consequence in her work. That it

can reach everyone."

After decades of excavating her own past in various works, Ernaux published The Years, which many critics saw as the her defining statement. First published in 2008, The Years was an expansive look at the society that created her. While it was an examination of each year of her life from 1940 - 2006, Ernaux avoided any use of the pronoun "I" in favor of a broader "we," or sometimes "she."

In reviewing the 2018 English translation of The Years for the LA Review of Books, writer Azarin Sadeh compared reading it to digging through old family photos.

"For the reader, the images of the past reveal themselves in broken shapes and forms with holes all over," Sadeh writes. "You leaf through this pile of images and texts and feel immersed in the past. The years have come and gone, and most of the moments lived — captured only in photos and partially in memory— have vanished."

In 2020, her book A Girl's Story was translated into English. It recalled her early teenage sexual experiences and excavated the shame of it all just ahead of the sexual revolution.

Ernaux has another book being translated into English, due in 2023, titled Look at the Lights, My Love. According to the book's press release, it's a "meditation on the phenomenon of the big-box super store." Of course, through the lens of Ernaux's own memory.

— NPR

Smoking Linked With Increased Risk Of Viral Infection, Coronavirus Illness: Study

Press Trust Of India

Cigarette smoking is associated with an increased risk of viral infection, including a coronavirus and respiratory illness, according to a study.

The findings, published recently in the Nicotine and Tobacco Research journal, support urgent recommendations for doctors to help patients quit smoking as a way of countering COVID-19.

The researchers from the University of California (UC) - Davis found that current smokers have a 12 per cent increased risk of a laboratory-confirmed viral infection and a 48 per cent increased risk of being diagnosed with respiratory illnesses.

"Past research has shown that smoking increases the

risk of COVID-19 disease severity, but the risk of infection had been less clear," said study lead author Melanie Dove from UC Davis.

"Our study findings show smokers have an increased risk of viral infection, including a coronavirus and respiratory illness," Dove said.

The researchers re-analysed data from the British Cold Study (BCS), a 1986-1989 challenge research that exposed 399 healthy adults to 1 of 5 "common cold" viruses.

This included a type of common coronavirus (coronavirus 229E) that existed prior to the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2 virus), which causes COVID-19 disease.

The team calculated overall and coronavirus-specific unadjusted and adjusted relative risks for current smokers and each outcome, testing



whether each association was modified by type of respiratory virus.

The study showed that

current smokers had an increased risk of respiratory viral infection and illness, with no significant difference

across the types of viruses.

The increased associations for only the coronavirus 229E did not reach statistical

“Our study findings show smokers have an increased risk of viral infection, including a coronavirus and respiratory illness

significance. This was likely due to the small sample size with only 55 participants, of whom 20 were smokers, they said.

These findings are consistent with known harms caused by smoking to immune and respiratory defences and some observational evidence of increased COVID-19 infection and disease progression in current smokers, the researchers said.

The researchers noted that one of the main limitations of this study is that the

mild common coronavirus 229E may have different biological and health effects than other coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2.

Therefore, the findings may not be generalisable to other coronaviruses, they said.

"These findings may have implications for addressing tobacco use at the population level as a strategy for preventing COVID-19 infection," said senior study author Elisa Tong from UC Davis Department of Internal Medicine.



Scientists Find New Evidence For Liquid Water On Mars

Press Trust Of India

An international team of researchers has found new evidence for the possible existence of liquid water beneath the south polar ice cap of Mars.

The results, published in the journal Nature Astronomy, provide the first independent line of evidence, using data other than radar, that there is liquid water beneath Mars' south pole.

The researchers, led by the University of Cambridge with involvement from the University of Sheffield, used spacecraft laser-altimeter measurements of the shape of the upper surface of the ice cap to identify subtle patterns in its height.

They then showed that these patterns match computer model predictions for how a body of water beneath the ice cap would affect the surface.

Their results are in agreement with earlier ice-penetrating radar measurements that were originally interpreted to show a potential area of liquid water beneath the ice.

There has been debate over the liquid water interpretation from the radar data alone, with some studies suggesting the radar signal is not due to liquid water.

"This study gives the best indication yet that there is liquid water on Mars today because it means that two of the key pieces of evidence we would look for when searching for sub-glacial lakes on Earth have now been found on Mars," said Frances Butcher, second author of the study from the University of Sheffield.

"Liquid water is an essential ingredient for life, although it does not necessarily mean that life exists on Mars," Butcher said.

In order to be liquid at such cold temperatures, the researchers noted

that the water beneath the south pole might need to be really salty, which would make it difficult for any microbial life to inhabit it.

However, it does give hope that there were more habitable environments in the past when the climate was less unforgiving, they said.

Like Earth, Mars has thick water ice caps at both poles, roughly equivalent in combined volume to the Greenland Ice Sheet.

However, unlike Earth's ice sheets which are underlain by water-filled channels and even large subglacial lakes, the polar ice caps on Mars have until recently been thought to be frozen solid all the way to their beds due to the cold Martian climate.

In 2018, evidence from the European Space Agency's Mars Express satellite challenged this assumption.

The satellite has an ice-penetrating radar called MARSIS,

which can see through Mars' southern ice cap. It revealed an area at the base of the ice that strongly reflected the radar signal, which was interpreted as an area of liquid water beneath the ice cap.

However, subsequent studies suggested that other types of dry materials, which exist elsewhere on Mars, could produce similar patterns of reflectance if they exist beneath the ice cap.

Given the cold climate conditions, liquid water beneath the ice cap would require an additional heat source, such as geothermal heat from within the planet, at levels above those expected for present-day Mars.


"The combination of the new topographic evidence, our computer model results, and the radar data make it much more likely that at least one area of subglacial liquid water exists on Mars today, and that Mars must still be geothermally active in order to keep the water beneath the ice cap liquid," said Professor Neil Arnold from Cambridge's Scott Polar Research Institute, who led the research.

On Earth, subglacial lakes affect the shape of the overlying ice sheet - its surface topography. The water in subglacial lakes lowers friction between the ice sheet and its bed, affecting the velocity of ice flow under gravity.

This in turn affects the shape of the ice sheet surface above the lake, often creating a depression in the ice surface followed by a raised area further down-flow.

The team, including researchers from the University of Nantes, University College, Dublin, and the Open University, used a range of techniques to examine data from NASA's Mars Global Surveyor satellite of the surface topography of the part of Mars' south polar ice cap where the radar signal was identified.

“This study gives the best indication yet that there is liquid water on Mars today because it means that two of the key pieces of evidence we would look for when searching for sub-glacial lakes on Earth have now been found on Mars



J&K Bank

Serving To Empower

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department

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4. Mrs. Mahmooda Jan W/O Zahoor Hussain Shawl R/O House No 20, Bismillah Colony, Parraypora, Baghat Barzulla Srinagar J&K 190015 (Mortgagor).

Dear Sir/Madam,

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002.

For and on behalf of THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LTD. a Banking Company established under the J&K Companies ACT 1977. (Samvat) having its Registered Office at M.A.Road, Srinagar and a branch office amongst others at A -17 Ring Road Lalpat Nagar 4, Near Mool Chand Metro Station, opposite Haldiram, New Delhi-110024 hereinafter referred to as the bank (which expression shall mean and include its successors and assigns, successors in interest etc.), I, Rajneesh Mahajan, presently posted as Asst. Vice President, Zonal Office Delhi (North) Gurgaon and duly authorized by the Board of Directors of the Bank in this regard, do, hereby, serve you with the following notice under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002:

1. That the Bank on your request, sanctioned Cash Credit, GECL & Additional GECL Loan Facility/ies amounting to a total of Rs. 542.00 Lakhs in the year 2019,2020 & 2021 in your favor, and for availing the said facility/ies you executed various security documents and created security interest inter-alia, in respect of the following secured assets in favor of the Bank, besides other securities:

“Security”:-

1) Equitable mortgage of two storeyed residential house with attic along with land underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring one kanal, and two marlas situated at mouza Bagaat Tehsil Chanapora, district Srinagar under Khasra no 1206/551 min, Khata No 758, Khewat No 110 standing in the name of Mr. Mehmooda Jan W/O (Late) Zahoor Hussain Shawl R/O House No 20, Bismillah Colony, Parraypora, Baghat Barzulla Srinagar J&K 190015.

2. As a result of the default committed by you, the loan account(s) has/ve been classified by the Bank as ‘Non Performing Asset’ on 09.02.2022 in accordance with the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India. Now, as on 31.03.2022, there is due and payable by you in your loan accounts the following amount

S. No.	Facility	Account number	Balance
1	CASH CREDIT	0323020100000345	₹ 2,22,72,883.87
2	PCL	0323260320000030	₹ 73,42,075.00
3	PSL	0323260320000041	₹ 36,71,038.00
Total Balance as on 31.03.2022			₹ 3,32,85,996.87

The Bank is a “Secured Creditor” as defined under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in respect of the amount outstanding referred in Para 2 above. NOW THEREFORE IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS VESTED IN THE BANK UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002. I, the above named, hereby, call upon you through the medium of this notice under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 to pay to the Bank, the aforesaid amount of ₹ 3,32,85,996.87 (Rupees Three Crore Thirty Two Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Six And Paise Eighty Seven Only) along with interest as applicable w.e.f. 01.04.2022 on the outstanding amount against you in the books of accounts of the Bank with its Branch at A -17 Ring Road Lalpat Nagar 4, Near Mool Chand Metro Station, opposite Haldiram, New Delhi- 110024 till the date of repayment of the dues in full along with other charges and costs incurred/ to be incurred by the Bank from time to time, less by credits, if any, and thereby, discharge in full all your liabilities to the Bank within a period of 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which the Bank shall at your costs and risk exercise its powers under the Act (Supra) and take all or any of the following measures to recover its secured debt namely:

i. Take possession of the secured assets including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured assets.

ii. Take over the management of secured assets including the right to transfer by way of Lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured assets.

iii. Appoint any person to manage the secured assets.

iv. Require at any time by Notice in writing any person who may have acquired any of the Secured assets from you to pay the Bank.

3. Do note that Sec.13 (13) of the said Act restrains you, after this notice, from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, your aforesaid Secured Assets, without prior written permission of the bank. You are, hereby, put to notice that you shall not after receipt of this notice deal with the aforesaid secured assets in any manner, whatsoever, to the prejudice of interest of the secured creditor. You are also duty bound to preserve the secured assets for which you are a trustee. If you have already transferred these assets or would transfer after service of this notice, you shall be held liable for criminal action under section 406 of Indian Penal Code in addition to penal provisions in this Act.

4. Further, please note that in the event, you fail to discharge the liability in full within 60 days from the date of this notice and the Bank takes any action under Sub-Section 4 of Section 13 of the Act (Supra), you shall further be liable to pay to the bank all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank in that connection. In case, the dues to the Bank are not fully satisfied with the sale proceeds of the secured assets, the Bank shall proceed for the recovery of the balance from you personally and from the other persons liable therefor.

5. This Notice is issued without prejudice to the Bank's all rights, remedies and contentions in the pending Debt Recovery Proceedings or the proceedings pending before any other Court / Appellate Tribunal/ Authority and also Bank's right to recover the dues from any other security furnished to the Bank in respect of the aforesaid liability.

6. Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub sec (8) of Sec 13 of the SARFAESI Act where under, you can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of secured asset(s) by public auction by inviting quotations, tender from public or private treaty. Please also note that If the entire amount of outstanding dues together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured assets.

7. This demand notice is recall of the loan amount and demand of the secured creditors of the outstanding amount without prejudice to Bank's right to recover the remaining balance in case your liability is not discharged in full after enforcement of security interest pursuant to this notice. Further, please note that this notice should not be construed as waiver of any rights or remedies which we may have including without limitation the right to make further demands in respect of sums owing to us.

Ref No: JKB/ ZOD (North) / IAPMD/2022-
Dated: 06-10-2022

DIPK-NB-4241/22

(Rajneesh Mahajan)
Authorized Officer

India's Service Sector Activity Falls To 6-Month Low In September: PMI

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- The Indian services sector activity fell to a six-month low in September, as new business inflows rose at the slowest rates since March, amid inflationary pressures and competitive conditions, a monthly survey said.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index fell to 54.3 in September, from 57.2 in August, highlighting the weakest rate of expansion since March.

For the fourteenth straight month, the services sector witnessed an expansion in output. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"The Indian service sector has overcome many adversities in recent months, with the latest PMI data continuing to show a strong performance despite some loss of growth momentum in September," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

The upturn was reportedly restricted by price pressures, an increasingly competitive environment and unfavourable public policies, the survey said.

Lima further noted that the steep depreciation of the rupee seen towards the end of the month due to interest rate

hikes in the US present additional challenges to the Indian economy.

"Currency instability poses renewed inflation worries as imported items become more costly, and undoubtedly means that the RBI will continue hiking interest rates to protect the rupee and contain price pressures," Lima said.

On September 30, the monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the key lending rate or the repo rate to 5.90 per cent - the highest since April 2019.

The MPC also decided to remain focused on the withdrawal of the accommodative policy stance to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward, while supporting growth, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

According to Lima, an upturn in inflation could damage consumer spending, dampen business confidence and test the resilience of the Indian service sector in the coming months but, at least for September, service providers were strongly upbeat towards growth prospects.

The survey further noted that weak external demand weighed on overall sales, with international orders declining further in September. Monthly contractions have been recorded in each month since the onset of COVID-19.

First Fully Digital Intermodal TIR Transport Piloted From India To Iran



Agencies

NEW DELHI: India and Iran successfully concluded the first pilot of a fully digital intermodal TIR transport. The container was released less than a day after arriving in Iran's Bandar Abbas port, which would have otherwise taken up to five days. The transport took place along the International North-South Transport Corridor.

The project was completed with the support of Indian and Iranian customs authorities, as well as the national associations FICCI and ICCIMA.

IRU Secretary General Umberto de Pretto said, "The successful pilot project between India and Iran is excellent news for intermodal TIR transport. It will mean huge time savings for transport operators."

"Fully digital intermodal TIR transports can also significantly reduce port congestion by rapidly releasing containers, an important issue right now with the global shortage of containers," added Umberto de Pretto.

"The result of the project was great," said Fazal Hussain, CEO of Crown Logistics, who participated in the project. "We presented the declaration at the Iranian Port before the container had even arrived, while the truck was immediately released by customs, without further inspections. Everything was done electronically. We saved three days at the port, which is key for us as a door-to-door logistics provider."

The pilot project demonstrated the efficiency of a fully intermodal TIR transport. An electronic guarantee was issued instead of a TIR carnet, and all messages, such as the pre-declaration, were exchanged electronically in advance with relevant public and private actors, including customs authorities, which expedited the customs and port procedures.

These advantages are prompting transport operators to begin using TIR instead of fragmented national transit systems. Other countries are being encouraged to participate in the next stages of this pilot project.

Around 1.62 Crore Tourists Visited J&K This Year: Govt



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: After three decades, Kashmir is attracting lakhs of tourists which Tourism players say is the return of golden era of Kashmir tourism, as government spokesperson said on Thursday.

The spokesperson said that the record number of tourists who visited Jammu and Kashmir this year, testify the overall development and change that has taken place in the Union territory.

Tourism is the biggest source of employment in Jammu and Kashmir and since January, 2022 till date, 1.62 crore tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir, which is the highest in 75 years of independence.

Tourism has generated maximum employment in various regions of Jammu and Kashmir

including Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu and the Kashmir Valley.

For last 70 years, people were demanding international flights from Jammu and Kashmir. Fulfilling this popular demand, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi started direct flight from Srinagar to Sharjah. Earlier, there was also no flight during the night from Srinagar and Jammu and the Prime Minister also started night flights from the both cities.

Recently, a comprehensive Film Policy was launched to attract film-makers for shooting after decades and within a year of notification of this policy, as many as 140 shooting permissions for films and web-series have been issued. Soon, a film studio will be launched with state-of-art facilities. This, besides providing new opportunities to the young talent of Jam-

mu and Kashmir, shall boost the business ecosystem of the Union territory.

Various other models and schemes are also being launched to promote tourism here. Rural tourism is steadily occupying a space hitherto denied to it either due to not venturing into this area of tourism of vast potential or even if such an idea having been conceived, lack of resources has kept the roadmap for it in virtual doldrums. 75 offbeat tourist destinations are also being developed in Jammu and Kashmir as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

A record-breaking 20.5 lakh tourists, including 3.65 lakh Amarnath yatris, visited Kashmir in the first eight months of this year, drawing visitors from all over the nation to the gorgeous and picturesque Valley.

Force Motors Unveils Two New Vehicles: Gurkha & Monobus

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Force Motors launched the Gurkha & Traveller Monobus at Srinagar dealership "Jamie Power Private Ltd". The vehicles was unveiled by Director Abdul Rashid Jamie. Speaking on the occasion Mr. Ovees Qadir Jamie, MD said the Gurkha is powered by the Mercedes-derived 2.6 litre, 91hp common rail, direct injection, turbocharged diesel engine. Transmission options include a five-speed Mercedes G-28 manual gearbox couples with the four-wheel drive (4WD) as standard. The new Force Gurkha has a crawl-up angle of 35-degrees while the water-wading capacity is rated at 700 mm. It is the only vehicle that comes with a factory-fitted air intake snorkel and manually operated, positive locking, mechanical differential locks on all four wheels.

The Force Gurkha is spawned by the modular architecture platform and being a purpose-built off-road SUV. Its looks are modern and upmarket with elements like the new single-slat grille with Gurkha branding, LED Pro Edge headlights with integrat-



ed DRLs which is a segment-first, LED indicators, new bumpers, fog lights, a new snorkel, a newly designed 'Shark Gill' on the fender, a bigger rear windshield, newly designed wing mirrors with Khukri engraving, new black plastic cladding, rear-door mounted spare wheel and LED taillights among others. Dimension wise, the new Force Gurkha measures 4116 mm in length, 1812 mm in width, 2075 mm in height, while the wheelbase stands at 2400 mm. It will be available in five colors Red, Orange, Green, Grey and White.

Jamie Power Private Limited also launched the country's only 31-41 seater Monocoque Buses. The Traveller-MONO-

BUS is loaded with several path-breaking and novel features offered for the first time in the midi-bus segment.

The Traveller-MONOBUS is powered by a 115 HP / 350 Nm, Mercedes derived, 3.2-liter, Common Rail engine. On account of the monocoque construction, the new Traveller-MONOBUS is not only extremely robust but also light in weight. It offers peak torque of 350 Nm from 1600 to 2200 rpm with the high low-end torque ensuring smooth ride even at low speeds. In addition, the vehicle has best-in-class power to weight ratio and being almost 800 kg lighter than comparable models, offers unmatched fuel efficiency.

Oil Prices Set To Rise As OPEC+ Announces Major Output Cut Despite US Pressure

Reuters

VIENNA/LONDON: OPEC+ agreed its deepest cuts to oil production since the 2020 COVID pandemic at a Vienna meeting on Wednesday, curbing supply in an already tight market despite pressure from the United States and others to pump more.

The cut could spur a recovery in oil prices that have dropped to about \$90 from \$120 three months ago on fears of a global economic recession, rising US interest rates and a stronger dollar.

The United States has pushed OPEC not to proceed with the cuts, arguing that fundamentals don't support them, a source familiar with the matter said.

"Higher oil prices, if driven by sizeable production cuts, would likely irritate the Biden Administration ahead of US mid-term elections," Citi analysts said in a note.

"There could be further political reactions from the US, including additional releases of strategic stocks, along with some wildcards including further fostering of a NOPEC bill," Citi said, referring to a US antitrust bill against OPEC.

JPMorgan also said it expected Washington to put in place counter measures by releasing more oil stocks.

OPEC+ sources said the agreed production cuts of 2 million bpd or 2% of global demand would be made from existing baseline



figures.

That means the cuts would be less deep because OPEC+ fell about 3.6 million barrels per day short of its output target in August.

Under-production happened because of Western sanctions on countries such as Russia, Venezuela and Iran and output problems with producers such as Nigeria and Angola.

Goldman Sachs analysts said they estimated the real production cuts would therefore amount to 0.4-0.6 million bpd mainly by Gulf OPEC producers such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.

Analysts from Jefferies said they estimated the real cuts at 0.9 million bpd.

OIL PRICES RISE

Saudi Arabia and other members of OPEC+ -- which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other producers including Russia -- have said they are seeking to prevent volatility rather than to target a particular oil price.

Benchmark Brent crude traded flat at \$92 per barrel on Wednesday, after climbing on Tuesday.

World Bank Downgrades India's Economic Growth Forecast To 6.5% For FY23

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: The World Bank on Thursday projected a growth rate of 6.5 per cent for the Indian economy for the fiscal year 2022-23, a drop of one per cent from its previous June 2022 projections, citing deteriorating international environment.

In its latest South Asia Economic Focus released ahead of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the Bank, however, noted that India is recovering stronger than the rest of the world.

The Indian economy grew by 8.7 per cent in the previous year.

"The Indian economy has done well compared to the other countries in South Asia, with relatively strong growth performance... bounced back from the sharp contraction during the first phase of COVID," Hans Timmer, World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia, told PTI in an interview.

India, he said, has done relatively well with the advantage that it doesn't have a large external debt, there are no problems coming from that side, and that there is prudent monetary policy, he observed.

The Indian economy has done especially well in the services sector and especially service exports.

"But we have downgraded the forecast for the fiscal year that just started and that is largely because the international environment is deteriorating for India and for all countries. We see kind of an

inflection point in the middle of this year, and first signs of slowing across the world," he said.

The second half of the calendar year is weak in many countries and will be relatively weak also in India, he said.

Timmer said that's mainly because of two factors. One is the slowing of growth in the real economy of high-income countries.

The other one is the global tightening of monetary policy that tightens financial markets and not just that it leads to capital outflows in many developing countries, but it also increases interest rates and uncertainty in developing countries which has a negative impact on investment.

"So, it (India) has done relatively well. It is not as vulnerable as some of the other countries. But it's still in tough weather. It (India) has to navigate the higher commodity prices and there are more headwinds at the moment," he said in response to a question.

India is doing better than the rest of the world, he said, adding that there are more buffers in India, especially large reserves at the central bank. That's very helpful. "Then the government has very actively reacted to the COVID crisis," he said.

The Indian government has set an example for the rest of the world, like expanding social safety nets, using digital ideas. "I think it's almost up to a million people that they are reaching at the moment. It's a good response also," he said.

SHORT TAKES

FMCG Most Sought After Sector By Job-Seekers

Press Trust Of India

CHENNAI: Fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) continued to be the most sought after sector by job-seekers, a study by the human resources services firm CIEL HR Services said on Thursday.

Mumbai topped the list with the highest job demand in the FMCG segment while Masters in Business Administration degree was the most preferred qualification by employers.

"For freshers and mid-level employees, the sector is perceived to be offering the most promising job prospects," the study said.

Most of the top FMCG companies grapple with the challenge of not having the requisite percentage of women in their workforce as only 14 per cent of employees comprise women in the sector, it said.

"Employment outlook is promising for young management graduates and the mid-level employees in the FMCG domain. We see strong growth in hiring the FMCG segment driven by an uptick in sales in the festive season," said CIEL (HR Services) managing director and CEO Aditya Narayan Mishra. "Our research shows the demand for sales professionals is the highest followed by operations, business development, marketing and IT functions," he said.

Airtel 5G Service Goes Live In 8 Cities

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Bharti Airtel on Thursday said its 5G services have gone live in eight cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Siliguri, Nagpur and Varanasi.

The customer availing 5G services will have to pay as per their existing 4G plan, it said.

"Airtel has been at the forefront of India's telecom revolution for the last 27 years. Today marks one more step in our journey as we build out the finest network to deliver the best experience for our customers."

"For us, our customers are at the core of everything we do. Our solution will therefore work on any 5G handset and the existing SIM that customers have," Bharti Airtel Managing Director and CEO Gopal Vittal said in a statement.

Bharti Enterprises Founder and Chairman Sunil Mittal had announced launch of 5G service in 8 cities on October 1.

A company spokesperson said that customer will be able to avail the services as per their 4G plan.

Airtel subscribers getting 5G signals in their area can switch to 5G but if they find that 5G is consuming high data than can switch back to 4G network. "Access to 5G is optional," the spokesperson said.

No Loss Of Interest For EPF Subscribers: FinMin

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Finance Ministry has said there is no loss of interest rate for EPFO subscribers and the delay in crediting interest for the last fiscal is due to software upgrade being conducted.

It further said that for all outgoing subscribers seeking settlement and also those withdrawing their deposits, the payments are being done inclusive of the interest. "There is no loss of interest for any subscriber. The interest is being credited in the accounts of all EPF subscribers. However, that is not visible in the statements in view of a software upgrade being implemented by EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation) to account for change in the tax incidence," the ministry tweeted late on Wednesday night.

The ministry said this on Twitter in reply to a tweet by IT industry veteran TV Mohandas Pai, who raised queries on interest in the Employees' Provident Fund deposits. "For all outgoing subscribers seeking settlement and for subscribers seeking withdrawal, the payments are being done inclusive of the interest," the ministry noted.

Earlier in June, the government approved an 8.1 per cent interest on EPF deposits for the 2021-22 fiscal ended March 31 to over 5 crore subscribers.

'51% Of Daily Bitcoin Volume On Crypto Exchanges Fake'

IANIS

NEW DELHI: More than 51 per cent of the total Bitcoin trading volume on various crypto exchanges this year is fake amid volatile global economic conditions, a new report has claimed. Bitcoin is the blue chip of cryptocurrency and represents 40 per cent of the total crypto assets outstanding in the new and volatile crypto markets. Its market cap is currently at 382.25 billion.

According to data provided by niche news publisher BanklessTimes.com, the majority of this fake Bitcoin volume is due to wash trading. Wash trading is illegal, where an asset is bought and sold simultaneously on the same platform to create false liquidity. This is often done by bots or spoofing orders.

"It's difficult to talk about cryptocurrency without talking about Bitcoin. Yet, there is a concern that a large part of the daily traded volume of Bitcoin is fake. This puts into question the legitimacy of exchanges and the reliability of data," said Jonathan Merry, CEO of BanklessTimes.

Another factor contributing to the fake volume is stablecoins such as Tether (USDT). A Tether pairs very well with Bitcoin and is often used to buy and sell Bitcoin on exchanges.

CBI Books Joint DGFT For Receiving Rs 1 Cr Bribe

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The CBI has booked a joint director general of foreign trade for allegedly receiving a bribe of Rs 1 crore from a businessman in 2018 in a fraud case of Rs 118 crore, officials said Thursday.

Following the registration of the FIR against Joint Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Sambhaji A Chavan and Deputy DGFT Prakash S Kamble, 2008 and 2013-batch Indian Trade Service officers respectively, and businessman Ramesh Manohar Chavan, among others, the CBI conducted searches at nine locations in Delhi, Daman, Mumbai and Pune, they said.

"It is alleged that eight Export Promotion Credit Guarantee (EPCG) licenses were issued in the name Radha Madhav Corporation Ltd (RMCL) by Directorate General for Foreign Trade for import of 'capital machinery' and as per the scheme, RMCL had the obligation to export eight times the value of duty saved on the goods imported," the FIR alleged.

The Central Bureau of Investigation alleged that the total amount of duty saved on import by RMCL was Rs 16.81 crore against which the company was required to fulfil export obligations to the tune of Rs 135 crore.

NATIONAL HERALD CASE

ED Turned Down Plea For Exemption From Appearance On Oct 7, Says Cong Leader Shivakumar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mysuru/New Delhi: Karnataka Congress chief D K Shivakumar on Thursday said the Enforcement Directorate has turned down his plea for exemption from appearance before the agency in Delhi on October 7 in the National Herald money laundering case.

He said he will decide whether to appear before the agency after talking to his party leaders.

In a fresh message to Shivakumar, the ED asked him to make himself available before the agency on Friday.

"You are once again directed to present yourself before me at my office for recording of your statement on October 7, 2022 as per summons dated September 23, 2022," said an email sent by ED Assistant Director Kuldeep Singh.

Shivakumar, who is currently participating in the Congress's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' which is passing through Karnataka, had requested the probe agency to allow him exemption from appearance till October 21.

"I had requested for time to appear before the ED which has been denied. I will take a call on whether to appear before the agency after talking to my leaders," Shivakumar said.

His MP brother D K Suresh, 56, has also been summoned by the agency for questioning in its ongoing money laundering probe into the operations of the Congress party-owned

National Herald newspaper.

It is understood that the federal agency wants to record the statement of the politician brothers with regard to some payments made by them in the past to Young Indian, the company that owns the news organisation.

Working president of Telangana Congress J Geeta Reddy and a few other party leaders from that state deposed before the agency in this case at its office in central Delhi on Thursday.

Shivakumar was last questioned by the ED on September 19 in Delhi in another money laundering case linked to alleged possession of disproportionate assets.

The latest summons comes at a time when Shivakumar is involved in conducting the Karnataka leg of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. Led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the yatra entered Karnataka on September 30 and will cover the state over 21 days.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi, her MP son Rahul and senior party leaders like Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal have been questioned by the ED over the last few months in the National Herald money laundering case.

The agency has also issued summons to a number of Congress leaders from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for questioning in the case after it was found that they allegedly made payments to Young Indian.

Pune: 'Depressed' Man Makes Hoax Call To Cops Saying Plan To Kill PM Being Hatched In Flat; Arrested



Press Trust of India

Pune: A 38-year-old man was arrested for allegedly making a hoax call to the Pune police control room, claiming that a plan was being hatched in a flat to kill Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to carry out bomb blasts at Pune and Mumbai railway stations, an official said on Thursday.

Police said the accused was suffering from depression and was annoyed by the noise made by the children from the flat above his. He resides in Dehu Road area in neighbouring

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation limits.

It was on October 4 that he dialled the emergency number 112 and made the hoax call to the police in order to teach the occupants of the flat above his a lesson, the official added.

"A call was received from one Manoj Hanse on the 112 emergency line, where he informed that a plan to kill PM Modi and to carry out bomb blasts at Pune and Mumbai railway stations was being hatched in a flat," the Dehu Road police station official said.

A probe by the police revealed that it was a hoax call, he said, adding that the accused was in a state of depression and annoyed due to the noise coming from the flat above his.

"The accused also had an altercation with the police party. We have arrested him under Indian Penal Code sections 177 (furnishing false information), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace)," he said.

Russian Missiles Slam Into Ukrainian City Near Nuclear Plant

Press Trust of India

Kyiv: Russia launched missiles that hit apartment buildings in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, a local official said on Thursday, killing three people and wounding at least 12 in a region that houses Europe's biggest nuclear power plant and which Moscow illegally annexed.

The two strikes, the first before dawn and another in the morning, damaged more than 40 buildings, local authorities said.

The attacks came just hours after Ukraine's president announced that the country's military had retaken three more villages in another of the four regions annexed by Russia, the latest battlefield reversal for Moscow.

The Zaporizhzhia region's governor, Oleksandr Starukh wrote on Telegram that many people were rescued from the multi-story buildings, including a 3-year-old girl who was taken to a hospital for treatment. Photos provided by the Emergency Service of Ukraine showed rescuers scrambling through rubble in the wreckage of a building looking for survivors.



Starukh said of Russia: "The terrorist country has shown its beastly face by converting defence weapons into offensive weapons and killing peacefully sleeping people."

Zaporizhzhia is one of the regions of Ukraine that Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed as Russian territory in violation of international laws and is home to a nuclear plant that is under Russian occupation.

The city of the same name

remains under Ukrainian control.

The head of the UN's atomic energy watchdog is expected to visit Kyiv this week to discuss the situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant after Putin signed a decree on Wednesday declaring that Russia was taking over the six-reactor facility.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry called the move a criminal act and said it considered Putin's decree "null and void". The state nuclear operator, Energoatom, said it would

HDFC Bank Launches SmartHub Vyapar For Merchants

Agenceis

Srinagar: HDFC Bank announced the launch of SmartHub Vyapar Merchant app, a comprehensive payments and banking solution designed to fulfill the everyday business needs of merchants.

SmartHub Vyapar facilitates instant, digital and paperless merchant onboarding for HDFC Bank customers and allows merchants to accept interoperable payments across multiple payment modes which include Cards - Tap & Pay UPI and QR code. Merchants can also accept remote payments by sending a payment link over mobile or email to facilitate non-face-to-face collections.

Payments received through UPI can be instantly credited to the bank account ensuring merchants get immediate access to sales receipts. To reduce merchant anxiety around transactions, SmartHub Vyapar has been provisioned with an inbuilt voice feature informing the merchant of successful transactions, doing away with the need to track transactions through any other means including the need to have a separate device to receive voice-based notifications.

On the banking front, merchants can avail banking services like opening fixed deposits, and quick access to pre-approved loans and credit cards. Merchants can also get a real-time view of all Smart Hub Vyapar transactions credited into their bank accounts. Smart Hub Vyapar

enables merchants to make payments to their distributors and vendors. Business expenses like payment of utility bills and GST can also be made through the Smart Hub Vyapar app.

Merchants get 24x7 support through the Bank's Eva chatbot in addition to support made available via phone banking and the relationship management team of the bank.

SmartHub Vyapar App has been developed by HDFC Bank in partnership with Mintoak Innovations India Pvt. Ltd which is a merchant SaaS platform with a modular product offering to help banks connect with their merchants.

The merchant app was showcased at an event in Mumbai by Parag Rao, Group Head, Payments Business, Digital & IT, Arvind Vohra, Group Head, Branch Banking, Anjani Rathor, Chief Digital Officer, HDFC Bank and Ramesh Lakshminarayanan, Chief Information Officer, HDFC Bank.

"HDFC Bank is committed to support the growth of all merchants from large format chains to local kirana stores," said Parag Rao, Country Head - Payments, Consumer Finance, Technology & Digital Marketing. "We have crafted the new SmartHub Vyapar app to meet every need of the merchant and bring efficiencies to their banking and business ecosystem. Our aim is to solve problems and difficulties merchants face in their day-to-day business, help them grow their business, deepen our reach across," (KNT)



I HAD REQUESTED FOR TIME TO APPEAR before the ED which has been denied. I will take a call on whether to appear before the agency after talking to my leaders."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

How Two Siblings

The siblings—"the silent servants of art"—state that there should be suitable training programmes and mentors for making tapestry appealing to the young generation.

"Both of us were offered several projects and possibilities outside Kashmir," Me'raj says, "but we rejected everything for the sake of this art. It's our ancestral call and identity."

If Me'raj is a craftsman with a cheerful disposition, then Hussain is a meditative worker—deeply immersed in the details of his art.

He takes a seat, draws in a deep breath, and starts narrating his tale of tapestry.

"This is a family-owned business," he says. "My grandfather and father were small-time tapestry traders running their own firm. This is how we became its heritors."

Back in 1970s, Hussain says, Srinagar was brimmed with tapestry craft, with Fateh Kadal and Nawab Bazar its stronghold.

"Foreigners would pay great rates in acknowledgement of the artisan's diligent efforts," he says, "and the marketplaces would be overwhelmed with high quality and diversity of tapestries."

Such was the demand that tapestries would be equally made by artists as well as part-timers—showing how diverse the options were back then. It was a sunshine enterprise before the armed strife of the nineties brought it to a standstill.

"Prior to the 1990s," Me'raj continues, "foreign luxury designers would visit us and purchase directly from the artists. But when the situation worsened, the demand for all Kashmiri crafts dipped. Our customers would not come to see us and created an

existential crisis for us."

Despite the new technology now making the Kashmiri Arts purely a machine-driven venture, tapestry remains untouched. It's handcrafted and requires a great deal of effort.

But now, the brothers believe that the changing trends are disrupting the market and denting the long-term skill investment.

The brand cashmere, however, is still their hope.

"Despite a cheaper Chinese tapestry copy sweeping the market," says Hussain, "nothing can match our craft mastery and art-form. It just requires support to thrive and recreate its global appeal."

The Karkhandar scheme is seen as one such attempt to stimulate the skill and revive the art form. Such initiatives, the siblings stress, will only empower the educated youth of Kashmir facing the heat of joblessness.

Hussain's eyes glint with memories when talking about his generation's devotion for skill.

Unlike the current generation grappling with the grief of livelihood, he was empowered and stress-free. "We knew the value of skills in life, so did our parents," he says. "It made us feel empowered and second to none."

And to practice the same "empowering" art form, the artisans would construct a temporary wooden frame. Then, a Naqash, or a designer, would gently place a tracing paper over the canvas and dust it with a duster dipped with temporary ink.

"Our canvas is blueprinted with a variety of motifs," Me'raj explains the process. "We buy two- or nine-ply woolen yarns from the market and dye them. And then we start embroidering our canvas—threading it in cross-stitches or petit-points. Once done with colouring, we sent the fabric for

washing. This is how a tapestry gets ready as our wall and floor decor."

However, despite scheming the skill, the sad part remains, not many are drawn to tapestry nowadays.

There must be over 100 tapestry artisans dispersed across Srinagar, Me'raj says, but none of them are producing any tapestries anymore.

"How can we expect our fellow artists to collaborate with us if the trade does not provide them with sufficient income to feed and educate their families," Me'raj says. "Wages are ultimately what feeds the stomach and runs households."

To maintain balance in their life, the siblings are working on the various other Kashmiri handicrafts, like chain-stitching, crewel-curtains, makhamal-crewel curtains, bedcovers, and more.

"But we've not forgotten tapestry art," says Hussain. "We've recently completed one masterpiece that we want to show as a representation of Kashmir's tapestry work."

Whatever the circumstances, the brothers believe, the effort and art should not be overlooked.

"If the government provides any assistance or instructions in reviving this tapestry art," says Me'raj, "we're confident that many artisans will step forward to assist in the revival of this art form."

Cough Syrups

after WHO informed the regulator of the deaths late last month.

Samples of four cough syrups manufactured by a Sonipat-based firm have been sent to the Central Drugs Laboratory in Kolkata for examination, Haryana's Health Minister Anil Vij said Thursday, a day after the WHO report hit headlines.

"The samples have been collected by a team of the DCGA and Haryana's

Food and Drugs Administration Department and sent to the CDL, Kolkata for examination," Vij told PTI over phone on Thursday.

He said a senior official of Centre's Department of Pharmaceuticals spoke with Haryana's Additional Chief Secretary (Health). Vij said the cough syrups manufactured by the pharma company were approved for export. "It is not available for sale or marketing in the country."

"Whatever action has to be taken will be taken once the CDL report comes. Only after the report is in, we can arrive at any conclusion," Vij said.

When asked about the matter at a news conference here, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said the Centre was looking into this issue.

"When an international issue is involved, the Government of India deals with it and they are dealing with it," he said.

However, he added, "So far, we do not have information on whether the deaths actually happened because of these medicines or due to some other reasons."

Laboratory analysis of samples of each of the four products confirms that they contain unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol as contaminants.

Outlining the risks associated with the products, WHO said diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are toxic to humans when consumed and can prove fatal.

"Toxic effects can include abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, inability to pass urine, headache, altered mental state and acute kidney injury which may lead to death," it said.

All batches of these products should be considered unsafe until they can be analysed by the relevant National Regulatory Authorities. The

substandard products referenced in this alert are unsafe and their use, especially in children, may result in serious injury or death, it added.

Govt Reaching

views on the present developmental scenario in the UT of J&K.

Similarly, the spokesperson said, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member Parliament, Rajya Sabha also called on the LG and discussed various issues pertaining to public welfare.

The LG, while interacting with the newly elected Member of Parliament observed that the UT Government is steadfastly working on all fronts to make every section of the society an equal stakeholder in the development process of J&K.

"We are reaching out to the last person in the queue with all benefits of the government schemes and the rapid socio-economic growth taking place in the UT for ensuring inclusive and equitable development for all," Sinha added.

Rs 10,000 Cr Worth

he said, it was given out that after allotment of land in favour of these unit holders they had in turn deposited a sum of Rs 217 Cr into the government exchequer as their lease dues.

According to the spokesperson, Mehta impressed upon the officers to strictly adhere to the single window system and timelines to ensure that industrial units get established smoothly, and creates employment opportunities for our youth besides strengthening the economy.

He further said that the Chief Secretary emphasized that the remaining reform points out of 352 recommended by BARP for industrial development should be implemented within this month.

"Dr Mehta further said that the administration would incentivize the good work put up by the Deputy Commissioners in attracting new investments in their districts. He further stated that all DCs would be evaluated on few parameters of creating enabling environment for investments," he said

The spokesperson further said that the Chief Secretary also emphasized on making the Kashmir Haat and Jammu Haat vibrant trade centres.

Mehta, he said, asked the concerned Directors to take measures to turn them into business hubs round the year.

According to the spokesperson, the meeting was informed that more than 3300 applications has been approved by HLLAC with Letter of Intent (LoI) issued in favour of 1879 applicants and lease deeds executed by 260 applicants. He said that it was also made out that in 111 industrial estates 9869 Kanals of land has so far been allotted to the prospective unit holders.

"Regarding new estates it was said that 37 DPRs had been prepared by SIDCO and SICOP worth more than Rs 2200 crore besides receiving applications for 2 private estates also. The meeting also discussed the dozens of proposals received by the department for establishing health care projects in the two medi-cities of J&K," he said.

The spokesperson said that the meeting also deliberated upon the progress made on investments made by foreign companies in the UT.

"It had detailed discussion on various proposals made by these companies after signing of MoU with the UT administration. These includes Dubai based businesses like EMAAR Group, Noon.com, Al Maya Group, GL Employment, MATU Investments and others," he added.

DEATH OVERS: India In Search Of 'Last Action Hero'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: It has been a decade but Bhuvneshwar Kumar's debut in what was the last bilateral series between India and Pakistan, seems like yesterday.

The sixth delivery of his international career swung away and after pitching viciously tailed in to disturb opener Nasir Jamshed's timber. Bhuvneshwar has not bowled such a delivery in the last two years.

Now that he is expected to lead the Indian attack at the T20 World Cup, his own performance at the death overs is under the scanner.

There were some good spells but against good teams, that magic or x-factor has been distinctly missing.

Since 2021, Bhuvneshwar has played 23 T20I games for India and has got only 15 wickets from them.

But that's not the biggest worry. The biggest factor is the 159 deliveries he has bowled at the death (between overs 17 to 20th) and



the 266 runs that he has conceded at an economy rate of 10.03.

These are the numbers which are far from satisfactory. In fact, scary, because Bhuvneshwar will be the leader of a rag-tag Indian attack at the T20 World Cup with the team management still unsure how Mohammed Shami would shape up.

Deepak Chahar vs Bhuvneshwar Kumar debate

With Shami's recovery post Covid, still being monitored, Chahar's incisive bowling at the start is something that can only get India wickets, feels the 'turbanator'.

"Deepak Chahar is the only bowler, who can get the ball to swing up-front and both ways and looks like getting 2-3 wickets in Powerplay.

"His inswinger is as lethal as his outswinger and he can even get to move in non-conductive conditions. At this stage, where we stand today, Deepak is a better-skilled bowler in present scenario compared to Bhuvneshwar.

Arshdeep has courage but needs experience

Arshdeep Singh's is still a fledgling career but among the three bowlers in the main quad, he had the most decent economy rate of 8.03 since 2021. He has conceded 166 runs in 121 balls and in the death overs has gone for only four sixes.

Umrans Malik

He has the x-factor and he can go for a lot of runs as his inexperience may lead him to be a bit wayward with his line and length but not many in world cricket are blessed with 150 clicks speed and if he can at least get 3-4 menacing deliveries in a two-over spell, at least a wicket or two could be assured.

Umrans is going as a net bowler but Harbhajan won't mind if Chetan Sharma and Rahul Dravid make a leap of faith and include him in case of Mohammed Shami is unavailable.

"I think entire country is praying for Shami but we need contingency ready, if he is unavailable."

A-Division: Nishat FC Defeat Madina Alamdar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The DFA Srinagar Annual League Football Tournament 2022, saw one match of A-Division league played on Thursday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The match played between Madina Alamdar FC and Nishat FC in which the team from Nishat trounced their opponents 5-1.

Nishat FC's Fahad found the net in the 3rd minute and in the 20th minute Umer doubled the lead for his side. It was Fahad once again who found the net in 24th minute. Madina Alamdar FC trying to beat the defence line but could not find the net.

In the second half, Fahad scored back to back goals to take his side 5-0. At the end of the match Madina Alamdar FC found the net through Mohsin.

The final score was 5-0 in favour of Nishat FC.

DFA Srinagar also revealed that today's fixture between Blossom FC and Gangbugh FC will be played at Iddgah Srinagar instead of Bakshi Stadium because of non-availability of the stadium. The DFA requested both teams to report at 2:30 pm at the venue.

The tournament is organised by DFA Srinagar in collaboration with JKSC.



Wheelchair Basketball Camp Begins In Bandipora

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Wheelchair Basketball Federation of India (WBFI) began its 25-day long Training and Selection of Indian Wheelchair Women Team from Thursday at Indoor Hall Bandipora.

The camp is scheduled to run until November 1 and the Voluntary Medicare Society (VMS) has teamed up with J&K Sports Council to host the event.

Sixteen female wheelchair players selected by WBFI from different states of India including 2 women players from J&K will be part of the camp. Besides, two national coaches including renowned basketball coach George will impart training to the players.

Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul presided over the inaugural function as chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Sports Council said that she was overwhelmed to see the enthusiasm of the participants

in spite of physical shortcomings they are chasing their dreams.

Dr. Mir Mohammad Maqbool, President VMS presented the welcome address while Coach George presented vote of thanks for the cooperation.

Medical Superintendent SKIMS Medical College and Hospital, Dr. Shifa appreciated the efforts of J&K Sports Council and VMS.

Training and selection process shall continue at Multi-Purpose Indoor Hall Shadipora, Bandipora for twenty five days.

In the meantime, JKSC in collaboration with J&K Yogasana Sports Association is organising a UT Level Yogasana Sports Championship at Indoor Stadium Srinagar. Fifteen districts are participating in the two day event which shall culminate later today.

More than 370 athletes and 50 officials including judges from other districts and Sports Authority of India will officiate and monitor the event.



T20 World Cup: Rohit Sharma-Led Team Departs For Australia



Agencies

MUMBAI: The India men's cricket team, led by Rohit Sharma, left for Australia on Thursday morning for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, starting from October 16.

After failing to get past the quarterfinals in 2017, the 2007 champions will try to claim the trophy this time around.

Team India was able to generate some momentum before the World Cup winning the bilateral series against Australia and South Africa.

The T20I series between India and Australia and South Africa may have ended in victories for India on home soil, but there are some serious issues as the team prepares to compete in the T20 World Cup in Australia. Jasprit Bumrah was ruled out of the four-week tournament on Monday with a back injury and will stay home in India while his teammates travel Down Under for the showcase event.

Bumrah was initially named to spearhead India's attempt at winning a second T20 World Cup crown and his absence is expected to hamper their chances of adding to the title they won in 2007.

The BCCI are yet to name a replacement for the right-arm, although fellow seamers Mohammed Shami and Deepak Chahar are among the players already on standby for the tournament.

Before starting their World Cup campaign, India will play a couple of warm-up fixtures against Australia and New Zealand.

They will begin their T20 World Cup campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 23 in Melbourne.

Team India was able to generate some momentum before the World Cup winning the bilateral series against Australia and South Africa. "The social media accounts of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) posted a picture of the entire Team India contingent departing for the T20 World Cup.

"Picture perfect, let's do this #TeamIndia. @cricketworldcup here we come," BCCI tweeted."

The T20I series between India and Australia and South Africa may have ended in victories for India on home soil, but there are some serious issues as the team prepares to compete in the T20 World Cup in Australia. (ANI)



THE 1ST ODI BETWEEN India and South Africa began on Thursday in Lucknow. Rain delayed the start of the match, which was later reduced to 40 overs. The Temba Bavuma-led Proteas posted a competitive 249/4 in their allotted overs, with David Miller 75* (63) and Heinrich Klaasen 74* (65) top scoring for the team. Shikhar Dawan-led India were tottering at 51/4 after 18 overs when reports last came in.

Brazil Will Be Top-Ranked Team At WC In Qatar

Agencies

ZURICH: Brazil will go to this year's World Cup as the top-rated team after extending its lead over second-place Belgium in the latest FIFA rankings released Thursday.

Brazil won its two warmup games in September — against Ghana and Tunisia — while Belgium lost to the Netherlands in one of its two Nations League games.

Argentina stayed at No. 3 and 2018 World Cup champion France is still at No. 4.

The World Cup in Qatar starts on Nov. 20.

Host Qatar will be the 50th-ranked team, just ahead of No. 51 Saudi Arabia. Ghana will be the lowest ranked team at No. 61.

Group B at the World Cup is the strongest by rankings with all four teams in the top 20 — No. 5 England, No. 16 United States, No. 19 Wales and No. 20 Iran.

Italy rose one place to No. 6 and is the highest-ranked team that failed to qualify for the World Cup, missing back-to-back editions. Spain fell one place to No. 7, with Netherlands, Portugal and Denmark unchanged to complete the top 10.

Germany, the 2014 champion, is No. 11, just ahead of 2018 finalist Croatia.

Also, Russia rose two places to No. 33 despite not playing a recognized game in 2022 because the national team was suspended following the country's invasion of Ukraine. (AP)



France Ski World Blasts AWS In Saudi Arabia

Agencies

PARIS: The French ski federation, mayors from mountain resorts and ski instructors lashed out on Thursday at the decision to award the 2029 Asian Winter Games to Saudi Arabia, saying the decision goes against what is desirable for the planet.

In a joint statement also signed by the union of ski area operators, they said they have been left flabbergasted by the plan to host the competition in a place naturally poor in precipitation and water, where there are no ski resorts or slopes to date.

Saudi Arabia will host the Asian Winter Games in mountains near the USD 500 billion futuristic city project Neom.

The Olympic Council of Asia picked the Saudi candidacy that centers on Trojena, which is planning to be a year-round ski resort by 2026.

The Neom megaproject is being funded by the Saudi sovereign wealth vehicle, the Public Investment Fund.

"We can only denounce this aberrant project, which is totally opposite to what is desirable for the planet," the French collective said, insisting on the need for all to respect the 2015 Paris accord's target for limiting global warming and to manage resources and biodiversity in a sustainable way," they said.

"It is only on this condition that future generations will be able to live happily on our planet and learn to ski," they said.

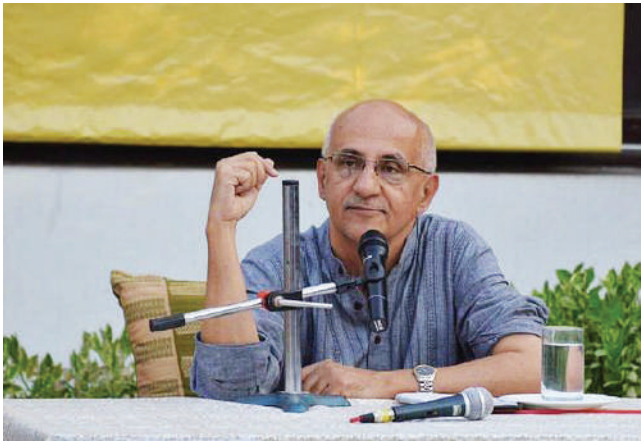
Saudi Arabia also will host the 2034 Asian Games in Riyadh as part of aggressive moves to build a sports hosting portfolio and help diversify the economy from reliance on oil.

A campaign to host the 2030 World Cup in football is expected with an unprecedented three-continent bid including Egypt and Greece. (AP)



IT IS ONLY ON THIS CONDITION that future generations will be able to live happily on our planet and learn to ski."

Harsh Mander, AltNews Co-Founders Among Favourites To Win This Year's Nobel Peace Prize



Press Trust of India

Co-founders of fact checking website AltNews Pratik Sinha and Mohammed Zubair and author and activist Harsh Mander are among the favourites to win this year's Nobel Peace Prize, according to shortlists released ahead of the announcement.

The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced on October 7 in Oslo, Norway. Ahead of the announcement, predictions are being made about who and which organisations are the favourites and top-runners to win one of the most prestigious global honours.

The Time magazine, in a report, compiled a list of some of the favourites to win, based on nominations that were made public via Norwegian lawmakers, predictions from bookmakers, and picks from the Peace Research Institute Oslo.

The list includes journalists Sinha and Zubair, who "have relentlessly been battling misinformation in India. The Time report said that the duo has methodologically debunked rumors and fake news circulating on social media and called out hate speech.

Zubair was arrested by the Delhi Police on June 27 for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through his tweets.

The Time article notes that Zubair's arrest was condemned by journalists around the world who argued it was retribution for his fact-checking work.

The Time list of favourites also includes Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the UN Refugee Agency, Belarusian Opposition politician Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the World Health Organisation, Russia's jailed opposition leader and anti-corruption activist Alexey Navalny and Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg.

The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) director Henrik Urdal also released his annual shortlist of probable Peace laureates. His list includes Mander, and the campaign he launched in 2017, 'Karwan-e-Mohabbat'. Urdal also names Sinha and Zubair as other worthy candidates for a prize focused on combating religious extremism and intolerance in India.

"Religious extremism helps justify discrimination and violence, and stokes tensions between groups that can result in armed conflict. Making a significant contribution to fighting religious extremism and promoting interreligious dialogue is therefore a compelling rationale for being awarded a Nobel Peace Prize. A worthy recipient of such a prize is Harsh Mander, along with the campaign he launched in 2017, 'Karwan-e-Mohabbat' ("Caravan of Love"), according to Urdal's shortlist.

Mander is an important voice for religious tolerance and dialogue, and his campaign an important rallying point for those who oppose interreligious conflict and violence.

Annie Ernaux Wins The 2022 Nobel Prize In Literature

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The Nobel prize in literature has been awarded to Annie Ernaux "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory".

Ernaux, who writes novels about daily life in France as well as non-fiction and is one of her country's most acclaimed authors, had been among the favourites to win the prize. The Nobel said that they had not yet been able to reach her on the phone, but expected to be able to speak to her soon.

Ernaux is the first French writer to win the Nobel since Patrick Modiano in 2014. She becomes the 16th French writer to have won the Nobel to date.

Anders Olsson, chair of the Nobel committee, said that in her work, "Ernaux consistently and from different angles, examines a life marked by strong disparities regarding gender, language and class".

Ernaux was born in 1940 and grew up in the small town of Yvetot in Normandy. She studied at Rouen University, and later taught at secondary school. From 1977 to 2000, she was a professor at the Centre National d'Enseignement par Correspondance. Olsson said her "path to authorship was long and arduous".

Her debut was Les ammoires vides, published in 1974 in France and as Cleaned Out in English in 1990. It was her fourth book, La place or A Man's Place, that was her literary breakthrough.

A Man's Place and A Woman's Story, which was originally published in 1988 in French, have become contemporary classics in France. Ernaux won the Prix Renaudot in France in 2008 for her autobiography The Years, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker International prize in 2019 when it was translated into English by Alison L. Strayer.

Ankita Chakraborty in the



Guardian said Ernaux's Getting Lost, a book recording her obsessive affair with a Russian diplomat, would "become a kind of totem for lovers: a manual to help them find their centre when, like Ernaux, they are lost in love".

Chakraborty wrote: "The quality that distinguishes Ernaux's writing on sex from others in her milieu is the total absence of shame. Desire in her brings forth more desire, the impulse of death, happiness, and even past trauma, like her abortion, but never humiliation. Reading her is to thoroughly purge yourself of the notion that shame could be a possible outcome of wanting sex."

Olson said Ernaux "manifestly believes in the liberating force of writing".

"Her work is uncompromising and written in plain language, scraped clean," he continued. "And when she with great courage and clinical acuity reveals the agony of the experience of class, describing shame, humiliation, jealousy or inability to see who you are, she has achieved something admirable and enduring."

Ernaux's work was first published in English by Seven Stories Press in the US, which was founded in 1995 by Dan Simon. The press is named for the seven authors Si-

mon first published at Seven Stories Press; among them was Ernaux.

In the UK, independent publisher Fitzcarrald Editions has published eight of Ernaux's books, with another two on the way. Shame will be released next year, as will Ernaux's latest book Le jeune homme.

Publisher Jacques Testard described Ernaux as a very important feminist writer, and said The Years, the first book of hers he read, was "an absolutely phenomenal book, undoubtedly a masterpiece".

With The Years, Testard said Ernaux "invents a form, does something genuinely new with literature; it's an intersection of the novel and autobiography and non-fiction".

Testard said Ernaux's "literary project has been to write about her life and to get at the truth of it somehow ... I think she's written about every important event in her life, from becoming aware of what social classes are as a child, to the death of her father and the death of her mother, to the illegal abortion she had in France in the 1960s, to her first sexual experiences and then to writing about love and passion and desire," he said. "She's been doing this for 50 years and there is a very genuine clarity to her work."

IRF Urges Withdrawal Of Notification Making 6 Airbags Mandatory From October 1, 2023

The road safety body International Road Federation (IRF) has urged the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Nitin Gadkari to withdraw the notification making six airbags mandatory in passenger vehicles from October 1, 2023.

It is likely to become counterproductive resulting in more severe injuries and deaths if seat belts are not worn by the passengers in the vehicle, the IRF said.

In the letter to the Ministry, it said that the six airbags in passenger vehicles should be made mandatory once 85 per cent of the people start wearing rear seat belts. "Once this figure crosses 85 per cent pan India, the government should go ahead making this provision of six airbags. Otherwise, it will become counterproductive and we will lose more lives," said K.K. Kapila, President Emeritus, International Road Federation (IRF).

"Unless people start wearing rear seat belts, the provision of six airbags will become counterproductive, leading to more fatal accidents. In a crash, seat belts are primary restraint devices whereas airbags are supplemental support. Rather Several global studies have shown that

if an airbag is deployed without having the seat belt on, it can cause severe injuries and even death," said Kapila.

"Seat belts and airbags are interrelated. An airbag without a seat belt can cause severe injury and even death. So, one has to use a seat belt to avoid serious injury. Airbags were specifically designed to be used with seatbelts—serious injuries may result in victims who are not properly restrained by seatbelts, are "out of position" when airbags deploy," he said.

"According to MoRTH data, in 70 per cent of the 2-wheeler accident deaths, victims were found NOT wearing helmets; and in 87 per cent of the car accident deaths, victims were found NOT wearing seat belts. Sadly 96 per cent of car passengers do not wear seat belts on the backseat. It is high time that we move away from the populist ideology of mandating regulations, safety devices like six airbags, but bite the bitter pill of Enforcement and Penalties that may affect masses. Of course, harsh measures will face resistance and give discomfort initially, but eventually they will become a habit." Kapila added.



ONCE THIS FIGURE CROSSES 85 PER CENT PAN INDIA, the government should go ahead making this provision of six airbags. Otherwise, it will become counterproductive and we will lose more lives."

Quick eats for
busy people

**Bun
Maska**



&
Chai

Chicken Crispy
Burger



JK BANK LAWNS, NEAR GHAT 6, BOULEVARD-SRINAGAR