

Govt Report Paints Grim Picture Of J&K's Wetlands, Forest Cover

● J&K Lost 120 Hectares Of Wetland In 10 Years ● Habitat Destruction, Pollution; Overexploitation Of Aquatic Resources Key Reasons

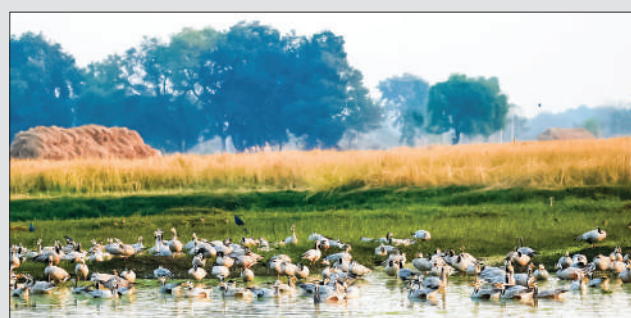
Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir is losing its green gold at an astounding pace, making eco activists and nature lovers worried about the downward trend. The latest jungle report has painted a grim picture as it states that J&K has lost 120 hectares of wetland in 10 years.

A report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), a ministry of Government of India concerned with coverage

and quality aspects of statistics, found that J&K lost 120 hectares of wetland in 10 years from 2006-07 to 2017-18. That resulted in shrinking of wetlands from 1,64,230 hectares in 2006-07 to 1,64,110 hectares in 2017-18, or a loss of one wetland, taking the overall number to 403 wetlands against 404 in 2006-07.

In addition to the overall dwindling of wetlands, the research asserted that forest cover of Very Dense Forest (VDF) has decreased from



4,203 sq. Kms in 2017-18 to 4,155 sq. Kms in 2019-20. However, indicating a positive trend in the total cover of Moderately Dense Forest (MDF) and Open Forest (OF),

THE AVAILABLE DATA CLEARLY SHOWS HOW J&K'S WETLANDS HAVE BEEN FRAGMENTED. The shrinking of wetlands has made our region highly susceptible to floods because wetlands act as natural sponges and flood protection systems. We need a comprehensive strategy to tackle this unprecedented situation."

The data said that MDF cover increased to 8,117 sq. kms in 2019-20 against 7,952 sq. kms in 2017-18 and the OF cover increased from 8,967 sq. kms to 9,115 sq. kms from 2017-18 to 2019-20. These facts emerged from MOSPI's report titled, 'Envistats India 2022'. According to **More on PIO**

Govt Announces Milad Holiday On Sunday

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal falling on Sunday, the government on Friday ordered that the holiday on 'Eid-i-Milad-ul-Nabi' shall be observed on October 9 instead of October 8.

"In partial modification of the government order NO. 1337-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated 16-12-2021) read with the government No.1338-jk(GAD) of 2021 dated 16-12-2021, the holiday on account of 'Eid-i-Milad-ul-Nabi' instead of 8th October 2022 (Saturday) in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir," reads a government order.

Meanwhile, the government said that the provincial holiday on account of "Urs Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Sahib" shall now be observed in Kashmir Province on 23rd October 2022 (Sunday) instead of 22d October 2022 (Saturday).

US Asks Citizens To Avoid Travelling To J&K

Press Trust Of India

Washington: The US on Friday asked its citizens to exercise "increased caution" while travelling to India due to "crime and terrorism" and advised them to not to travel to the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a new travel advisory issued on Friday, the US State Department reduced the India Travel Advisory Level to 2 on a scale of one to 4 with the latter being the highest.

The State Department in a separate advisory, a day earlier, had put Pakistan on Level 3 and asked its citizens to reconsider their travel especially its restive provinces due to terrorism and sectarian violence.

Exercise increased caution in India due to crime and terrorism, said the State Department.

Do not travel to: The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir (except the eastern Ladakh region and its capital, Leh) due to terrorism and civil unrest. Within 10 km of the **More on PIO**

SPECIAL STATUS REVOCATION

New Dawn Of Equity, Fairness; Empowerment In J&K: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asserting that his administration is working tirelessly towards social equality and justice for all, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A has heralded a new dawn of equity, fairness and empowerment and due rights have been conferred upon the deprived communities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sinha made these remarks while interacting with members of Kerala Legislative Assembly Committee on Welfare of Backward Class Communities at Raj Bhawan here on Friday, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the Committee comprising its members including Kurukoli Moideen, K. Babu, A. Prabhakaran, KK Ramachandran and G. Stephen



IAF Commander Calls On LG

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday discussed various important issues pertaining to the air defence management system in the Union Territory with Air Vice Marshal Praveen Keshav Vohra, AVSM, VM, Air Officer Commanding Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh. During his interaction with Vohra at Raj Bhawan here, the LG lauded the courage and valour displayed by the Indian Air Force personnel while discharging **More on PIO**

are on a study tour to the UT of J&K. "The Lt Governor observed that the end of Articles 370 and 35A has heralded a new dawn of equity, fairness and empowerment and due rights have been conferred upon the deprived communities and the J&K Government is working tirelessly towards social equality and justice for all," he added.

Later, the spokesperson said that a deputation of BJP leaders including Dr. Ali Mohammad, In-charge BJP J&K Minority Morcha and Umar Jan, District President, BJYM Budgam also called on the LG and apprised him of various developmental issues of Budgam pertaining to strengthening of road network of prominent tourist & religious places like Doodhpathri, Tosamaidan, Yusmarg and Charar-i-Sharief; water filtration plant at **More on PIO**

J&K Govt Announces Uniform Academic Calendar In Schools

- All Exams From Classes 1-9 In March Now
- New Admissions To Commence From March



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government Friday decided to implement a uniform academic

calendar in all schools in the union territory including the conduct of annual examinations in the March-April session for up to class nine. **More on PIO**

School Transportation To Get Costlier After 14% Hike

The Government Fee Fixation Committee (GFFC) has approved the hike in transportation fee by 14 percent for private schools in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions. The committee however said that the hike would be applicable from March-2022. The committee **More on PIO**

THE LT GOVERNOR OBSERVED THAT THE END OF ARTICLES 370 and 35A has heralded a new dawn of equity, fairness and empowerment and due rights have been conferred upon the deprived communities and the J&K Government is working tirelessly towards social equality and justice for all."

Govt Probes ULB Corporators

Inquiry Officers To Probe Allegations Of Abuse Of Official Position By VP Pampore, Baramulla Councilor Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has ordered two separate inquiries against elected corporators of Kashmir for abuse of their official position.

In two separate orders, the Housing & Urban Development Department has ordered two separate inquiries against Zareena Akther, vice-president of municipal committee Pampore and Nighat Parveen, Councilor, municipal council Baramulla, for abuse of their official position.

According to an order, the H&UDD has appointed Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir Mathoora Masoom to conduct a detailed inquiry into the alleged abuse of the official **More on PIO**



Nomads have begun their annual migration from the summer pastures of Kashmir Valley following a sharp decline in temperature: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

COUGH SYRUPS PROBE

Drug Controller Asks ADCs To Identify Formulation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: After the government of India ordered a probe into four cough syrups following an alert issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), deputy drug controller Kashmir has asked all Assistant Drug Controllers (ADCs) for immediate action after identifying the formulations from the distribution channels.

According to a communique, deputy drug controller Kashmir stated that all Assistant Drug Controllers are requested for immediate necessary action after identifying the formulations from the distribution channels. The communique stated that

any action taken or seizures made may be shared with this office for onward appraisal of higher-ups while stressing that the matter may be treated as most urgent.

Notably, the WHO had issued an alert over four cough and cold syrups made by Maiden Pharmaceuticals in India, warning they could be linked to the deaths of 66 children in the Gambia.

Meanwhile Deputy Drug Controller Kashmir division, Nighat Andrabi on Friday said that people need not panic as the cough syrups regarding which the World Health Organization had issued an alert were manufactured only for Gambia. **More on PIO**



SHORT TAKES

Girl Among 4 Injured In Bear Attack

Four people, including a 12-year-old girl, were injured when they were attacked by a wild bear in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday, officials said. The victims were working in their field when a bear ventured from a nearby forest into Chella-Dhangri village in Mandi area and attacked them, they said. They said the bear was chased back by the villagers and later the four injured - Saira (12), Anjum Bashir (18), Abdul Majid (32) and Shaheena (30) - were shifted to hospital where their **More on PIO**

5 Booked Under UAPA In IED Case

Five persons were apprehended and booked under sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection with the recent recovery of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, police said on Friday. The IED was smuggled in from across the Line of Control (LoC) and recovered from a woman at Parade Park in Poonch town on September 28. "The woman revealed that her husband Mohd Azad provided the IED to her and, accordingly, he was picked up and subjected to sustained questioning, **More on PIO**

Lohia's Death Untimely, Unfortunate: CS

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday held a meeting to condole the demise of Director General, Prisons, Hemant Kumar Lohia at Civil Secretariat here. All the Administrative Secretaries and senior officers participated in the meeting. Those stationed at Jammu and Delhi participated in the meeting through video conferencing. Remembering the deceased, Chief Secretary remarked that nobody deserves such a mishap in his/her life. He called his death untimely and unfortunate. He stated that at this time of grief and irreparable loss whole administration **More on PIO**

2 Detained Under PSA In Samba, Doda

An alleged hardcore criminal was booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, police said. "Vasu Dev alias Shunu, a resident of Rangarh, is a habitual criminal and his criminal activities are posing a great threat to the public peace and tranquility," a police spokesman said. He said seven cases were registered against Dev at different Police Stations in Samba district over the past couple of years. "Keeping in view his repeated involvement in criminal activities, the dossier was **More on PIO**

J&K Adds 10 More Corona Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported ten fresh covid-19 cases even as there was no death due to the virus during the last 24 hours, officials said on Friday. They said seven cases were reported from Jammu and three from Kashmir Valley, taking the overall tally to 479207. Among the cases, 174005 are from Jammu division and 305202 from Kashmir Valley. Giving district wise details, they said, Jammu reported 6 new cases of Coronavirus, Srinagar 3 and Doda 1. There was no death due to the virus during the time. So far 4785 people have **More on PIO**

Five 'Terror Associates' Held In Poonch

Police on Friday said a module behind the smuggling of an improvised explosive device (IED) and a huge quantity of narcotics was busted with the arrest of five terror-associates in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district. Besides the IED, six kg of suspected heroin worth crores of rupees in the international market and a pistol were seized from the possession of the accused, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Poonch, Rohit Baskotra said. He said the IED was smuggled from across the Line of Control (LoC) and recovered from Zaitoona Akhter (35). **More on PIO**

New Symptom-Based Screening Technique For Detecting Asthma Risk In Children

ANI
 A team of researchers affiliated with the CHILD Cohort Study (CHILD) has created a simple new symptom-based screening technique for detecting asthma risk in children as early as two years old.

The efficacy of the tool—the CHILDhood Asthma Risk Tool, or CHART—is detailed in a study published in the highly influential Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

"Asthma affects nearly 330 million people worldwide, carries a heavy healthcare cost, and is the leading cause of hospitalization among kids in Canada—especially kids under five," comments co-senior author Dr. Padmaja Subbarao, who is a respirologist and CRC Tier 1 Chair in Pediatric Asthma and Lung Health at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) and the Director of CHILD. She also is a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto and an Adjunct Professor in Respiriology and Medicine at McMaster University. "Earlier detection of this con-

dition will allow doctors to treat kids sooner, so they will suffer less and avoid going to the hospital, thus also lowering costs to the healthcare system." "One reason asthma often goes undetected in young children is because most conventional asthma tests are difficult to perform in children, time consuming and invasive, involving skin pricks and blood-taking, so many patients and doctors choose to avoid them," notes the study's co-first author, Myrtha E Reyna-Vargas, who is an M.Sc. and a biostatistician at SickKids. "Other conventional tests can also require appointments with specialists and the use of specialized equipment to test lung function, with associated costs." CHART categorizes children's risk of future asthma and persistent symptoms as 'High,' 'Moderate' or 'Low,' based on information reported before age three. The tool recommends follow-up actions for each group.

"The beauty of CHART, the new tool we have developed, is that it can be used by family doctors or nurses in a low-resource primary care setting. It is non-in-



vasive; it can be done on-the-spot and in-the-moment; it is cost free and it requires no special equipment. Now that we have shown CHART's benefits in the CHILD study, we are working towards validating its use prospectively in clinical practice." In the study, CHART was applied to data from 2,354 children participating in CHILD, a longitudinal research study launched in 2008 that has been following the physical, social and cognitive development of nearly 3,500 Canadian children

from before birth. From information about the children's wheezing and coughing episodes, use of asthma medications, and related hospital visits at three years of age, CHART was able to predict with 91% accuracy which of these kids would have persistent wheeze—a key indicator of asthma—by age five. Of those children evaluated by CHART to be at high risk of asthma at age three, 50% were diagnosed by in-study physicians as having asthma by five years of age.

"We believe the tool is actually even more accurate at predicting asthma than this number suggests," adds Dr. Malcolm Sears, co-senior author of the study, professor emeritus at McMaster University, and CHILD's Founding Director.

"Because of various ambiguities in the way asthma is clinically defined, it is likely that a number of these young kids have asthma that remains formally undiagnosed. And regardless of an official asthma diagnosis, persistent wheeze symptoms have been linked to lower lung function, chronic lung disease, and the same kind of health care utilization as asthma; persistent wheeze also requires similar monitoring and treatment, so the value of the tool's predictive capacity is unquestionable." Overall, CHART was found to be more accurate at predicting persistent wheeze, asthma, and related health care usage than other standard diagnostic methods, including physician assessments and the conventional asthma test known as the modified Asthma Predictive Index (mAPI).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (MWCD)

Applications are invited to fill up the existing six vacancies of Members in National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR), New Delhi in the following fields namely:

- Child Education.
- Child Health, Care, welfare or child development.
- Juvenile Justice or care of neglected or marginalized children or children with disabilities
- Elimination of child labour or children in distress.
- Child psychology or sociology.
- Laws relating to children

2. The eligibility criteria, age, salary and other allowances, etc. and other details may be seen on the website of Ministry of Women & Child Development at www.wcd.nic.in. Persons, who are interested in applying for the post of Member and fulfill the eligibility criteria for appointment to the post, may apply online on the Ministry's Website <https://wcd.nic.in> or ncpcrvacancies.nic.in within 28 days from the date of publication of the Advertisement in the Newspapers.

3. The applicants may also send their particulars in the prescribed proforma [Schedule IV Form under rule 6A(3) of NCPDR Rules] By Post to the Under Secretary (CW-1), Ministry of Women and Child Development, Room No. 628-A Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi: 110001 within 28 days from the date of publication of the Advertisement in the newspaper.

4. The persons who are serving under the Central/State Government or any other organization funded by the Central/State Government should fupete their applications through proper channel.

CBC - 46101/11/0002/2223

Vikas Tripathi
 Under Secretary to the Government of India

Over 7 In 10 Indians Now Prefer To Chat With Businesses: Meta Report

AIANS
 In the ever-evolving communication landscape, more than 70 per cent of Indians prefer to message businesses rather than sending an email, calling or visiting their website, a new report said on Friday.

Nearly 75 per cent Indians surveyed said they are more likely to do business with/purchase from a company that they can contact via messaging.

People in India increasingly prefer messaging over other forms of communication, the same way they chat with their friends and family, according to the research by Kantar commissioned by Meta (formerly Facebook).

"Today, customers not only want a quick and easy way to connect with brands, but they also



want to engage with a brand to learn more about their product while considering a purchase," said Ravi Garg, Director Business Mes-

saging at Meta.

The findings of the report showed that 86 per cent of adults message a business at least once a week, considerably higher than the global average of 66 per cent.

Majority (83 per cent) of the people surveyed expect businesses to deploy quick and easy modes of communication, such as messaging.

About 72 per cent of the people surveyed in India said they message with a business more often since the start of the pandemic.

Interestingly, 75 per cent are more likely to do business with/purchase from a company that they can contact via messaging.

"Conversational messaging is not only helping brands connect with consumers but also build brand experiences that grow their business," said Ravi Sundararajan, Chief Operating Officer, Gupshup.

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 (A Government of India Undertaking)
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 ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015 & ISO 45001 : 2018 Company

TENDER NOTICE Date: 08-10-2022
 Ref: ADVT.NO.22-23/12
IREL, OSCOM invites request for proposal for the following items / job descriptions.

Bid No.	Job / Item Description
2022_IREL_131049_1	Engagement of an Agency for up keeping and maintenance of OSCOM Guest house.
GEM/2022/B/2567110	Engagement of Dozer
GEM/2022/B/2590084	Supply of Caustic Soda Lye
GEM/2022/B/2593022	Supply of High Tension Roll Separator

Bidder may download tender document from <http://irel.co.in>, <http://gem.gov.in> or CPPP website.
 Any corrigendum / extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only.
 CBC- 48129/12/0047/2223
-Sd/- Executive Director, OSCOM

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ALTAZ NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
MANZOOR NEWS AGENCY	NORPORA
JAVAID NEWS AGENCY	AWANTIPORA
LONE NEW/ADVT AGENCY	RATNIPORA, PULWAMA
BOOZE NEWS AGENCY	AWANTIPORA
3 WAY TRAL NEWS AGENCY	TRAL
SYED MAQBOOL NEWS AGENCY	TRAL
DAR NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
SHAFI NEWS AGENCY	RAJPORA
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TURRAY NEWS AGENCY	SHOPIAN
FAROOQ NEWS AGENCY	KAKAPORA PULWAMA
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UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
 Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

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

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	Raising of 1 st Floor and Complete Renovation of Ground Floor (Gutted Portion) of Zabarwan Guest House (Phase 3) (Part A).	39.71	1100/-	79,420/-	06-10-2022 to 17-10-2022 (6.00 PM)	18-10-2022 (11.30 AM)	"AA" & "BEE"
2	Providing of Additional Rough /Ply Ceiling over False Ceiling in the Department of Mathematics (Extension part over the Library of Physics Department) at Main Campus.	4.56	200/-	9,120/-	06-10-2022 to 17-10-2022 (6.00 PM)	18-10-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"
3	Repair and Renovation of Washrooms in the Department of Mathematics, University of Kashmir.	4.34	200/-	8,680/-	06-10-2022 to 17-10-2022 (6.00 PM)	18-10-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"
4	Renovation of Plant Pathology, Mycology and Microbiology Lab in the department of Botany.	2.50	200/-	5,000/-	06-10-2022 to 17-10-2022 (6.00 PM)	18-10-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"

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

NIT No: - F(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/43/22
 DATED: 07/10/22

DIPK-NB-4266/22

Executive Engineer

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class 10th) under Roll No: 121010417 SESSION: Bi-An year 2022 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned school/parent, my Name Has been recorded with the Board as Arbaaz Yousf Dar while as actual name is Arbaaz Yousf Dar.

Now I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained. This is published for the information of general Public.

Arbaaz Yousf Dar
F/N: Mohammad Yousf Dar
M/N Irshada
DOB 01-02-2006
Residence Pinjora The Kwarhama

bmj

Office Of The Chairman Madina Public School Arampora (Pattan).

RESOLUTION

In pursuance to the meeting of the Managing Body dated on 05-08-2022 elections were held for the Managing Body through secret ballot 21-08-2022.

The following have been elected for the Managing Body of Madina Public School Arampora, Pattan.

01. Mr. Altaf Hussain Rather
 02. Mr. Mohammad Iqbal Malik
 03. Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Khanday
 04. Mtr. Nusrath Bano
 05. Mr. Asif Ahmad Dar
 06. Mr. Imdad Ali Wani
 07. Mtr. Amira Ali

S.NO.	Name	Parentage	Residence	Qualification	Occupation	Designation
01	Mr. Altaf Hussain Rather	Mohd Yousuf Rather	Mattipora	M.Sc	Pvt. Service.	Chairman
02	Mr. Mohammad Iqbal Malik	Gh. Hassan Malik	Mirgund	B.A., B.Ed.	Principal of school	Member
03	Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Khanday	Ghulam Hussain Khanday	Arampora	Matric	Business	Parent Member
04	Mtr. Nusrath Bano	Mirchimar, Ghulam Malik	Mirgund	B.A., B.Ed.	Teacher	Member
05	Mr. Asif Ahmad Dar	Mohammad Qasim Dar	Arampora	B.A.	Business	Parent Member
06	Mr. Imdad Ali Wani	Ali Mohd Wani	Habak Tangoo	B.A., B.Ed.	Pvt. Service	Secretary
07	Mtr. Amira Ali	Ali Mohammad Dar	Mattipora	M.A., B.Ed.	Pvt. service	Member

The Managing Body resolved to approach the worthy Director School Education Kashmir for the approval of above cited Body.

Chairman
 Madina Public School
 Arampora, Pattan

MPS

India Abstains From Voting On Rights Situation In China's Xinjiang At UN

Agenceis

United Nations/Geneva: India on Thursday abstained from voting on a draft resolution in the UN Human Rights Council on holding a debate on the human rights situation in China's restive Xinjiang region.

Human rights groups have been sounding the alarm over what is happening in the resource-rich north-western Chinese province for years, alleging that more than one million Uyghurs had been detained against their will in a large network of what Beijing calls "re-education camps".

UN's top human rights body considered a proposal to debate the human rights situation in the Xinjiang region of China.

"While the Council's failure to adopt the proposal is an abdication of responsibility and a betrayal of Uyghur victims, the extremely close vote highlights the growing number of states willing to take a stand on principle and shine a spotlight on China's sweeping rights violations," Richardson said.

Richardson noted that "nothing will erase the stain of China's crimes against humanity, laid bare" by a recent report of for-



The draft resolution on "holding a debate on the situation of human rights in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China" was rejected in the 47-member Council after 17 members voted in favour, 19 members voted against, including China, and 11 abstentions, including India, Brazil, Mexico and Ukraine.

The draft resolution was presented by a core group consisting of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, UK and USA, and co-sponsored by a range of states, including Turkey.

China director at Human Rights Watch, Sophie Richardson, said in a statement that for the first time in its history, the

mer UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet.

"We urge incoming High Commissioner Volker Turk to brief the Council on his office's report, and we call on states, companies, and the international community to implement the report's recommendations and hold Chinese authorities accountable for their international crimes," Richardson added.

Serious allegations of human rights violations against Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim communities in China were brought to the attention of the UN Human Rights Office and UN human rights mechanisms since late 2017.

GYANVAPI MOSQUE CASE

Varanasi Court Defers Hearing On 'Shivling' Carbon Dating To Oct 11



Agenceis

VARANASI: The district court in Varanasi on Friday deferred the hearing in the Gyanvapi case and scheduled it for October 11.

The court was supposed to pronounce its verdict on the plea filed by the Hindu side demanding carbon dating of the structure they claimed to be a 'Shivling' found inside the Gyanvapi Mosque's wuzu khana.

A heavy police force was deployed outside the premises of the court ahead of the crucial hearing.

The court had reserved the order in the Gyanvapi Mosque-Shringar Gauri case on September 29 after hearing both sides' arguments.

Four women petitioners in the Gyanvapi mosque-Shringar Gauri case had sought scientific investigation and carbon dating to ascertain the nature and age of the Shivling.

The Hindu side had claimed that they had found a shivling in the ab-lution pond or 'wazukhana' of the mosque during the videography survey of the mosque premises, which was ordered by the court.

However, the Muslim side said that the structure found was a 'fountain'.

The Hindu side had then submitted an application on September 22 that sought carbon dating of the object. Carbon dating is a scientific process that ascertains the age of an archaeological object or archaeological finds.

This was opposed not only by the Muslim side's Anjuman Inazaniya Masjid Committee, but also by plaintiff number one, Rakhi Singh of the Hindu side.

The lawyers had lodged an objection in court saying that carbon dating would damage the structure.

Earlier, on July 19, an appeal had

been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the order of the Allahabad High Court which had dismissed a PIL that sought the appointment of a committee/commission under a judge to study the nature of the structure found in the Gyanvapi Mosque, Varanasi.

The appeal filed by seven devotees sought direction from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to ascertain the nature of the structure found on the Gyanvapi campus.

On May 20, the Supreme Court ordered the transfer of the case related to worship at Gyanvapi mosque from the civil judge to the District Judge, Varanasi.

Earlier on September 12, the Varanasi court had dismissed a plea of Anjuman Islamia Masjid committee challenging the maintainability of the suit filed by five Hindu women seeking worshipping rights in the Gyanvapi mosque compound.

Delhi Police Arrests Juvenile Tasked To Kill Salman Khan

Agenceis

The Special Cell of the Delhi Police has apprehended two key members of an international terror module, including a juvenile, who were wanted in a number of terror cases -- the RPG attack incident at the Intelligence Headquarters in Punjab's Mohali, plotting to kill Bollywood actor Salman Khan & others.

Special Commissioner Police, Special Cell, H.G.S. Dhaliwal, said the apprehended accused were important nodes of the joint terror network of Pakistan-based Khalistani terrorist Harvinder Singh alias Rinda and Canada-based gangster turned terrorist, Lakhbir Singh Landa.

The arrested accused, Arshdeep, was wanted in the IED recovery case of Shahabad, Kurukshetra and IED recovery case of police station Sirhali in Punjab's Tarn Taran.

The official said the juvenile was also wanted in the murder of a builder, Sanjay Biyani, which took place on April 5 in Nanded city of Maharashtra, and in the murder of gangster Rana Kandowalia, outside a private hospital in Amritsar on August 4.

"The apprehended JCL has also disclosed the task given to him along with absconding Deepak Surakhpur and Monu Dagar (in jail) by Lawrence Bishnoi regarding the elimination of film actor Salman Khan. While the JCL was being handled by Rinda, Arshdeep was being handled by Landa Harike," the official said.

How they were caught

Dhaliwal said that they had been working to nab the culprits for a long time. They identified people who were providing logistics support to the accused. Finally, both the accused, Arshdeep and the juvenile, were arrested from Jamnagar in Gujarat.

Rocket Launcher attack

On May 9, a rocket-propelled



grenade was fired at Punjab Police's Intelligence Headquarters in Mohali. During the course of the investigation, it was established that the attack was a conspiracy of Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), backed by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and local gangsters.

The juvenile held by the Special Cell was also involved in the conspiracy. The police has learnt that the attack was conspired by gangster turned ISI stooge Harvinder Singh alias Rinda.

Another fugitive gangster, Lakhbir Singh Landa had joined hands with Harvinder Singh alias Rinda. They were sharing manpower, logistics and resources. Rinda's name had already cropped up in the grenade attack at the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) office in Nawanshahr and in the arrest of four suspected Pakistan-linked terrorists in Haryana's Karnal earlier this year.

Salman Khan murder plot

The official said that the juvenile was involved in the conspiracy along with other accused to carry out an attack on Salman Khan. They couldn't conduct a reconnaissance due to some reasons. Later, the juvenile was asked to kill Rana Kandowalia, a businessman.

Dhaliwal said that they will move a plea before the court with a request to try the juvenile as an adult. The official said that when the juvenile is over 16, the court can decide whether to try him as an adult or not.

India Conveys Its Objections To US Over American Envoy's Visit To Pak-Occupied Kashmir



Agenceis

New Delhi: India has conveyed its objections to the US over the recent visit to Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir by US Ambassador to Islamabad Donald Blome, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday. India also objected to the ambassador holding some meetings there.

"Our objection to the visit and meetings in Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir by the US ambassador to Pakistan has been conveyed to the US side," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing.

He was replying to a question on the issue.

In April, US Congresswoman Ilhan Omar visited Pakistan-Occupied-Jammu and Kashmir, drawing sharp reaction from India.

"We have noted that US representative Ilhan Omar has visited a part of the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir that is currently illegally occupied by Pakistan," Bagchi had said.

"If such a politician wishes to practice her narrow-minded politics at home, that may be her business. But violating our territorial integrity and sovereignty in its pursuit makes it ours. This visit is condemnable," he added.

Who Are The Winners Of The 2022 Nobel Peace Prize?

Agenceis

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has named jailed human rights advocate from Belarus, Ales Bialiatski, and two human rights organisations from Russia and Ukraine -- namely, Memorial and Center for Civil Liberties -- as the winners of this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

The human rights champions were recognised for an "outstanding effort to document war crimes, human right abuses and the abuse of power", the Committee said in a statement. "Together they demonstrate the significance of civil society for peace and democracy," it added.

Here is what to know about the winners:

Ales Bialiatski

Bialiatski, 60, has been leading a pro-democracy movement in Belarus since the mid-1980s.

In 1996, he founded Belarus's most prominent human rights organisation, Viasna, following controversial constitutional changes by longtime President Alexander Lukashenko.

Through Viasna, which translates to "Spring", Bialiatski provided support to jailed demonstrators and their families, while he also documented authorities'



use of torture.

In August 2011, he was handed a four-and-a-half-year prison sentence for tax evasion in a move widely seen as politically motivated in the wake of an earlier presidential election claimed by Lukashenko.

In 2020, as Belarus saw a new wave of mass demonstrations against Lukashenko's latest election, Viasna meticulously tracked numbers of people detained at protests and during police raids across the country.

Bialiatski was arrested again in 2021 on tax evasion charges, a move that Lukashenko's critics described as a tactic to silence his work.

"This is the best person to re-

ceive the Nobel Peace Prize because for many years, Bialiatski became the symbol of the global fight against tyranny and for the rights of ordinary people, of Belarusians." Franak Viacorka, a Belarusian opposition politician and senior adviser to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the leader of the Belarusian Democratic Movement, told Al Jazeera from Paris.

"He started his career as a freedom fighter against the Soviet Union in the 1980s, then he fought for Belarusian independence, then he fought against Lukashenko's regime. He was imprisoned and right now he is finally recognised by the Nobel Committee for dedicating his whole life to something that the entire world calls human rights."

Memorial

A group of human rights activists, including Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov, established the Memorial in 1987 in then-Soviet Union to provide support to the victims of the communist regime.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the group gathered and recorded information on political oppression and human rights violations in Russia, becoming the largest human rights organisation in the country.

Two Army Men Killed After Barrel Of T-90 Tank Explodes During Firing Exercise



Agenceis

Two Indian Army personnel were killed and another sustained injuries when the barrel of a T-90 tank burst during a field firing exercise in Madhya Pradesh's Babina, officials said on Friday.

The incident took place on Thursday evening, they said.

"During the annual firing at Babina Field Firing Ranges on October 6, a tank barrel burst took place. The tank was manned by a crew of three personnel. The crew was provided immediate

medical aid and evacuated to a military hospital in Babina," said an official.

"The commander and the gunner, unfortunately, succumbed to burn injuries. The driver is out of danger and under treatment," the official said.

It is learnt that the commander was a JCO (junior commissioned officer). The Army has ordered an investigation into the incident.

"The Indian Army expresses deep condolences to the bereaved families of the soldiers who lost their lives in the accident," said a senior Army officer.

NEWS MAKERS

Kamal Haasan's "No Hindu Religion During Chola Period" Remark Sparks Row

Agenceis

Chennai: After National award-winning Tamil director Vetrimaaran sparked controversy by claiming that Raja Raja Chola wasn't a Hindu king, Kamal Haasan has backed the director's statement.

It all started at an event Vetrimaaran attended where he raised a few eyebrows when Vetrimaaran said, "Raja Raja Chozlan wasn't Hindu but they (BJP) are trying to steal our identity. They have already tried to saffronize Thiruvalluvar. We should never allow that."

Then, Kamal Haasan echoed similar sentiments and said, "There was no name called 'Hindu religion' during Raja Raja Chola's period. There was Vainavam, Shai-



vam, and Samanam, and it was the British who coined the term Hindu since they didn't know how to refer to it collectively. It is similar to how they changed Thuthukudi into Tuticorin."

Vetrimaaran's remarks came just a day after the release of the

film 'Ponniyin Selvan: 1' which is based on a fictional novel inspired by Raja Raja Chola.

Although Vetrimaaran did find support from Mr Haasan, BJP slammed the director. BJP leader H Raja has stated that Raja Raja Chola was indeed a Hindu

king. He questioned Vetrimaaran - "I am not well versed with history like Vetrimaaran, but let him point out two churches and mosques built by Raja Raja Chola. He called himself Sivapadha Sekaran. Wasn't he a Hindu then?"

Well, this is not the first time that a statement on Raja Raja Chola has made headlines in Tamil Nadu.

In 2019, film director PA Ranjith sparked controversy after he criticized the king. He said at that time that the rule of the erstwhile king was a dark age for Dalits.

He claimed, "Land had been forcibly taken away from them and many forms of caste oppression had begun during Raja Raja Chola's reign".

All 10 Ravan Heads Remained Unburnt, Chhattisgarh Clerk Punished

Agenceis

Dhamtari: An employee of Dhamtari civic body in Chhattisgarh was suspended and show-cause notices were issued to four officials after all ten heads of the effigy of Ravana remained unburnt during the Dussehra celebrations in Dhamtari.

The pictures of the effigy-burning event held on October 5 in Ramleela Maidan in Dhamtari show the heads of the demon king remained intact, while the torso was reduced to ashes.

Dussehra or Vijayadashami marks the end of the annual Durga Puja festival, wherein the effigies of Ravana are burnt across the country to symbolise the victory of good over evil.



In Dhamtari, the Ravan effigy-burning event was organised by the local civic body.

After the Dussehra celebration, the Dhamtari Municipal Corporation (DMC) ordered suspension of clerk Rajendra Ya-

dav for his alleged negligence in making the effigy of Ravan.

The order states, Mr Yadav, assistant grade-3, has committed grave negligence in making effigy of Ravan for Dussehra celebration 2022 that maligned the image of the DMC.

After the suspension of Mr Yadav, another employee, Samarth Ransingh, was given his charge, said Rajesh Padamwar, executive engineer of the DMC.

Besides, four officials - assistant engineer Vijay Mehra and sub-engineers Lomas Dewanagan, Kamlesh Thakur and Kamta Nagendra - have been issued show-cause notices by the DMC, which has sought their replies in this connection, he said.

Mehta Asks Officers To Develop Truck Holding Areas On Banihal Highway

Observer News Service

RAMBAN: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta along with Additional Chief Secretary Home and Director General of Police (DGP), Dilbag Singh on Friday took first hand appraisal of the progress of four laning of Banihal-Nashri stretch in district Ramban besides reviewing status of traffic movement on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

The Chief Secretary visited vulnerable spots, and proposed truck holding areas at Rampadi in Chambalwas area and directed the RO, NHAI to immediately clear the debris lying at various locations alongside National Highway on Banihal-Nashri stretch to facilitate smooth double lane vehicular traffic movement, besides developing truck holding areas.

The Chief Secretary issued directions for constituting a committee to be headed by Principal Secretary, PW (R&B) Department and comprising of Administrative Secretary, Transport Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; IG Traffic; Deputy Commissioner and SSP Ramban to submit a plan to regulate the traffic movement smoothly on NH-

44 between Banihal-Nashri stretch.

During a high level meeting at Chanderkote, the Chief Secretary directed the IGP Traffic to implement all the directions issued regarding the holding area management at all 4 proposed locations between Banihal-Ramban stretch to accommodate stranded vehicles in the event of closure of National Highway due to bad weather.

Directing the Regional Officer, NHAI to expedite the pace of the widening work, the Chief Secretary asked him to ensure macadamization of existing highway for smooth movement of traffic on the National Highway. He directed the SSP Ramban and RO NHAI to fix the timing for macadamization work to avoid inconvenience to commuters and fruit carrying trucks on the said stretch.

He directed the RO, NHAI to enhance manpower and machinery at all the vulnerable slide-prone areas for immediate clearance of landslides and debris from road, besides filling of potholes and metalling of damaged road to maintain hassle free traffic movement.

He enjoined upon them to install



CCTV on these stretches for round the clock monitoring besides fair assessment of the time for which vehicles remain stranded. He asked them to declare these stretches no stopping zones and ensure that no road side parking is resorted to. He impressed upon them to keep cranes ready on the road for facilitating Towing away of trucks which break-down on the road.

Dr Mehta directed the concerned to provide a 24 hour helpline number to all the commuters for the in-

stant help. He asked them to explore the possibility of following the 12 hour cycle for the trucks to move from opposite directions instead of alternate days currently adhered to.

He suggested them to use the Mughal road as an alternative in case of exigencies and blockages. He asked them to utilize the alternative Jawahar tunnel if the main road is choked.

The RO, NHAI apprised the Chief Secretary about section-wise progress on the four-laning of National Highway

including that on Nashri-Ramban and Ramban-Banihal sections.

Meanwhile, The Director General of Police directed the traffic and police department to effectively regulate the vehicular traffic movement and facilitate smooth passage of the fruit laden trucks on the Highway. He also directed the Police and District Administration to implement the orders in letter and spirit issued regarding 'No Parking zones'.

The NHAI was further asked to immediately restore the double

carriage traffic movement on these stretches. They were also told to install crash barriers and sign boards at all vulnerable spots to provide real-time information to commuters and transporters regarding traffic movement.

Earlier, IGP, Traffic made a Power Point Presentation (PPT) and briefed the meeting about account of vehicular traffic movement on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway besides highlighting the bottlenecks hindering the flow of vehicular traffic movement smoothly.

The Chief Secretary was also accompanied by the Principal Secretary, PW (R&B) Department, Shailendra Kumar; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; Inspector General of Police, Traffic, Vikramjit Singh; Secretary Transport, G Prasanna Ramaswamy; Deputy Inspector General of Police, DKR, Sunil Gupta; Regional Officer (RO), National Highway Authority of India, Rohin Gupta; SSP, Ramban, Mohita Sharma; ADDC, Rajinder Sharma; Collector Land Acquisition, NHAI (ADC), Harbans Lal Sharma and other concerned officers of line departments.

Gave Him Much More Than He Deserved: Cong's Swipe At Azad

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Friday took a dig at its former leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, saying the party gave him much more than he deserved.

The attack on Azad came over remarks by Home Minister Amit Shah, who in an interview to Daily Excelsior, said, "Everyone has the right to contest, elections are to be fair and free but one thing is there Ghulam Nabi Azad is not among the three families."

Tagging a tweet by a Youth Congress office bearer who claimed that Azad is the most trusted man of Nagpur in J&K currently, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "He is the beneficiary of the Congress Party which over 50

years gave him much more than he deserved and much more beyond his capability."

Shah, at a public rally in Baramulla this week, had said that before delimitation, only the "three families" used to come to power, "but the delimitation by the Election Commission will result in your own representatives winning in the elections and then governing".

"Mufti and company, Abdullah and sons and the Congress have done nothing for the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he had alleged at the rally.

Azad had last month launched his new party -- Democratic Azad Party -- exactly a month after ending his over five-decade-long association with the Congress.

HM's Rallies Bound To Change Political Discourse In J&K: BJP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina on Friday said Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent public rallies will change the political discourse in the Union territory.

Shah's rallies in Rajouri in Jammu province on Tuesday and north Kashmir's Baramulla on Wednesday witnessed a massive public participation.

"These mega rallies will prove to be a turning point in the political scenario of Jammu and Kashmir. The enthusiasm of people in both the rallies was unmatched and historic," Raina told reporters here.

Senior party leaders, including former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta, were also present at the press conference.

Raina, who had accompanied Shah during most of his engagements, said the rallies verified the public's "acceptance, faith and love towards the development policies of the Narendra Modi-led government."

"The Modi government has devoted itself to the welfare of every community in Jammu and Kashmir beyond their region and religion. The prime minister has ensured development policies keeping every sector in mind," the BJP leader said.

Raina expressed gratitude towards the people for making the two rallies successful and claimed that for the first time in history, every community in Jammu and Kashmir was feeling empowered.

Reacting to a white paper is-

sued by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah over Shah's frontal attack on the three political families -- the Abdullaha, the Muftis and the Gandhis -- Raina said, He (Farooq) must answer about the atrocities committed against the refugees from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Gorkhas, Dalits, Gaddi-sippi, Valmiki, women, Gujjar-Bakarwals, Dogras and Kashmiris.

There were gross human rights violations on these communities for 70 years. Now, the Modi government is ensuring justice to all, he added.

After Shah's allegation linking regional parties with separatism, Abdullah had issued a white paper on the development undertaken by his party while in power.

Gupta Chairs Review Meeting To Discuss Lay-Out Plan Of Satellite Township

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development, Dheeraj Gupta on Friday chaired a meeting to review the progress of formulation of lay-out plan of the proposed Satellite Township to be developed at Rakh Gund Aksha Bemina.

A number of important issues were discussed in the meeting relating to the master-plan of the project, infrastructure, drainage plan, road network, particularly the construction of approach road to the Township in line with the Srinagar Master Plan requirements. Principal Secretary gave directions for early completion of topographic surveys and preliminary estimation of the project.

The meeting discussed various components of the project like preparing the plan for housing, conceptual layout of residential plots and flatted accommodation. Besides the plan for commercial spaces, recreation centres, institutional set-up, public amenities and other facilities required in the township were discussed in the meeting. Principal Secretary emphasized that

the development plan should be in conformity with the urban design principles, the development control regulations and the architectural guidelines.

It may be recalled that Housing & Urban Development Department has proposed construction of a modern Satellite Township at Rakh Gund Aksha and the implementation of the project has been assigned to Srinagar Development Authority. The proposed Township shall have serviced plots, multi-storied apartments, town homes, commercial areas, hotels, golf course, green spaces and natural ponds.

During the meeting, DDF Consultants, which has been engaged as Consultancy for the project, gave a detailed presentation on various components of the project and the layout plan of the project area was finalized. The Township is coming up in the vicinity of the proposed Medicity and the new High Court complex on a land parcel measuring 147 hectares and would become a major attraction with regard to planned architectural development in Srinagar City

Army's Agniveer Recruitment Rally Gets Massive Response

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Hundreds of enthusiastic youngsters, mostly from Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, thronged the Army Agniveer recruitment rally which commenced here on Friday, officials said.

The rally, being organised by Army Recruiting Office, Jammu, at Jorawat Stadium, Sunjuwan, will continue till October 22, the officials said.

"I want to get recruited in the army to serve the nation even if it is for one year only," a passionate youth, who

wished not to be named, said.

Most of the youth turned up at the venue in the early hours - much before the schedule time of the start of the rally.

"My brother had appeared in a similar rally here in February last year but his selection could not take place due to cancellation of the recruitment after government announced Agniveer scheme. I am hopeful of getting selected and continuing service in the Army, rather than leaving the force after four years," another youth said.

Traffic To Be Allowed Through Z-Morh Tunnel By Nov 15

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Winter Preparedness In Sonmarg

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today visited Sonmarg where he chaired a high level meeting of officers to review winter preparedness for keeping Sonmarg open during the winters.

At the outset, threadbare discussion was held regarding the necessary preparations and arrangements including water, electricity, health, road, fire service, snow clearing operation, mobile communication, traffic management, firewood and other related facilities to be put in place for keeping Sonmarg open during the winters.

To promote Sonmarg as winter tourist destination, the Div Com said that it is imperative to have all facilities available to the tourists especially heating arrangements in hotels, water and electricity besides proper plan for its promotion at all levels as a winter destination so that tourists can have the best experience here.

He directed the Director Tourism Kashmir and CEO, SDA to devise a proper mechanism for its wide publicity as a winter tourist destination.

The CEO, SDA was also directed to finalize the rates of hotels taking hoteliers on board which shall be distinct as compared to other winter destinations and notify the same by 15th November.

While reviewing the arrangements, the Div Com directed all the officers to ensure all arrangements pertaining to their departments shall be put in place in the first week of November besides manpower must be deputed on rotational basis by all departments who shall be stationed at Sonmarg during winter.

Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Department Kashmir was directed to complete the work on water supply scheme in Thajiwars area besides any issues hampering the progress shall be taken up with the concerned department so that laying of underground pipes



is completed in first week of November and all establishments are provided water supply during winter.

Regarding electricity, Chief Engineer, KPDC (Distribution) said that to provide electricity to the establishment at Sonmarg during the winters, tendering process is initiated for underground cabling that needs to be laid through Z-morh tunnel tube.

The Div Com directed him to ensure electricity to Sonmarg is provided during the forthcoming winter without interruption and keep gensets dumped at Sonmarg that can be used during emergency situations.

Regarding mobile connectivity, the officials of Jio, Airtel and BSNL service providers were directed to prepare an action plan to ensure all mobile towers in the area remain functional during winters.

Similarly, the Health Department was directed to ensure all health facilities including heating arrangements at PHC Sonmarg are kept available including sufficient medical and paramedical staff, medicine and ambulance service during the winters as well.

He also asked them to organize a First Aid training session for all stakeholders and individuals involved in the tourist trade in Sonmarg. Besides, CEO SDA was asked to organize a workshop with hoteliers regarding the precautions to be taken during winters.

Threadbare discussion was also held on the snow clearance plan. The Div Com sought details regarding the availability of machinery and directed all the concerned departments including BRO, MED and NHIDCL to ensure that sufficient machinery and manpower are deployed for clearing of snow during the winter as

per snow clearance operation on identified routes during the winter.

Earlier, the Div Com also inspected the work progress on the Z-morh tunnel and was briefed about the preparations for allowing traffic through the escape tunnel during winter.

On the occasion, the Div Com directed the Executive Director, NHIDCL (projects) to ensure all necessary works including drainage and lighting inside the tunnel are completed in the second week of November so that traffic is allowed through the tunnel by 15th November.

Meanwhile, Hotelier Association Sonmarg and other stakeholders also raised several issues for which the Div Com said that purpose of holding meeting was to address the issues faced during winter in Sonmarg and in this regard all facilities and arrangements would be put in place and all the departments are given necessary instructions in this regard.

He urged hoteliers/shopkeepers to upgrade their infrastructure as per the weather conditions in the area so that the tourists visiting Sonmarg during winters are provided better facilities and shall not face any inconvenience. He suggested them to offer special packages which are exclusively for the tourists visiting Sonmarg to attract more tourists.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal; Director, Tourism Kashmir; Managing Director, JKTDC; Chief Engineer, KPDC; Chief Engineer, Mechanical; Chief Engineer, R&B; CEO SDA; President Hotelier Association Sonmarg, President Beopar Mandal Sonmarg, various Officers/Officials of District Administration and other stakeholders.

Secretary Reviews Functioning Of Health Sector In Kashmir



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary, Health and Medical Education (H&ME), Bhupinder Kumar, on Friday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review functioning of health sector in Kashmir division.

During the meeting, various key performance health indicators were discussed threadbare and all the Chief Medical Officers, Medical Superintendents of Kashmir division were directed to improve the public health delivery system in a holistic manner.

Director Health Services, Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, gave a brief presentation on achievements and bottlenecks besides highlighting measures towards ensuring better public health delivery.

Secretary was apprised of various schemes and programs undertaken by the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir.

Secretary emphasized the need for devising a comprehensive healthcare delivery system wherein all the services such as preventive, diagnostic and curative services are provided to the needy so that out of pocket health expenditure is minimized.

Secretary directed the officers for extending drug dispensing under Health Management Information System/e-Aushadhi Up to Sub Centre Level besides

effectively implementing all the components of the system across health institutions of the UT. He further directed the concerned to ensure that necessary training is imparted to doctors and nurses on palliative and geriatric care from all the districts.

Regarding quality healthcare services, Secretary directed the officers to identify more such institutions which can apply for National Quality Assurance Standard Certification. He impressed upon them to utilize the approved funds for the infrastructure to the maximum besides ensuring follow up of DPRs of NABARD with the concerned District Development Commissioners.

Among others the meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officers and Medical Superintendents Kashmir division.

Secretary appreciated Health department Kashmir for their excellent role during Shri Amarnathji Yatra, Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, Mental health programs and IEC activities being run by department of Health.

While reviewing the functioning of National dialysis programme, Secretary expressed his dismay over less number of dialysis sessions being undertaken despite having good number of machines available and directed for improvement in the functioning of this programme for the benefit of patients.

University of Kashmir Registration Section University Campus, Hazratbal Srinagar 190006 NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

The candidate whose photograph is Published in this notice is claiming to have lost his/her inter university/ Migration certificate issued to him/her by university of Kashmir for continuing studies. he/She has further stated that he/ She has not utilized the same anywhere for further studies.



Name: MEHIMA FAYAZ PARANTAGE: FAYAZ AHMAD DAR R/O DELIWA TEHSIL: BLA DISTRICT: BLA Inter University Migration Certificate No: 76313 Date: 11-05-2022

Now the candidate has applied for duplicate inter university Migration Certificate to this university. Before the same is processed and issued in his/ her favour, anybody having any objection in this regard./ any knowledge above its utilization by the candidate anywhere may objection in this regard/ any knowledge above its utilization by the candidate anywhere may please file the same before the office of the undersigned (registration section) within 7 days from the issue of this notice besides the above referred inter University migration Certificate be treated as Cancelled

Registration No: 17130-Bw-2022

INFO

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Water Crisis

The valley of Kashmir, otherwise known as the paradise on earth, is reeling under an acute, and perhaps unprecedented, shortage of drinking water these days. The public health engineering department has pressed into service its lousy tanker service in the capital city of Srinagar and may be some major towns to supply bucketfuls of water leaving the millions living in the countryside to fend for themselves as they have been so far. Over the recent weeks, the city witnessed massive demonstrations by irate citizens to protest the scarcity. As is its wont, the government's response was brutal, to say the least. At places, its policemen resorted to baton charge Batmaloo women injuring a dozen of them when they demonstrated outside the civil secretariat to jolt the callous government out of its deep slumber. Ironically, the water scarcity is being experienced when the administration is otherwise bracing up to meet any eventuality arising out of floods that threaten parts of the valley, Jammu's Doda and Jammu districts and Ladakh region. Even as the rivers and nullahs are in spate, the abundant water is elusive for those who need the most. The water from most rivers and streams is believed to have become unsafe for human consumption due to inflow of heavy pollution.

According to reports, the heavy rush of Amarnath cave-bound pilgrims via Baltal route is a matter of serious concern as they leave tones of human waste and litter into the Sindh river flowing through Baltal and Sonamarg, which feeds the city's Rangil water treatment plant. The Dal lake wherefrom water is lifted into the water supply system is no less contaminated.

Rubbing salt into the people's wounds is none other than the 'honourable' minister of public health engineering department, Qazi Muhammad Afzal. Instead of owning the moral responsibility for the prevailing crisis and quitting gracefully, he has the cheek to pass the buck thus: "The government spends huge amounts of money to filter and treat water reservoirs to make the water fit for human consumption. But people waste this water to irrigate flower beds and wash their cars". Even as his claim of expensive water treatment may be a matter of conjecture, who will ask

the minister to enlighten the public about the total number of car owners or those having lawns? Including the Qazi himself, they certainly must be a microscopic minority. The vast multitude of people, about whom the minister seems to be absolutely clueless, happen to be on the wrong side of the social divide. Going by the reports, the PHE authorities trace the crisis to obsolete pipes and treatment plants. On their part, its employees, allegedly starved of tools and implements, spilled the beans about the problem and held the engineers squarely responsible for it.

Agreed, the government has been spending money not merely on water treatment but primarily on execution of major and minor water supply schemes. It must have spent thousands of crores since the inception of the so-called planned development in the state alongside rest of India. Why then are most water supply schemes defunct? Where has all the money claimed to have been utilized on these works gone? In an era of transparency and 'good governance,' it is time the government took the people into confidence on the issue and brought out a white paper on the PHE.

Unfortunately, all the successive governments here have seldom got their priorities right. Drinking water like oxygen is vital for sustenance of life. If the accusations and counter-accusations within the PHE were to be believed, the key sector in dire need of remodeling and upgradation has been starved of adequate funds. Instead, the scant resources available to the state are frittered away on totally irrelevant and frivolous pursuits. A government that wastes a few crore rupees on vandalizing a beautiful footpath along the Dal lake allegedly to benefit some blue-eyed boy or whose chief minister flies along with his elaborate paraphernalia from the winter capital to reach a remote village in his home district to cut the ribbon to inaugurate a small branch of a bank certainly cannot be expected to devote any attention to the critical PHE sector even if more than 50 per cent of diseases are said to be water-borne.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on July 2, 2005

How Inclusive Is Our Educational System?

Amir Suhail Wani

Equality is an ideal rarely achieved in the real mundane world. People suffer inequalities in different ways because of various reasons and at the behest of agencies and organizations, individuals and institutions, social and power structures. These inequalities emerge from a host of systemic and a-systemic factors and in their cumulative effect prolong, sustain, legitimise and officiate the already prevalent inequalities manifest in various forms in society and making their elimination an impossibility of sorts.

Education has often been described as an emancipating and liberating praxis, something which is capable of pulverizing the inequalities in whatever form they exist and to bring in a certain quantum of socio-economic inequality, leverage the lives of underprivileged and brings them at par with the so-called "higher" echelons of social hierarchy. But here too an irony of sorts is witnessed and an unequal access to education for various social groups not only downplays the role of education but further aggravates the social standing of those already marginalised and ostracised.

Here we shall investigate the inequalities in access to education as they exist and manifest with reference to three groups of people in particular – people with disabilities, students from economically weaker sections of the society and the transgender community. It will be investigated as to how each of these groups suffer inequalities as far as access to quality education is concerned. It will explore how this inequality of access increases their state of marginalisation.

The problem with persons with disabilities starts right with the process of admission to educational institutes. There have been reports where persons with disabilities were denied admission at the outset. However, this is not it. The panorama of challenges and the spectrum of problems doesn't end with getting admitted to a school, it rather begins with it.

People living on the disability spectrum have varied needs and diverse customized requirements. In absence of trained teachers, proper logistics, desired gadgets and set of specific equipment and auxiliaries, the mission of imparting education to the specially-abled remains far from reality and doesn't precipitate in actuality.

A report reads, "Jammu & Kashmir is the only state yet to implement a 2016 law that recognises 21 disabilities up from the earlier seven suggesting that actual numbers could be even higher.



The structural barriers in schools, curtailing the accessibility of children with disabilities has often presented a dismal picture. No wonder that the dropout rate of children with disabilities has been alarmingly high, thereby making the prospect of their empowerment via education look bleak

Infrastructure in the state is not disabled-friendly, activists said, especially in public offices and educational institutions".

The structural barriers in schools, curtailing the accessibility of children with disabilities has often presented a dismal picture. No wonder that the dropout rate of children with disabilities has been alarmingly high, thereby making the prospect of their empowerment via education look bleak. Children with disabilities are 27 percent more likely to drop out as compared to their peers who have no disabilities. These structural and visible barriers exist in addition to the intangible and abstract hurdles and blockades which exist in the path to education for people with disabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, the bullying and stigmatization of these children by their peers and at times by teachers too. These incidents leave an indelible scar marks on the psyche of the child and these challenges of psychological order at times become more consuming and complicated than the underlying physical disabilities. In this process, a child inevitably undergoes psychological trauma of full range and is left with little energy and determination to face these episodes of recurrent socio-psychological abuse and prefers to drop out of the school/institute instead. The augmentative effect of all these detrimental factors not only leaves the children with disabilities behind their able bodied peers but also complicates their reception of the self by their body construction and the ensuing regressive and repressive consequences emerging there from.

Education in the modern world remains mostly privatized and even if a good portion of population attends to government schools, the general perception is that the government schools are a no match to the private institutions in terms of the quality of education provided, the infrastructure available and the emphasis on extra-curricular and overall personality development

of a child. Precisely because of the added advantages associated with private schools, the children from economically well-off families are admitted to these institutions and children from economically weaker sections, who can't afford the exorbitant cost of education of private schools have to contend themselves with whatever little facilities are available and offered by the government schools. This results in well known "Private School Effect", a scenario in which students from private schools outshine government schools and thereby an educational inequality stems from economic inequality which further feeds into the loop, thereby driving it out of limits. It was in the wake of this consciousness and an attempt to curb educational inequality resulting from economic inequality that the Andhra Pradesh government recently announced a reservation quota of 25% for weaker sections in private unaided schools. But the precedent needs to be widely followed across the country to plug in the disparities in the education sector and to ensure that economic considerations are not a hindrance to the education one aspires to. It also calls government schools to wake up to their task of providing quality education and to fill up the vacuum existing in the education sector.

Additionally, the issues faced by and the exclusion meted out to transgender too is multi-pronged with much complicacy and nuance accompanying their social stigmatization, marginalisation and otherisation. The social construct is thus that it discourages the entrance of transgender to schools at the very inception. Even if they somehow succeed in the rarest of rare cases to secure admission in some educational institutions, the bullying and taunts they face is beyond imagination leading only to their further marginalization and traumatising them in despicable ways. Right up

to the present day, society, in general, has condemned, intimidated, and alienated transgender people who do not conform to the so-called "mainstream" culture. They face discrimination in every aspect of their lives be it employment, legal recognition, access to social and economic opportunities, quality of life and livelihood, education, and other means of survival. In simple words, a life of dignity and respect is denied to them. The members of the transgender community rarely speak about these experiences in public spaces due to the taboos and stigmas attached to their sexuality and sexual orientation", writes Tahmeena Rizvi. Infact, about 96% of transgender are denied jobs, 60% have never attended schools. This being the situation in the country, the gravity and severity of the issue in Kashmir can be imagined well, which is already bereft by a host of socio-political quagmires.

No formal education for transgender is popular in Indian context. They are deprived from family and school environment, transgender discontinue their education and risk their future career opportunities. A close analysis of various reports and discussion with community and stakeholders suggest that transgender are most uneducated or undereducated, become reluctant to continue schooling. The average qualification is secondary or senior secondary level. The enrolment is significantly low and dropout rate at the primary and secondary level is still very high. They are hardly educated as they are not accepted by the society and therefore do not receive proper schooling. Even if they are enrolled in an educational institute, they face harassment and are bullied every day and are asked to leave the school or they drop out on their own.

The state of affairs in education as it reflects in unequal access to people from different backgrounds turns antithetical to the very enterprise and exercise of education and the manner in which it furthers the existing inequalities is tragic and inhuman. The ideal and objective of education remains defeated in absence of inclusion and this inclusion draws our attention to the marginalised and left out sections of our society and impels all stakeholders to take inclusion to its logical limits by making education an emancipator and leveller. Only then shall education spell out as light in the darkness of the world.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is a Srinagar based columnist

The Electricity Amendment Bill 2022 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in the monsoon session. Thereafter, it was referred to the relevant departmental Standing Committee.

One of the most important changes that is proposed as an amendment to the Electricity Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) is to grant licence to distribute electricity as a distribution licensee in an area of supply. At the heart of this provision is also the deletion of the words "through their own distribution system" contained in the Fifth Proviso to Section 14 of the 2003 Act.

The consequent inference is that new companies/entities will be eligible to distribute electricity as a distribution licensee without installing or setting up their own distribution system, comprising substations, transformers, electrical wires, and all other associated facilities, which is hugely capital-intensive, entailing major capital works and time outlay of several years, to cover an area of supply.

The words "through their own distribution system" was interpreted in the legal battle between Tata Power and Reliance Energy, which went up to the Supreme Court of India, in Tata Power Co. Ltd. v. Reliance Energy Ltd., (2008) 10 SCC 321. The apex court held "The concept of wheeling has been introduced in the 2003 Act to enable distribution licensees who are yet to install their distribution line to supply electricity directly to retail consumers, subject to payment of surcharge in addition to the charges for wheeling as the State Commission may determine."

Currently, in the Amendment Bill 2022, the proposal to delete the words "through their own distribution system" effectively means implementing the observations laid down by the Supreme Court in the case of Tata Power. However, the enabling provision to allow new entrants to secure a distribution license without requiring them to set up their own

Why Power Supply Liberalisation Won't Work

Arijit Maitra

distribution system actually cuts across the other way. In other words, the main inefficiency lies in the distribution system of networks and wires, which requires to be addressed and rectified by disinvesting them and getting in new players to bring efficiency to the wire business. Even the Return on Equity, the reasonable return, lies only in the wires business and not the supply business. The risks and rewards both lie in the distribution system, i.e., network business. Thus, enabling new entrants only in the supply business will be unattractive, as it would neither entail any significant reward nor would it be easy to procure power cheaper than what is otherwise available to incumbent discoms in the market through competitive bidding.

Another unshackling effect for the power sector has been made by the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity in its recent judgment in the Noida Power Corporation Ltd. Vs. UPERC in Appeal No. 72 of 2021. The issue was whether Noida Power had a perpetual licence, because of the absence of tenure/term in its 1993 licence. The tribunal held that Noida Power did not have a licence in perpetuity but would operate for 25 years computed from 10.6.2004, i.e., one year after the enactment of the 2003 Act. This is in consonance with the First Proviso to Section 14, read with Section 15 (8) of the 2003 Act. The First Proviso to Section 14 applies to

The consequent inference is that new companies/entities will be eligible to distribute electricity as a distribution licensee without installing or setting up their own distribution system, comprising substations, transformers, electrical wires, and all other associated facilities, which is hugely capital-intensive, entailing major capital works and time outlay of several years, to cover an area of supply

entities like Noida Power which existed on or prior to the date of enactment of the 2003 Act and saved the balance of term of their licence. But it also says that the repealed laws which hitherto applied to them would continue to apply to them for a period of one year after

the enactment of the 2003 Act, i.e., 10.6.2003. The tribunal held that Noida Power has licence till the year 2029, i.e., 25 years from 10.6.2004 (one year after the enactment of the 2003 Act). The tribunal's judgment will have a strong bearing on all those state electricity boards/reorganised utilities in India where either no licence has been granted by the SERCs to them or no conditions are specified defining the term of licence. All these bodies will now have to gear up to deal with the end of their licence term in 2029, since the deadline of 25 years post the enactment of the 2003 Act would also apply in their case. If Noida Power cannot have licence in perpetuity, the entities/utilities that are operating with the assumption that they have perpetual licence can't either.

State electricity boards/reorganised utilities have a monopoly over the network and wires business in the whole of the state, causing inefficiency. Even their supply business incurs humongous losses, inter alia, on account of their failure to recover arrears of dues from consumers.

To sum up, the provision to introduce competitors only in the supply business by omitting the words "through their own distribution system" is a non-starter. This should not be carried out into effect by the legislature. Secondly, a substantial network business in our country will open up for new investments by efficient government bodies or private enterprises should the regulators and the state governments have the teeth to implement the Noida Power judgment in letter and spirit.

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 Financial Express

Will We Ever Know How Many People Died of Covid-19 in India?

Excerpt from 'The Making of a Catastrophe: The Disastrous Economic Fallout of the Covid-19 Pandemic in India' by Jayati Ghosh (2022)

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These limitations are widely recognized, which is why several countries have moved to considering the number of 'excess deaths', that is number of all deaths per population in the period, beyond what could be statistically expected in normal conditions. This has been used to suggest that actual deaths from the pandemic could be as much as 50-60 per cent higher than those reported

THE MAKING OF A CATASTROPHE

THE DISASTROUS ECONOMIC FALLOUT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN INDIA

JAYATI GHOSH

Jayati Ghosh

One of the major problems with describing the trajectory of the Covid-19 pandemic in India is the absence of reliable data on actual cases and deaths from the disease. It is true that even

by the end of 2020, before the more devastating second wave, India's official death rate from Covid-19 was actually higher than most other countries in the Asian region, even those with lower per capita income and less health infrastructure, such as Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan." It is possible that there was under-reporting of such deaths in these countries, but this was also true of India, especially for some states. So even with the disputed official figures, while India's Covid-19 death rate was lower than in other large countries that have shown rapid spread of the virus, it was still among the highest in Asia.

Indeed, under-reporting of Covid-19 deaths has been a problem across the world. Some of this results from the unwillingness of authorities to record deaths as Covid deaths or of relatives not reporting these due to fear of stigma. Some is simply because of lack of certainty as to the cause, especially with patients with comorbidities, whose deaths are often assigned to those, or because of false negatives of the Covid-19 tests, which are known to be quite high. Even deaths that are medically certified could be underestimating Covid-19 deaths, since it is often the case that such deaths are not recorded as such because of the required procedures and conditions to be met before such certification. Advisory guidelines from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) say that people with suspected or probably Covid-19 should be included in the related mortality data, but most state and local governments have not implemented this.

Sometimes-especially in the early months of the pandemic- it resulted

from the shortage of testing kits, which were sought to be reserved for the living: a doctor in a Mumbai government hospital noted in mid-April 2020 that in a single day six patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome were brought to his hospital dead, and none were tested for Covid-19 because of a shortage of kits?

In other cases, operational difficulties combined with bureaucratic requirements to reduce the numbers recorded as dying from the virus. For example, twenty-seven-year-old Manish was admitted into a hospital in Bhopal with a ruptured liver abscess. When he developed fluid in his lungs and showed other respiratory symptoms of Covid-19, he had tubes inserted in his windpipe and nasal channel to help him breathe and eat.

But this meant that swabs could not be taken to test him for the disease. When he died, doctors were sure that the cause was Covid-19 because of indirect evidence from the CT scans, but they could not record it as such because they were not allowed to record any deaths from Covid-19 unless they were confirmed by the RT-PCR test. Manish's death was therefore recorded as due to other causes. There are other cases of those who died in hospital with Covid-19 symptoms, whose tests came back negative; even though doctors believe these are part of the false negatives' that often require repeated testing, which is not possible for the dead, and they are not recorded as Covid deaths.

There was widespread incidence of deaths being recorded as due to the pre-existing conditions or comorbidities of the patients, rather than due to the virus. In extreme cases, as in Murshidabad in West Bengal, there was even evidence of orders to doctors at the local medical college hospital prohibiting such recording: 'In case of Covid positive - No mention of Covid in death certificate', was the official directive! There were many reports across the country of dif-

ferent state governments attempting to suppress the number of Covid-19 cases and deaths through various means, even if not so blatant. The problem was compounded by the spread of the disease to more rural and remote areas, where both health facilities and official registration of deaths is less developed, and where it is likely that more cases have gone undetected or unrecorded.

These limitations are widely recognized, which is why several countries have moved to considering the number of 'excess deaths', that is number of all deaths per population in the period, beyond what could be statistically expected in normal conditions. This has been used to suggest that actual deaths from the pandemic could be as much as 50-60 per cent higher than those reported.

In India, recent estimates of excess mortality during the period of the pandemic have come up with even more stark and startling numbers. As it happens, even the excess death figures are underestimates in India, because official mortality numbers are themselves suspect, with not all deaths registered, and less than half of the registered deaths being medically certified.

Around 86 per cent of deaths are estimated to be registered even in urban areas. In 2018, only 21 per cent of registered deaths were medically certified as to cause. Even in the national capital of Delhi, less than two-thirds of deaths get a medical cause of death' certification. The problem is much more acute in rural and remote areas. Despite this, attempts to assess the extent excess mortality during the Covid-19 pandemic show death rates that would make India the worst affected country in the world.

Excerpted with permission from 'The Making of a Catastrophe: The Disastrous Economic Fallout of the Covid-19 Pandemic in India' by Jayati Ghosh, published by Aleph Books

The Prophetic Dish for Sadness Cooked During Times of Grief



AMAL AHMAD

Prescribed practices like making ablution and offering the five daily prayers can instill in us discipline, as well as serve as a remedy to the worries of everyday life. By grounding ourselves in the deen, we can find comfort amidst chaos. The Quran, the Sunnah and the Hadith are our guides for achieving a wholesome life. We can turn to these sources to discover ways to heal ourselves.

Islam's precepts on lifestyle cover several aspects of being. Prominent figures in the early days of Islam left us with a plethora of cultivated knowledge, giving us guidance in topics ranging from custom and law, to science-related subjects like psychology and medicine.

Benefits of Talbina

One such notable figure is Aisha (RA), the wife of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). Known as the "Mother of the Believers," she was a woman of immense expertise in several fields, including religious jurisprudence and medicine. She spent her time observing, listening and learning. She paid close attention to what treatments were prescribed to those who were ill, learning the techniques and methods along the way.

One such treatment Aisha (RA) would prescribe was a dish called Talbina. It's a porridge-like meal used to treat grief, sadness, anxiety, depression and similar illnesses.

Aisha (the wife of the Prophet (ﷺ)) narrated that whenever one of her relatives died, the women assembled and then dispersed (returned to their houses) except her relatives and close friends. She would order that a pot of Talbina be cooked. Then Tharid (a dish prepared from meat and bread) would be prepared and the Talbina would be poured on it. Aisha would say (to the women), "Eat of it, for I heard Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) saying, 'The Talbina soothes the heart of the patient and relieves him from some of his sadness.'" [Bukhari]

Talbina can be eaten on its own as a porridge or broth. The recipe itself is simple, easy to replicate and takes only a few minutes to prepare. You need 3 main ingredients:

- Barley flour (If you can't find barley flour, you can also grind whole-grain barley into a powder using a coffee grinder.)

ONE SUCH TREAT AISHA (RA) would prescribe was a dish called Talbina. It's a porridge-like meal used to treat grief, sadness, anxiety, depression and similar illnesses

- Milk
- Honey

Recipe for Talbina

- In a small saucepan (off the heat), add 2 heaped tablespoons of barley flour.
- Next, add 1 cup of whole milk. Mix these two ingredients together until well-combined.
- Then, place the pan on the heat and stir continuously until the mixture thickens. When it starts to come to a boil, remove the pan from the heat. (This will take approximately 3-5 minutes.)
- Finally, pour the mixture into a serving bowl, and drizzle the desired amount of honey on top.
- Optionally, you can top Talbina with garnishes like chopped dates or nuts.

Talbina is not necessarily restricted to a particular health condition. You can make it on days when you need to take rest and recover, or whenever you feel like it. The subtle hints of nectar sweetness from the honey along with the soft and creamy consistency make for a pleasant pick-me-up treat.

Barley is conventionally known to have many health benefits, aiding in things like hunger control and weight loss, as it is a rich source of fiber. The early Islamic theologian, Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyya further testifies the benefits of Talbina in his book, The Prophetic Medicine. He notes that in the process of being ground, barley releases its nutrients, making it more easily digestible than whole-grain barley.

Islam is abundant with avenues to heal. Alongside traditional types of therapy, we can further explore the deen to seek ways to mend ourselves that incorporate soul and science.

— Amaliah

A Ballad for the Beloved, the Moon



Talhah

Wander along the trail of submission, oh child of grief and loss.

There you shall find what you seek most dear, engaged in remembering the Beloved:

The Moon, who rose amongst the desert tribes, bathing the Arabian peninsula.

The creation rejoiced as his light transpired, enveloped with the wisdom in Hira.

Yet evil endures in the hearts of men, when the Self is crowned supreme.

Thus the Moon was scorned in his call for peace, and his gentle breeze ignored.

In the traversing of pain lies the beauty within, and the Moon was afflicted with the harshest.

Upon the storms of torment, resolute his orbit, neither light had dimmed, nor groan retorted.

Upon the trial of Taif, though his heart was shattered, revenge was not sought by the Moon.

He looked to Allah, in the depths of bleakness, "To You, my Lord, I complain of weakness."

A mercy to man, the polisher of souls, en-

trenched within love, so deep was his woe in his pangs for the passing of his Queen.

As he ached with the passing of his little boy, with newly blossomed, tender leaves.

Indeed, the Beloved carried fissures, fissures that travelled deep.

But the Moon shined brightest in the darkest of nights, and the neighbouring sands saw truth in the light.

Igniting into stars circling upright, the message of God alas took flight.

And thus was the word of God delivered, through the labour of the Moon and the Stars.

But the time had come for the Prophet to leave, to return to the embrace of God.

It was said upon his death, the heavens sung with glee, for apart they were no more from Muhammed for whom he peace.

It was said upon his death, the Earth renounced all joy, for departed from her land was the gold amongst alloy:

Muhammed, the seal of prophethood.

So as the nights grow colder, and the candles flicker down, the one who knows love merely longs the view, of the prophetic light, the beloved Moon.

— Traversing Tradition

Researchers Discover New Cancer Treatments In 'Dark Matter' Of Human Genome

ANI

Researchers have developed a screening method to discover new drug targets for cancer treatment in the so-called 'Dark Matter' of the genome. They applied their method to non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), the greatest cancer killer for which effective therapies are urgently sought. They could show that inhibiting identified targets could greatly slow down cancer growth, and their method is adaptable to other cancers.

For new targets, they looked at the poorly-understood class of genes called "long noncoding RNAs (Ribonucleic acids)" (lncRNAs). lncRNAs exist in abundance in the so-called "Dark Matter" or non-protein-coding DNA that constitutes the vast majority of our genome. The human genome contains around 20,000 "classical" protein-coding genes, but this number is dwarfed by 100,000 lncRNAs. Of 99% of lncRNAs the biological functions are unknown.

As the name long noncoding RNAs implies, unlike messenger RNAs (mRNAs), they do not encode the construction plans for proteins. Like for mRNAs, the building instructions for lncRNAs are contained in the cell's DNA.

To study the role of lncRNAs in NSCLC, the researchers started by analysing publicly available datasets to see which lncRNAs are present in NSCLC. This analysis led to a list of over 800 lncRNAs, whose importance for NSCLC cells the



researchers wished to investigate. For this investigation, they developed a screening system which prevents the production of the selected lncRNAs by deleting part of their construction instructions in the DNA.

They applied their screening system to two NSCLC cell lines derived from patients, and looked how the inhibition of the selected lncRNAs affected so called "hall-

marks" of cancer cells. Hallmarks are cellular behaviors that contribute to disease progression: Proliferation, metastasis formation and therapy resistance. "The advantage of assessing three different cancer hallmarks is that we have a comprehensive view but also have substantial amounts of data from different experiments, from which we needed to derive a single list of long non-coding RNAs that are important for

non-small cell lung cancer," says Rory Johnson, Assistant Professor at the University of Bern, who led the NCCR RNA & Disease funded project. The analysis yielded in the end a list of 80 high-confidence candidate lncRNAs important for NSCLC out of the over 800 investigated. From these 80, the researchers picked out several lncRNAs for follow up experiments.

For these follow up experi-

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The advantage of assessing three different cancer hallmarks is that we have a comprehensive view but also have substantial amounts of data from different experiments, from which we needed to derive a single list of long noncoding RNAs that are important for non-small cell lung cancer

ments an approach was used, which does not work at the DNA level but targets lncRNAs after their production. For this purpose, the researchers used small chemically-synthesized RNAs called Antisense Oligonucleotides (ASOs), which bind to the lncRNAs they target and lead to their degradation. Of note, several ASOs are approved for treating human diseases, although none yet for cancer.

These follow up experiments showed that, for the majority of the picked lncRNAs, their destruction by an ASO inhibited cancer cell division in cell culture. Importantly, the same treatment produced little if any effect on non-cancerous lung cells, which should not be harmed by the cancer treatment. In a 3-dimensional model of NSCLC, which more closely resembles the tumor than cell culture, the inhibition of a single lncRNA with an ASO reduced the tumor growth by more than half. "We were positively surprised to see how well the antisense oligonucleotides could restrain tumor growth in different models," states Taisia Polidori, co-first author, who worked on the project as part of her doctoral thesis research at the University of Bern.

The researchers are continuing their research in pre-clinical cancer models and are considering collaborating with existing companies or creating a startup in order to develop a drug to treat patients. Regarding other cancers, Roberta Esposito, co-first author and postdoc at the University of Bern: "Like a telescope that can be quite easily repositioned to study a different part of space, our approach should be easily adaptable to reveal new potential treatment types for other cancer types." Dr. Esposito will now apply the "telescope" to identify new targets for colorectal cancer. For this purpose, she has received funding by the Medical Faculty of the University of Bern donated by the Beatrix Ederer-Weber foundation

Compound In Some Mouthwashes May Suppress Covid-19, Study Finds

Press Trust Of India

A chemical found in some mouthwashes may suppress Covid-19 infection by blocking the entry of the SARS-CoV-2 virus into the cells, a study has found.

Commercially available mouthwashes contain a number of antibiotic and antiviral components that act against microorganisms in the mouth, the researchers said.

One of these, cetylpyridinium chloride (CPC) has been shown to reduce the viral load of SARS-CoV-2 in the mouth, primarily by disrupting the lipid membrane surrounding the virus, they said.

While there are other chemicals with similar effects, CPC has the advantage of being tasteless and odourless, according to the researcher.

The team at Hokkaido University in Japan studied the effects of CPC in Japanese mouthwashes which typically contain a fraction of the chemical compared to previously tested mouthwashes.

They tested the effects of CPC on cell cultures that express transmembrane protease serine 2 (TMPRSS2), an enzyme required by the SARS-CoV-2 for entering the cell.

The study, published in the

journal Scientific Reports, found that, within 10 minutes of application, 3050 microgrammes per millilitre (g/mL) of CPC inhibited the infectivity and capability for cell

were similar across all strains.

This study shows that low concentrations of CPC in commercial mouthwash suppress the infectivity of four variants of SARS-CoV-2.



entry of SARS-CoV-2.

Commercially available mouthwashes that contain CPC performed better than CPC alone, the researchers said.

The study also showed that saliva did not alter the effects of CPC.

The researchers then tested four variants of SARS-CoV-2 - the original, Alpha, Beta and Gamma - and showed that the effects of CPC

The researchers have already begun assessing the impact of CPC-containing mouthwashes on viral loads in saliva of Covid-19 patients.

Future work will also focus on fully understanding the mechanism of the effect, as lower concentrations of CPC do not disrupt lipid membranes.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
**Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Division Baramulla**
Tele fax 01952234426 e-mail, id, executiveengineermdb@gmail.com
CORRIGENDUM (EXTENSION OF CRITICAL DATES)

Subject: - Extension of critical Dates of NIT No. 111 Dated: -21-09-2022 & NIT No. 117 Dated: -26-09-2022 of 2022-23.

Reference:-Tender IDs: - 1. 2022_PWDJK_189345_1
2. 2022_PWDJK_189942_1

Due to inadequate response, the Critical Dates of above cited e-NITs are hereby extended as under:

For eNIT No.111		
S.No	Description	Re- Scheduled date
1	Date of Downloading	21-09-2022 (06:15 PM) to 12-10-2022 (06:00 PM)
2	Date of uploading	21-09-2022 (06:30PM) to 12-10-2022 (06:55 PM)
3	Due date of opening of tender	13-10-2022 (02:00 PM)

For eNIT No.117		
S.No	Description	Re- Scheduled date
1	Date of Downloading	26-09-2022 (06:15 PM) to 12-10-2022 (06:00 PM)
2	Date of uploading	26-09-2022 (06:30PM) to 12-10-2022 (06:55 PM)
3	Due date of opening of tender	13-10-2022 (02:00 PM)

DIPK-11384/22

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division
Baramulla

No: - MDB /TS/2967-70 Dated: - 07-10-2022

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ANANTNAG PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL**
FRESH NIT NO 127(3rd Call of NIT 83) OF R&B/Khanabal/2022-23 /E-TENDERING/14905-14 DATED 06-10-2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost of Cost (Rs in T/Doc. Lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Position of AA	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of Concrete wall /R wall near H/O Aashiq Hussain Haji at ward No 02MC Aishmuqam.	1.70	200	3400	15 Days	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Aish/22-23/ 308 of 2022, Dated 04.08.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
2.	Construction of lane from H/O Nisar Ahmad Bhat to H/O Ali Mohdwanani at ward No 03 MC Aishmuqam.	0.80	200	1600	15 Days	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Aish/22-23/ 308 of 2022, Dated 04.08.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
3.	Construction of drain from H/O Gh Ahmad Mir to H/O Rayees Ahmad lone MC Aishmuqam.	0.70	200	1400	15 Days	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Aish/22-23/ 308 of 2022, Dated 04.08.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
4.	Construction of tile path from Ainoo road to peer Masjid MC Aishmuqam.	0.80	200	1600	15 Days	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Aish/22-23/ 308 of 2022, Dated 04.08.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
5.	Construction / Repairment of drain from Madrasa Zainul Uloom to Tehsil Office MC Aishmuqam.	2.00	200	4000	15 Days	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Aish/22-23/ 308 of 2022, Dated 04.08.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only
6.	Construction of drain from H/O Assadullah Kubrawi to Majid Arfeen MC Aishmuqam.	3.00	200	6000	15 Days	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Aish/22-23/ 308 of 2022, Dated 04.08.2022	DEE Class & MSME's Only

Project Authority: MC Aishmuqam.

- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06-10-2022
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 06-10-2022 (01:00PM) To 12-10-2022 (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 06-10-2022 (01:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 12-10-2022 (04:30PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	13-10-2022 (10:00AM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Khanabal.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (Tender Inviting Authority) (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (Tender receiving Authority).
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the LI as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @3% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

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

- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-11408/22

(ErQaziJaveed Amin)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Khanabal

CBDC: RBI To Soon Start Pilot Launch Of E-Rupee For Specific Use Cases

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank on Friday said it will soon commence the pilot launch of e-rupee for specific use cases with a view to bolstering India's digital economy, making payment systems more efficient, and checking money laundering.

In a concept note on Central Bank Digital Currency, the RBI said CBDC is aimed to complement, rather than replace, current forms of money and is envisaged to provide an additional payment avenue to users, not to replace the existing payment systems.

"Supported by state-of-the-art payment systems of India that are affordable, accessible, convenient, efficient, safe and secure, the Digital Rupee (e?) system will further bolster India's digital economy, make the monetary and payment systems more efficient and contribute to furthering financial inclusion," the paper said.

CBDC is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. While most central banks across the globe are exploring the issuance of CBDC, the key motivations for its issuance are specific to each country's unique requirements.

The Government of India had

announced the launch of the Digital Rupee a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) from fiscal year 2022-23 onwards in the Union Budget placed in Parliament on February 1, 2022.

The central bank said: "The Reserve Bank will soon commence pilot launches of e-rupee for specific use cases.

As the extent and scope of such pilot launches expand, RBI will continue to communicate about the specific features and benefits of e-rupee, from time to time."

CBDC can be classified into two broad types -- general purpose or retail (CBDC-R) and wholesale (CBDC-W). Retail CBDC would be potentially available for use by all and while wholesale CBDC is designed for restricted access to select financial institutions.

"For CBDC to play the role as a medium of exchange, it needs to incorporate all the features that physical currency represents including anonymity, universality, and finality," the note said.

Across the globe, the note said more than 60 central banks have expressed interest in CBDC with a few implementations already under pilot across both Retail and Wholesale categories and many others are researching, testing, and/or launching their own CBDC framework.



Rupee Slides To All-Time Low Of 82.30 Against Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The rupee depreciated further by 13 paise to hit a new life-time closing low of 82.30 against the US dollar on Friday as a firm American currency and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

Moreover, a negative trend in domestic equities and elevated crude oil prices sapped investor appetite, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 82.19, then fell further to 82.43. It finally settled at an all-time low of 82.30 against the American currency, registering a decline of 13 paise over its previous close.

On Thursday, the Indian currency for the first time closed below the 82 level against the greenback. It plunged 55 paise to close at a record low of 82.17 against the US currency.

In this week, the rupee depreciated 90 paise or 1.11 per cent against the dollar due to rising crude oil prices and growing expectations of aggressive rate hikes by the US Fed.

"Rupee fell to fresh all-time lows as the dollar continued to strengthen against its major crosses. Rally in global crude oil prices also weighed on the overall market sentiment," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.



OPEC+ group of nations announced its largest supply cut since 2020 ahead of European Union embargoes on Russian energy.

"Dollar strengthened ahead of the important non-farm payrolls number that will be released today. Better-than-expected data could extend gains for the dollar," Somaiya said.

According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan - BNP Paribas, the Indian rupee depreciated as India's FY23 GDP has been revised lower by World Bank to 6.5 per cent from its previous estimates of 7.5 per cent warning of spillovers from global monetary tightening and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"Rupee touched a record low on weak domestic markets and a strong US Dollar. Dollar index is currently trading at 112 levels. Surge in crude oil

prices also put downside pressure on Rupee. However, FII inflows cushioned the downside," Choudhary said.

Choudhary further noted that rupee is likely to trade with a negative bias on risk aversion in the global market and overall strength in the US Dollar.

However, inflows by foreign investors may support rupee at lower levels. Markets may also take cues from non-farm payrolls data from the US which is expected to add jobs but at a slower pace compared to the previous month.

"USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 81.50 to Rs 83 in the next couple of sessions," Choudhary said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.19 per cent to 112.04.

Vehicle Registrations: Govt Proposes Tweaks In BH Series Rules

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed to allow conversion of regular vehicle registrations into Bharat Series (BH) numbers as part of measures to widen the scope of the BH series ecosystem.

At present, only new vehicles can opt for BH series mark.

In a draft notification, the MoRTH informed about the proposed amendments in the rules governing Bharat (BH) series registration mark which was launched for people who are in transferable jobs.

Among other changes, the transfer of vehicles with BH series registration mark to other persons, who are eligible or ineligible for BH series, has been facilitated, according to the notification.

"Vehicles currently having regular registration mark can also be converted to BH series registration mark subject to payment of requisite tax, to facilitate persons who subsequently become eligible for BH series registration mark," it said.

The ministry has also proposed the amendment in rule 48 to provide flexibility to submit application for BH series either at the place of residence or place of work with a view to providing further ease of life to citizen.



It also said that the Working Certificate to be submitted by private sector employees has been further strengthened to prevent misuse.

To ensure seamless transfer of personal vehicles across states, last year in September, the road transport ministry had come up with a new registration mark for new vehicles - Bharat Series (BH series).

In this regard, the government had notified a new vehicle registration regime that will free vehicle owners from re-registration process when they shift from one state/union territory to another.

"This vehicle registration facility under 'Bharat series (BH series)' will be available on voluntary basis to defense personnel, employees of central government/state government/central/state public sector undertakings and private sector companies/organisations, which have their offices in four or more states/union territories," MoRTH had said in a statement.

Global Economy Moving From 'Relative Predictability' To Uncertainty: IMF

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: The global economy is moving from a world of relative predictability to one of greater uncertainty, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva has said, warning that countries accounting for about one-third of the world economy will experience at least two consecutive quarters of contraction this or next year.

In a major policy speech here ahead of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, IMF Managing Director Georgieva on Thursday said the World Economic Outlook to be released next week would further downgrade the global growth projections.

We have downgraded our growth projections three times already, to only 3.2 per cent for 2022 and 2.9 per cent for 2023. And as you will see in our updated World Economic Outlook next week, we will downgrade growth for next year, she said.

We will flag that the risks of recession are rising. We estimate that countries accounting for about one-third of the world economy will experience at least two consecutive quarters of contraction this



or next year. And, even when growth is positive, it will feel like a recession because of shrinking real incomes and rising prices, she said.

Overall, we expect a global output loss of about USD 4 trillion between now and 2026. This is the size of the German economy a massive setback for the world economy. And it is more likely to get worse than to get better, she said.

Observing that uncertainty remains extremely high in the context of war and pandemic, she said there could be even more economic shocks. Financial stability risks are growing: rapid and disorderly repricing of assets could be amplified by pre-

existing vulnerabilities, including high sovereign debt and concerns over liquidity in key segments of the financial market, she said.

We are experiencing a fundamental shift in the global economy: From a world of relative predictability with a rules-based framework for international economic co-operation, low-interest rates, and low inflation... to a world with more fragility greater uncertainty, higher economic volatility, geopolitical confrontations, and more frequent and devastating natural disasters a world in which any country can be thrown off course more easily and more often, Georgieva said.

Govt Committed To Support J&K Towards Development Of Crafts, Artisans: Goyal

Distributes certificates, artisan cards among artisans at Kashmir Haat

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary Industries & Commerce, Prashant Goyal, Friday reaffirmed that the government is committed to support Jammu and Kashmir towards development of crafts and artisans.

Goyal stated this while addressing the distribution ceremony of certificates and Artisans cards at Kashmir Haat here.

Director National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), New Delhi, Dr Aquil Ahmad and Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Mehmoos Ahmad Shah, trainees, artisans and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the valedictory function, Principal Secretary said that Craft Development Institution (CDI) has adopted a comprehensive approach towards

making Kashmir handicrafts competitive with huge market sustainability. He reiterated that the government of India is determined to extended all possible support to J&K and its artisans for the development of crafts.

He applauded NCPUL for planning to establish new training centers and other support requirements so that youth get employment and can subsequently contribute to themselves and society at large. He said, so far, GI tags have been acquired for seven products while this tagging for seven more products is in process.

Director NCPUL, who is also chairman of Aabru Welfare Society, and Director Handicrafts and Handloom also spoke on the occasion.

On the occasion, Goyal distributed certificates among 80 girls, 40 each from CDI Srinagar and 40 from Aabru Women Welfare Society Bandipora who have successfully completed their six month course in paper Machie.



JKHARA Delegation Meets Director Tourism Kashmir

SRINAGAR: JKHARA delegation led by its President M.Showkat Chowdhary on Friday met Faz-ul Haseeb Director Tourism, Kashmir at his office, Directorate of Tourism, Srinagar.

Chowdhary was accompanied by General Secretary Manzoor Pakhtoon, Treasurer Nasreen Ansari, Media Coordinator Parvaiz Ahmad, Atif Nabi, Shahzaad Simon and Ayesha Saleem, members.

Chowdhary congratulated the director on his appointment and applauded the tourism department for an intensive promotional campaign which brought record breaking number of tourists to Kashmir during this current year and hoped that from now onwards, Kashmir will get ushered into the golden era of tourism.

He said that today's tourists want modern hygienic facilities, in which Kashmir is somehow lacking. It needs improvement and up gradation in bed capacity.

He urged the director to identify and go for bid for certain camping sites at new destinations as well as Sonamarg

and Pahalgam within these 2/3 months so that the stakeholder/investors get ready to create proper facilities before the onset of next tourist season.

He also urged the director that good food Courts with multi cuisine should be opened at various places. During the course of discussion, they both also explored the idea that a full fledged Kashmir Courtyard with authentic local cuisine, handicraft stalls and cultural programmes be set up within the vicinity of Srinagar City to attract tourists and showcase our rich heritage.

Chowdhary and his team appreciated the director's vision and initiative towards "Ease of doing Business" and urged him to take up the matter renewal/new registration of hotels and guest houses etc. On fast tracks and resolve the issue of NOC's, whose expiry most of the times clashes with the term of registration certificate of tourism.

The director and JKHARA had a very fruitful discourse on many issues and the director assured the full Cooperation to JKHARA.



How Will OPEC+ Cuts Affect Oil Prices, Inflation?

David McHugh | Associated Press

Frankfurt: Major oil-producing countries led by Saudi Arabia and Russia have decided to slash the amount of oil they deliver to the global economy.

And the law of supply and demand suggests that can only mean one thing: higher prices are on the way for crude, and for the diesel fuel, gasoline and heating oil that are produced from oil.

The decision by the OPEC+ alliance to cut 2 million barrels a day starting next month comes as the Western allies are trying to cap the oil money flowing into Moscow's war chest after it invaded Ukraine.

Here is what to know about the OPEC+ decision and what it could mean for the economy and the oil price cap:

Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman says that the alliance is being proactive in adjusting supply ahead of a possible downturn in demand because a slowing global economy needs less fuel for travel and industry.

We are going through a period of diverse uncertainties which could come our way, it's a brewing cloud, he said,

and OPEC+ sought to remain ahead of the curve. He described the group's role as a moderating force, to bring about stability."

Oil prices have fallen after a summer of highs. International benchmark Brent crude is down 24 per cent from mid-June, when it traded at over USD 123 per barrel. Now it's at USD 93.50.

One big reason for the slide is fears that large parts of the global economy are slipping into recession as high energy prices for oil, natural gas and electricity drive inflation and rob consumers of spending power.

Another reason: The summer highs came about because of fears that much of Russia's oil production would be lost to the market over the war in Ukraine.

As Western traders shunned Russian oil even without sanctions, customers in India and China bought those barrels at a steep discount, so the hit to supply wasn't as bad as expected.

Oil producers are wary of a sudden collapse in prices if the global economy goes downhill faster than expected. That's what happened during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and during the global financial crisis in 2008-2009.



The US and Britain imposed bans that were mostly symbolic because neither country imported much Russian oil.

The White House held off pressing the European Union for an import ban because EU countries got a quarter of their oil from Russia.

In the end, the 27-nation bloc decided to cut off Russian oil that comes by ship on December 5, while keeping a small amount of pipeline supplies that some Eastern European countries rely on.

Beyond that, the US and other Group of Seven major democracies are working out the details on a price cap on Russian oil. It would target insurers and other service providers that facilitate oil shipments from Russia to other countries.

The EU approved a measure along those lines this week.

Many of those providers are based in Europe and would be barred from dealing with Russian oil if the price is above the cap.

The idea behind the price cap is to keep Russian oil flowing to the global market, just at lower prices. Russia, however, has threatened to simply stop deliveries to a country or companies that observe the cap. That could take more Russian oil off the market and push prices higher.

That could push costs at the pump higher, too.

US gasoline prices that soared to record highs of USD 5.02 a gallon in mid-June had been falling recently, but they have been on the rise again, posing political problems for President Joe Biden a month before midterm elections.

Biden, facing inflation at near 40-year highs, had touted the falling pump prices. Over the past week, the national average price for a gallon rose 9 cents, to USD 3.87. That's 65 cents more than Americans were paying a year ago.

It's a disappointment, and we're looking at what alternatives we may have, he told reporters about the OPEC+ decision.

Likely yes. Brent crude should reach USD 100 per barrel by December, says Jorge Leon, senior vice president at Rys-

tad Energy. That is up from an earlier prediction of USD 89.

Part of the 2 million-barrel-per-day cut is only on paper as some OPEC+ countries aren't able to produce their quota. So the group can deliver only about 1.2 million barrels a day in actual cuts.

That's still going to have a significant effect on prices, Leon said.

Higher oil prices will inevitably add to the inflation headache that global central banks are fighting, and higher oil prices will factor into the calculus of further increasing interest rates to cool down the economy, he wrote in a note.

That would exacerbate an energy crisis in Europe largely tied to Russian cutbacks of natural gas supplies used for heating, electricity and in factories and would send gasoline prices up worldwide. As that fuels inflation, people have less money to spend on other things like food and rent.

Other factors also could affect oil prices, including the depth of any possible recession in the US or Europe and the duration of China's COVID-19 restrictions, which have sapped demand for fuel.

Govt Sets Up Tribunal To Adjudicate PFI's Ban Justified Or Not

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Centre has set up a tribunal comprising Delhi High Court judge Dinesh Kumar Sharma to adjudicate whether sufficient grounds were available for declaring the Popular Front of India (PFI) and eight associate groups as unlawful.

The Union home ministry issued a notification on Thursday announcing the formation of the tribunal.

"The Central Government hereby constitutes an Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal consisting of Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma, High Court of Delhi, for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Popular Front of India and its associates or affiliates or fronts including Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Camps Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala as unlawful association," the notification said.

Earlier, the Department of Justice in the Ministry of Law

had sent a communication conveying that Justice Sharma will head the tribunal.

Once an organisation is banned under the UAPA, a tribunal is set up by the government to adjudicate whether there is sufficient ground for the decision.

According to the procedure, the home ministry requests the law ministry to name a sitting judge of high court as presiding officer of the tribunal.

The law minister then requests the chief justice of the high court concerned to recommend a judge to head the tribunal.

The PFI and its associates were banned by the government for five years under the UAPA on September 28, accusing them of having "links" with global terror groups like the ISIS. Ban on these organisations followed a number of actions against them including seizure of properties, freezing of bank accounts and complete prohibition of normal activities.

The PFI was accused of multiple cases of violent protests in different parts of the country against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), alleged forced conversions, radicalisation of Muslim youths, money laundering and maintaining links with banned groups.



Situation Has Not Returned To Normal: MEA On Eastern Ladakh Border Row



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: India on Friday said the situation in eastern Ladakh has not returned to the stage of full normalcy as some steps are yet to be taken for it.

The comments of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi came days after Chinese envoy Sun Weidong claimed that the situation in eastern Ladakh is "overall stable" as the two sides have moved from the "emergency response" that followed the Galwan valley clashes in June 2020 to "normalised" management.

"Some steps are required for full normalcy, we have not reached there," Bagchi said when asked about the Chinese ambassador's remarks.

The MEA spokesperson said India has been maintaining that it expects disengagement followed by de-escalation for the return of normalcy on the border, which could pave the way

for normal ties between the two neighbouring countries.

"We have not reached there... I would not like to say that the situation is normal. There have been some positive steps, but some steps are yet to be taken," he said.

Bagchi also referred to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's remarks last month that the disengagement at Patrolling Point 15 in eastern Ladakh was "one problem less" on the border.

Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary on Tuesday said the benchmark for the situation to become normal in eastern Ladakh would be to return to status quo ante prior to the standoff and a complete withdrawal of troops from all friction points.

Though the two sides have disengaged from Patrolling Point 15 (PP-15), there has been no progress yet on resolving the standoff in the Demchok and Depsang regions.

Following the eastern Ladakh

standoff, India has been consistently maintaining that peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is key for the overall development of its ties with China and the state of the border will determine the state of the bilateral relationship.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers and heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

The disengagement in the Pangong lake area took place in February last year, while the withdrawal of troops and equipment from Patrolling Point 17(A) in Gogra took place in August last year.

Row Erupts Over AAP Minister's Presence At 'Religious Conversion' Event; BJP Asks Kejriwal To Sack Him

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: A political row erupted on Friday after a purported video of AAP minister Rajendra Pal Gautam at a "religious conversion" event went viral in which hundreds can be heard taking an oath denouncing Hindu deities, with the BJP launching an attack on Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and asking him to sack his cabinet colleague.

Sources in the Aam Aadmi Party claimed that the chief minister was "extremely displeased" with Gautam.

However, an immediate response was not available either from the chief minister or the Delhi government.

Gautam is the social welfare minister in the Arvind Kejriwal government.

At a press conference, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia accused the AAP of hurting the sentiments of Hindus and alleged that "Gautam's comments highlight the hate" the party has for the community.

Bhatia claimed that the minister's alleged comments were made at the behest of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

During the programme, around 10,000 people reportedly took vows to convert to Buddhism to follow Lord Buddha's teachings and give up worship of Hindu deities.

On October 5, Gautam himself had also tweeted the pictures of the event, saying more than 10,000 people pledged to join Buddhism and work for making India free from casteism and untouchability.

Gautam, in a programme at Central Delhi's Karol Bagh on Dussehra, showed "disrespect"

towards Hindu deities in the presence of thousands of people, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta charged during a press conference.

"This is not an isolated incident, it is in the character of the AAP to insult and disrespect Hindu gods and goddesses. We demand that Kejriwal should immediately expel Gautam from his cabinet," Gupta said.

Gupta also led a party delegation to file a complaint with the police here in the matter.

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari also demanded Gautam's sacking, claiming his action could lead to animosity between Hindu and Buddhist communities.

Hitting out at Gautam, West Delhi MP Parvish Verma accused him of indulging in "mass religious conversion".

"Every day news of conversions comes from AAP-ruled Punjab. Similarly, Kejriwal's minister Rajendra Pal is now conducting a mass conversion of people in Delhi," Verma said in a tweet.

Bhatia said the comments were made due to "vote bank" politics in light of the coming elections, he said.

"How low you will stoop for votes, Kejriwal," he asked. Bhatia said every Hindu has faith in their gods and claimed that the minister's comments are a blow to national integrity.

The Vishva Hindu Parishad also slammed Gautam and demanded his sacking.

The RSS affiliate also urged the Delhi Police and Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena to take "strictest action" against Gautam, alleging that administering of oaths to people at the event attended by the minister hurt the sentiments of Hindus.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Govt Report Paints

the report, the main driving force behind the rapid depletion of wetlands and its biodiversity is the habitat destruction, pollution, overexploitation of aquatic resources, tourism and the introduction of invasive exotic species along with alien pathogens and parasites.

The report has also blamed the rapid urbanization and industrialization for disrupting the harmony between people and nature, "which is happening at an accelerated pace".

Divulging the details of Ramsar sites in J&K, the data noted that against state's overall 1,64,110 hectares of wetland, Surinsar-Mansar Lakes accounted for 350 hectares, Wular Lake 18,900 hectares, Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve 802 hectares, Shalbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve 1,675 hectares and Hokera Wetland 1,375 hectares. The total percentage share of these five Ramsar sites is 14.08 per cent.

As per the report, J&K's geographical area Jammu & Kashmir was 2,22,236 sq km of which 20,199 or 9.09 per cent was recorded forest area, 17,648 and 2,551 were Reserved Forests and Protected Forests.

In 2015-16, J&K's total carbon stock was 2,75,926 (in 1000 tonnes) including 1,12,919 Above Ground Biomass (AGB), 30,083 Below Ground Biomass (BGB), 1,004 dead wood, 3,529 litter and 1,28,39 Soil Organic Carbon, the report said.

However, in 2019-20, the carbon stock increased to 3,70,870 (1000 tonnes) including 1,63,897 AGB, 45,864 BGB, 3,386 Dead wood, 4,951 Litter and 1,52,772 SOC. The carbon stock refers to the amount of carbon stored in forests in the form of biomass, soil, deadwood and litter.

"In the western Himalayan region, The agrobiodiversity hotspot area covers the districts of Srinagar, Anantnag, Udhampur, Reasi, Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir," reads the report.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, an official from the wildlife department said that encroachment of J&K's wetlands has damaged the environmental balance.

"The available data clearly shows how J&K's wetlands have been fragmented. The shrinking of wetlands has made our region highly susceptible to floods because wetlands act as natural sponges and flood protection systems. We need a comprehensive strategy to tackle this unprecedented situation," the official said, wishing anonymity.

US Asks Citizens

India-Pakistan border due to the potential for armed conflict, it said.

According to the travel advisory, "Indian authorities report rape is one of the fastest growing crimes in India. Violent crime, such as sexual assault, has occurred at tourist sites and in other locations."

The advisory said that "terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and government facilities.

The US government has limited ability to provide emergency services to US citizens in rural areas from eastern Maharashtra and northern Telangana through western West Bengal as US government employees must obtain special authorisation to travel to these areas, said the travel advisory.

New Dawn

Khanshab and repair of LT Poles. Similarly, he said, a delegation of Shia Community members led by Aya Syed Abbas Rizvi of J&K Peoples Justice Front projected various demands for the upliftment of Shia Community, including establishment of Shia Waqf Board.

Besides, the spokesperson said Chowdhary Khurshid Doie, Tehsil President, J&K Gujjar & Bakerwal Youth Welfare Conference from Karnah submitted a memorandum of demands to the LG pertaining to construction of Gujjar Boys & Girls hostel, smart schools for tribal villages & Women ITI Centre at Karnah; provision of solar plants for inhabitants of tribal villages; special recruitment drive for SPOs, besides water supply; strengthening of road connectivity; playground and establishment of Skill Development Centre in Karnah area.

The LG, he said, while interacting with the members of the delegations reiterated the commitment of the UT Government for equitable development of all regions and welfare of every region of the society.

The spokesperson said that the LG assured the delegations that their genuine issues would be taken up for consideration and early redressal.

IAF Commander

their duties and appreciated their valuable support to the population living in remote & high-altitude areas and the crucial role played by the IAF during emergent situations, an official spokesperson said.

J&K Govt

The order, issued by School Education department principal secretary Alok Kumar stated, "Sanction is hereby accorded to the implementation of Uniform Academic Calendar including conduct of annual examinations in March-April session for classes up to nine in all the government and government recognised private schools of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir."

It said the new admissions across all the schools shall commence from the month of March of the calendar year.

School Transportation

has said that the information provided by various stakeholders shows a

huge yawning gap between the transport fee charged in urban, rural and village areas. "It has been brought to the notice of the FFRC that a school in rural area is charging Rs.600 per month for distance of 0-4 kms, while another school is charging Rs 600 for 0-8 kms and yet another school is charging Rs.700/- for 0-7 kms," reads an order issued by the committee.

The committee however said, some schools in urban areas are charging transport or bus Fee up to Rs 2,000 per month and in few cases above Rs.2,000.

There is a difference in the salary component of Drivers and Helpers of the schools located in urban and rural areas," it reads.

The committee further said that since the majority of the items and expenses of Transport are same and similar in almost all the schools, thus, they constitute one class.

"The FFRC after considering all the relevant aspects and after giving thoughtful consideration to the representations made and material provided by the stakeholders and in tune with statutory prescriptions has resolved that it would be appropriate to allow hike in Transport or Bus Fee in all the schools in the manner decided by the committee," it reads.

"The schools in the winter zone shall be entitled to a hike of 14 percent in the Transport or Bus Fee, which the schools in the winter zone were charging and collecting in the month of October-2019," reads the order.

It also states that the schools in the summer zone shall be entitled to hike of 14 percent in the transport or bus fee, which the schools in the summer zone were charging and collecting in the month of February-2020.

The fee fixation committee further said that the transport or bus Fee hike shall be applicable from March 2022 in both the zones viz: Winter Zone and Summer Zone, when the schools resumed physical class-work after lock-down.

It also said that the schools whose Transport or Bus Fee by the aforesaid hike crosses Rs.2,000 shall be entitled to charge and collect only Rs 2,000 and the aforementioned hike shall restrict the upper limits of bus fee hike to Rs.2,000.

"All the schools shall faithfully and honestly follow the decision of the FFRC and implement the same in letter and spirit."

The committee said that if any school management who in the peculiar circumstances of the school needs bus Fee beyond Rs.2,000 shall have to submit its proposal to FFRC along with relevant documents with proper justification, to enable it to take a decision thereon in accordance with law.

Govt Probes

position by Zareena Akther. "As a principle of natural justice,

reasonable opportunity of being heard shall be afforded to the vice president concerned," the order states.

The inquiry officer has been directed to submit his report within 15 days.

In another order, the government has appointed additional deputy commissioner Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Raina, as an inquiry officer to probe the alleged misconduct and abuse of official position by Nighat Parveen, councillor of ward No. 10, municipal council, Baramulla.

The inquiry officer has been directed to submit a report within one month, the order states.

It is worthwhile to mention that the J&K Government had last removed the President of the municipal committee, Awantipora for abusing his official position—(KNO)

Drug Controller

Andrabi said that they have already issued a circular and so far nothing has been found on the ground by their teams. "Still we are checking all the products in order to be sure. But for now, there is no need to panic," she added.

Girl Among

condition was stated to be "stable".

5 Booked Under

leading to the busting of the whole module," Senior Superintendent of Police (Poonch) Rohit Baskotra told reporters.

He said Azad's maternal uncle Tika Khan, who is in Pakistan, arranged the IED. It was subsequently smuggled into India and handed over to him by Qamardin and Wajahat, both of whom have been taken into custody.

The name of another person, suspected cross-border smuggler Kamaldin, also emerged during the questioning of the accused and he, along with his associate Sajad, were nabbed in a chance operation, Baskotra said.

During routine patrolling, the police noticed two persons acting suspiciously upon seeing them and tried to flee. However, they were overpowered after a brief chase. It later turned out that the duo was Kamaldin and Sajad. Over 6 kg of heroin were seized from them, the police official said, and called the recovery a major breakthrough in the war against drugs.

Kamaldin's two brothers -- Nazar and Ateef -- are also in Pakistan and working against Indian interests, he said, adding that a pistol, two magazines and 42 rounds were recovered from him.

The five have been booked under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the official added.

Responding to a question on the target of the IED, the senior official said the "enemy nation" always tried to disturb peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The police and security agencies

are fully alert to the threat and our alertness is not allowing them to succeed," he said.

Lohia's Death

stands in solidarity with the bereaved family.

Dr Mehta eulogised his role in the department and called him a very fine, able and astute police officer. He prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength to family.

Others also reminisced about their interactions with the departed DG. They called him a very down to earth, sincere and a patient person. They prayed for the family to have patience to bear this loss.

On the occasion the gathering also held 2 minutes silence to mark the death of the DG.

2 Detained Under

prepared by Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba and forwarded to District Magistrate Samba who formally issued the order of his detention under the PSA," the spokesman said.

He said the detention warrant was executed by Police Station Ramgarh and the accused has been lodged in district Jail Jammu.

Two alleged criminals were booked under the stringent law in the district on Thursday.

Meanwhile, an alleged drug peddler was booked on Friday and detained under the PSA in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

Adil Fareed, a resident of Runta village of Bhandarwah, was detained under the PSA on the orders of District Magistrate, Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan for his alleged involvement in drug peddling and bovine smuggling, the police said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Doda, Abdul Qayoom said Fareed is a habitual offender and several FIRs stand registered for his involvement in bovine smuggling and drug peddling at local police station against him.

"His criminal activities are a serious threat to locals of the area especially the youth and also detrimental and prejudicial to the public order," the SSP said.

So far this year, police have registered 36 FIRs against 40 people for drug peddling besides detained two notorious drug peddlers under the PSA.

Similarly, 31 FIRs have been registered against 86 bovine smugglers, three of whom have been booked under PSA, the police said.

J&K Adds 10

succumbed to the virus and among them include 2352 from Jammu division and 2433 from the Valley.

Besides, they said, 18 Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—three from Jammu division and 15 from Kashmir Valley. There are now 77 active cases— 32 in Jammu and 45

in Kashmir.

Five Terror

a resident of Qasba, by a joint team of police and security forces, thus thwarting an attempt of terrorists to carry out an explosion.

The woman was apprehended and a case under the relevant sections of the Explosive Substances Act lodged, the SSP told reporters.

He said the woman revealed that her husband, Mohammad Azad, gave the IED to her and accordingly, he was picked up and subjected to sustained questioning, leading to the busting of the module.

Azad's maternal uncle Bashir Ahmad alias Tika Khan, who is associated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahideen terror groups across the border, had sent the IED for subversive activities and it was received by Azad and Qamardin.

Both Azad and Qamardin, a resident of Kirni, were in touch with their relatives in Pakistan who are involved in terror activities, Baskotra said, adding that two brothers of Qamardin -- Najim Din alias Naja and Latief -- are living in the Mangbajri camp in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and are associates of Tika Khan.

On the disclosure of Qamardin, a pistol, two magazines and 43 rounds were recovered from Kirni, the officer said.

Two more people, Wajahat Khan and Kamal Din of Kirni, who were aiding them in carrying and transporting the consignment to Poonch, were also arrested, he added.

The SSP said Qamardin was arrested along with his associate Sajad Ahmad of Pawan-Qasba during a chance operation in Qasba village on Tuesday. A heroin-like substance, weighing more than six kg, was seized from their possession.

During routine patrolling, the police noticed two people acting suspiciously. They were overpowered after a brief chase. It later turned out that one of them was Qamardin, who was wanted in the IED recovery case, the SSP said.

He said sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) were added to the FIR following the recovery of the IED.

In addition, Qamardin and Sajad Ahmad were also booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the SSP said.

He said the accused are involved in subversive activities and are the main handlers behind the smuggling of explosive material and narcotics into the Indian side.

Responding to a question on the target of the IED, the senior official said the "enemy nation" always tries to disturb peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Police and security agencies are fully alert to the threat and our alertness and synergy are not allowing them to succeed," he said.

A-Division: 1 Match Played, Today's Fixture Cancelled



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: One match of the DFA Srinagar organised A-Division league 2022-23 was played at Eidgah on Friday.

The match was played between Gung Bugh FC and Blossom FC. Both the teams started with an aggressive note but it was Irshad of Gung Bugh who managed to find the net in the 22nd minute of the match. Blossom FC tried to beat the defensive line of Gung Bugh but failed to find the back of the net. The first half score was 1-0 in favour of Gung Bugh FC.

The second half started with Blossom FC trying hard to find an equaliser. The team made some

good moves in the opponent's half but could not penetrate the solid defences of Gung Bugh FC. At final whistle, Gung Bugh managed to win the match 1-0.

The District Football Association

In an official communique on Friday evening, the DFA informed participating team that Saturday's fixture has been cancelled.

The FA wrote: "Tomorrow fixture stands postponed due to non availability of grounds. Inconvenience caused regretted."

The Annual League Football Tournament is organised by DFA Srinagar in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council.

3rd Yogasana Sports C'ship Concludes In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 3rd UT Level Yogasana Sports Championship organised by J&K Sports Council and J&K Yogasana Sports Association in Sher-I-Kashmir Indoor Stadium concluded here on Friday.

Players from 15 districts and other institutions of the UT participated in the two day event in which more than 370 athletes and 50 officials including judges from other districts and Sports Authority of India (SAI) participated.

The fun-filled two day event witnessed a large crowd of spectators comprising of people from almost all age groups with majority of the students turning to the venue in the afternoon. On the final day, Secretary J&K

Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull presided over the function as the chief guest while Nuzhat Farooq Sports Officer Kashmir and Dr. Raqib Rasool Parrey Joint Secretary, J&K Yogasana Sports Association were guest of honour on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Sports Council said that more Yoga events are in pipeline. The events were held for both boys and girls age groups in the cadet 6-9 years, sub-junior boys 9-16 years, sub junior girls 9-14 years, junior boys 14-18 years, junior girls 14-18 years, senior boys and girls in 18+ and above.

Abhishek Sharma and Furkan Sopori in boys category and Soumya Gupta and Toiba Nazir in girls category were declared best players of the championship.

Women's Asia Cup: Pakistan Stun India In Thriller



Press Trust of India

SYLHET: Indian batters bungled badly in a straightforward chase as Pakistan recorded their first win over the arch-rivals in six years with a 13-run victory in the Women's Asia Cup, in Sylhet, Bangladesh on Friday.

India, the most formidable team in Asia by some distance, batted poorly to be all out for 124 in 19.4 overs after Pakistan posted a modest 137 for six.

Pakistan scripted a remarkable turnaround less than 24 hours after their shock loss over Thailand.

Prior this game, India enjoyed a 10-2 record over Pakistan whose previous win over the arch-rivals came way back in the 2016 T20 World Cup in New Delhi.

Earlier, Pakistan, who were shocked by Thailand on Thursday, put an improved batting performance against the Indians but it still seemed below par.

Nida Dar (56 not out off 37 balls) and skipper Bismah Maroof (32 off 35) shared a crucial 76 run stand off 58 balls to give the innings a much needed move on.

Brief Score: Pakistan 137/6 in 20 overs (Nida Dar 56 not out, Bismah Maroof 32; Deepti Sharma 3/27). India in 20 overs (Richa Ghosh 26; Nida 2/32).

Lionel Messi Says World Cup In Qatar Will Be His Last



Agencies

BUENOS AIRES: Lionel Messi has confirmed that the World Cup in Qatar next month will be the last of his career.

The 35-year-old Argentina star will play in his fifth World Cup but is still seeking his first title at the showpiece tournament.

"There's some anxiety and nerves at the same time ... it is

the last one," Messi said in an interview with Star Plus.

It is the first time the Paris Saint-Germain striker has spoken openly about his future after the tournament, which starts on Nov. 20.

Messi did not make it clear whether he would retire from the national team after Qatar.

Argentina won the World Cup in 1978 and 1986. The team will open the tournament on Nov. 22

against Saudi Arabia in Group C before facing Mexico and Poland.

"I don't know whether we are big favourites, but I believe Argentina is a candidate because of its history, which means even more now because of the way we got here," Messi added.

"But in a World Cup anything can happen, all the matches are very difficult. It isn't always the favourites who win it." (AP)

Bumrah, Jadeja's Absence An Opportunity, Says Ravi Shastri

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Former India coach Ravi Shastri feels the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja at the T20 World Cup will affect the team but it also opens up an opportunity to "unearth a new champion".

Both Bumrah and Jadeja will miss the showpiece event Down Under later this month owing to injuries.

While Jadeja was ruled out due to a knee injury, a back injury has put Bumrah out of contention for the World Cup, dealing a major blow to India's chances at the marquee event.

"Bumrah not being there, Jadeja not being there - it hampers the side - but it's an opportunity to unearth a new champion," Shastri said at the launch of Coaching Beyond, his new initiative with B Arun and R Sridhar.

"(Bumrah's injury) is unfortunate. There's so much cricket being played, and people get injured. He is injured, but it's



an opportunity for somebody else. There is nothing you can do with injury," he added.

While a replacement for Bumrah has not been named yet, head coach Rahul Dravid has indicated Mohammad Shami could replace his teammate if he gains full fitness after recovering from COVID-19.

The 60-year-old feels despite the injuries, the Indian

team has enough depth to go deep into the tournament Down Under.

"I think we have got enough strength and we have a good team. If you make it to the semi-finals, it could be anyone's tournament."

"So, the endeavour would be to start well, get to the semis, and then you have got enough strength to probably win the (World) Cup."

Pakistan Beat Bangladesh In NZ Tri-Series Opener

Agencies

CHRISTCHURCH: Mohammad Rizwan posted an unbeaten 78 from 50 balls to help Pakistan to a 21-run win over Bangladesh on Friday in the Twenty20 tri-series opener in New Zealand.

The three teams are using the series to prepare for the T20 World Cup in Australia starting later this month.

Pakistan lost the toss and posted 167-5 after being sent in to bat, with Rizwan sharing a 52-run opening stand with skipper Babar Azam (22) and then putting on 42 for the second wicket with Shan Masood (31 from 22 deliveries) to set up Pakistan's innings.

He batted through the 20 overs and hit seven boundaries and two sixes in his 21st T20

international half century.

Mohammad Wasim snared 3-24, including the first wicket in the fifth over and two in two deliveries with perfect yorkers to start the 19th, and Mohammad Nawaz returned 2-25 as Pakistan restricted Bangladesh to 146-8 in reply.

The result was beyond doubt before Bangladesh plundered 20 runs from the last over, when allrounder Yasir Ali hit three boundaries and a six off Haris Rauf to finish unbeaten on 42 from 21 deliveries.

"We're very happy as a team," Babar said.

"A win always gives you confidence."

Pakistan will have to recover quickly before playing host New Zealand in a night game Saturday.



Arteta Talks Arsenal Ahead Of Liverpool Clash

Reuters

LONDON: Premier League leaders Arsenal face a real test of their credentials against Liverpool on Sunday but they still have plenty of room for improvement, manager Mikel Arteta said on Friday.

The Gunners have won seven out of eight games so far and go into the weekend a point clear of champions Manchester City, who host Southampton on Saturday. Liverpool, champions in 2019-20 and runners-up last season, are ninth with only two wins from seven matches ahead

require us to be at our best again.

"It's a fixture that everybody is looking for against an opponent that has shown in the last five or six years the level they have and we have to show that we have raised the level and are ready to compete against them." Arsenal are unbeaten at home in the league, their sole defeat coming at Manchester United last month, and Arteta said he was proud of the change in atmosphere at the North London club.

"How you measure success is lifting trophies, but as well you have to understand where we were and how fractured the club and the



of the game at the Emirates Stadium. They won 2-0 there last time around in March.

"It is a really exciting game to play against one of the top opponents in this league," Arteta told reporters.

"It's going to be a really demanding match that's going to

environment looked," he said.

"I am very conscious that we can get much better than what we are today we have to do better to be the team that we want to be and the challenge now is to do it every three days. "You always see the weaknesses that you want to improve."

Iran Forward Sardar Azmoun Doubtful For Qatar World Cup

Agencies

LEVERKUSEN: Iran forward Sardar Azmoun is a doubt for the World Cup after picking up an injury while warming up for Bayer Leverkusen.

The Bundesliga club said late Thursday that the 27-year-old Azmoun is expected to miss six to eight weeks after tearing a muscle in his right calf in the warm-up before Tuesday's 2-0 loss at Porto in the Champions League.

Iran's World Cup campaign begins against England on November 21 in Doha, four days before playing Wales in Ar-Rayyan. The Iranians' final game in Group B is against the United States on November 29 in Doha.

Azmoun, who joined Leverkusen in January from Russian club Zenit St. Petersburg, has one goal in 17 Bundesliga appearances for the team. He has yet to score this season.

Azmoun has 41 goals in 65 appearances for Iran, including 10 goals in World Cup qualifying. Interestingly, Azmoun had chosen to "retire" from Iran's



6 THE IRANIANS' FINAL GAME in Group B is against the United States on November 29 in Doha.

national team in 2018 due to fan criticism. He was 23 at that time, and revealed that the social media criticism was "making my mother sick".

Azmoun made his Iran debut at the age of 19 and is among the country's top goal scorers of all time.

A Look At Major Football-Related Crowd Disasters In History

Agencies

Police fired tear gas after violence broke out at a soccer match in Indonesia as Persebaya Surabaya beat Arema Malang 3-2. Panic and a rush for the exit left at least 131 dead, most of whom were trampled, police said. Here is a look at some other football-related crowd disasters:

APRIL 5, 1902 — Glasgow, Scotland; 25 killed and 517 injured when the West Stand at Ibrox Park collapses during an international match between England and Scotland. The game ends in a 1-1 draw but is later stricken from official records.

MARCH 9, 1946 — Bolton, England; 33 people killed and more than 400 injured when a wall collapses at Burden Park before an FA Cup match between Bolton Wanderers and Stoke City. The collapse crushes fans together and sparks a stampede.

MAY 24, 1964 — Lima, Peru; more than 300 people killed and another 500 injured in riots at Estadio Nacional after Argentina beats Peru in an Olympic qualifying match. The pandemonium breaks out when the referee disallows a Peru goal

in the final two minutes.

JUNE 23, 1968 — Buenos Aires, Argentina; 74 people killed and more than 150 injured following a game between River Plate and Boca Juniors when fans trying to leave the stadium mistakenly head toward a closed exit and are crushed against the doors by other fans unaware of the closed passageway.

OCT. 20, 1982 — Moscow; 66 people killed in a crush of fans leaving a UEFA Cup match between Spartak Moscow and Dutch club Haarlem at Luzhniki Stadium.

MAY 29, 1985 — Brussels; 39 people killed in fan violence at the 1985 European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus at Heysel Stadium.

MARCH 12, 1988 — Kathmandu, Nepal; 93 people killed when thousands of soccer fans surge into locked stadium exits to escape a sudden hailstorm.

APRIL 15, 1989 — Sheffield, England; 97 people killed and hundreds injured as the result of a crush of fans at overcrowded Hillsborough Stadium. One victim died in July 2021 of aspiration pneumonia, to which he had been left vulnerable because of in-

juries from the disaster.

JAN. 13, 1991 — Orkney, South Africa; at least 40 people killed, most of them trampled or crushed along riot-control fences that surround the field, when fans panic and try to escape a brawl that break out in the grandstand.

OCT. 16, 1996 — Guatemala City; 84 people killed and 147 injured as panicked fans are crushed and smothered before a World Cup qualifier between Guatemala and Costa Rica.

APRIL 11, 2001 — Johannesburg, South Africa; At least 43 people killed in a crush during a soccer match at Ellis Park.

MAY 9, 2001 — Accra, Ghana; 126 people killed in a crush after police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at fans at the Oshana Djan Stadium at a game between the country's two biggest teams — Hearts of Oak and Asante Kotoko.

FEB. 1, 2012 — Port Said, Egypt; 74 people killed and more than 500 injured after a match between rivals al-Masry and al-Ahly when thousands of al-Masry fans invaded the field and attacked visiting supporters. The Egyptian league was suspended for two years as a result.



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