

LG Inaugurates 3-Week Long 'Jashn-e-Kashmir' 'We've Taken Steps To Reconnect Youth To Their Roots'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that his administration has taken steps to reconnect youth to their roots besides providing an environment and a forum to folk artists, visual artists and authors to showcase our shared goals and values, says the LG.

"After a long pause, we are witnessing cultural revival in J&K. Several schemes for promoting folk arts, literature and visual arts have been prepared to give a new impetus to art and culture," Sinha said.

The LG made these remarks during the inauguration of "Jashn-e-Kashmir"- New Kashmir New Hope, a three-week long cultural festival celebrating tradition, culture and heritage, here on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said, maintained that his government is working out a roadmap for preserving and reviving the culture and

folk traditions of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have taken steps to reconnect youth to their roots and provide an environment and a forum to folk artists, visual artists and authors to showcase our shared goals and values," the LG said.

"Our artists are a reflection of social values, social progress and the administration is fully committed for their welfare," he added.

The Cultural Festival is being organized by All J&K Folk Artists Association, Shah Qalander Folk Theatre, in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, and the Office of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.

Congratulating everyone associated with the cultural festival, the LG, as per the spokesperson said "Our unique diversity is our pride and our biggest strength. Such festivals will encourage artists, artisans and craftsmen to promote the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat".

"Schemes like 'Guru Shishya Parampara' to | [More on P10](#)



A SEA OF MOURNERS JOINED FUNERAL PRAYERS of veteran Kashmiri leader Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari at Alagari Bazar Chowk on Tuesday. Photo Abid Bhat | [FULL STORY ON PAGE 3](#)

J&K Reported 7 Dengue Deaths This Year So Far

Agencies

Srinagar: At least 3,784 dengue cases and seven deaths have been reported in Jammu and Kashmir this year so far with six from Kashmir division.

A top health official said that around 15003 tests have been conducted so far and 4,649 have been tested positive.

Of 4,649 cases 90percent of cases which is 3,784 cases are from Jammu district only.

They added that cases include 154 from Samba, 64 from Kathua, 320 from Udhampur, 83 from Reasi, 47 from Rajouri, 22 from Poonch, 116 from Doda, 29 from Ramban, 13 from Kishtwar and six from Kashmir besides that 12 from other states. Also, seven people have died.

As per the data, today 37 dengue cases in two children and 35 adults were reported in J&K.

According to official data, the highest number of 1,837 cases were reported in 2013 but this year, the figure has surpassed the previous one—(KNO)

TARGETED KILLINGS

10 KP Families Migrate From Shopian To Jammu

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: As terrorists carried out a number of targeted killings recently, 10 Kashmiri Pandit families have left their village in Shopian district in south Kashmir out of fear and reached Jammu.

The residents of Choudharygund said the recent terrorist attacks have triggered a fear psychosis among the Pandits who lived in Kashmir through the most difficult period of terrorism in 1990s and did not leave their homes.

Kashmiri Pandit Puran Krishan Bhat was gunned down by terrorists outside his ancestral house in Choudharygund village of Shopian district on October 15. On October 18, Monish



Kumar and Ram Sagar were killed in a grenade attack by terrorists while they were asleep in their rented accommodation in Shopian.

"Ten families comprising 35 to 40 Kashmiri Pandits have

migrated out of our village due to the fear psychosis," a resident of Choudharygund village who faced a death threat recently told PTI.

He said the village was now empty. | [More on P10](#)

Is Bilal Lone Joining Mainstream Politics?

Agencies

Srinagar: Separatist leader and chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Independent Movement Bilal Gani Lone is likely to switch to mainstream politics, news reports said on Tuesday.

Bilal Gani Lone is the son of veteran separatist leader Abdul Gani Lone who was killed at Eidgah in Srinagar.

People aware of the matter said that Lone will formally join active electoral politics in the coming days, news agency ANI reported.

"His father was a three-time MLA before joining the separatist ranks. So, if he is joining the mainstream politics he will reclaim that legacy and can make a bigger and visible impact, especially at the time when elections are about to happen," a political analyst observed.

The reports suggested that Lone will soon part ways with Hurriyat Conference as he has



firmly decided to fight the upcoming assembly elections from his ancestral "strongly held" North Kashmir.

"Bilal Lone's joining of mainstream politics will be a colossal development as it will be the second major exodus of any Hurriyat leader after his brother Sajad Lone bid farewell to the separatist politics," political analysts on the basis | [More on P10](#)



WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO RECONNECT YOUTH to their roots and provide an environment and a forum to folk artists, visual artists and authors to showcase our shared goals and values."

4 Held Over 'Assault' On CAPD Official

Agencies

Baramulla: An official was allegedly assaulted by some people during duty hours in his office on Tuesday with police saying they arrested four persons in the case so far.

Sheikh Tariq, who is Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Baramulla was assaulted by a few goons at his office, officials said.

Following the incident, employees staged a protest demanding action against the accused.

They said that some persons barged inside the office premises and | [More on P10](#)

Diwali Lamps Lit Teetwal For 1st Time Since 1947

Press Trust Of India

Teetwal: Hundreds of earthen lamps lit the Teetwal hamlet in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday as Diwali was being celebrated for the first time at the Mata Sharda Devi temple being reconstructed in the area on the Line of Control (LoC).

The ancient temple and its centre are being rebuilt with a view to revive centuries-old pilgrimage to Sharda Peeth temple in the Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (Pck).

Sharada Peeth -- "the seat of Sharada" -- is the Kashmiri name for goddess Saraswati. Sharada Peeth was one of the foremost ancient universities of the Indian

subcontinent.

Teetwal is situated in Kupwara and the Sharda Peeth is situated barely 40 kilometers from this village. Sharda Peeth is an abandoned temple located in Sharda village along the Neelum River, which was a major centre of learning. It is regarded as one of the 18 highly revered temples across south Asia.

After first time since partition, candles and diyas lighting marked Diwali celebrations at the Sharda yatra temple, being reconstructed in Teetwal. A large number of locals along with Army jawans lit earthen lamps, candles and distributed sweets to celebrate Diwali on Monday, Save Sharda | [More on P10](#)

SHORT TAKES

Inmate Falls To Death In Sub-Jail



An inmate died on Tuesday after 'falling' from a sub-jail building in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said. 37-year-old Mohammad Yousuf Bhat, son of Abdul Aziz Bhat, a resident of Prangroo village of Handwara suffered critical injuries in the fall, the officials told a local news agency GNS. The injured inmate, they said, was evacuated | [More on P10](#)

J&K Logs 4 New Covid Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported four fresh covid-19 cases even as there was no death due to the virus during the last 24 hours also, officials said on Tuesday.

They said that two cases were reported from Srinagar and one each from Jammu and Baramulla districts. They said 479270 people have been infected so far. Among the cases, 174029 are from Jammu division and 305241 from Kashmir Valley. There was no death due to the virus during the time. So far 4785 people have succumbed to the virus and among them include 2352 from Jammu | [More on P10](#)

Ex- Minister, Public Delegation Call On LG

Sunil Sharma, former Minister on Tuesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhawan. The former Minister discussed with the Lt Governor various issues of public importance including welfare issues of VDC members, JKPC employees, besides agricultural-related issues, an official spokesperson said. Later, he said, a delegation of local residents of Kulgam led by Abid Hussain Khan, District President BJP Kulgam apprised the Lt Governor on various development | [More on P10](#)

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Facebook's Bitmoji-Style Avatars Now Coming To WhatsApp

ANI

Social media giant Facebook's Bitmoji-style avatars, which earlier invaded Instagram and Messenger, are now also coming to WhatsApp. According to The Verge, a report from WABetaInfo suggests that WhatsApp is rolling out support for customizable avatars in the latest 2.22.23.9 beta on Android, but only for some users. Those with access to the feature will see a new 'Avatar' category in their settings menu that they can use to customise the digital version of themselves. Similar to Meta's other apps, WhatsApp will then generate a sticker pack with the avatar in various poses, which users can use to express themselves when messaging family and friends. This feature was first spotted by WABe-

taInfo last month but now it's actually rolling out to users. It's unclear when WhatsApp will roll out the feature to all users on Android, or when it plans on bringing the feature to iOS, reported The Verge. Meta first introduced avatars on Messenger and the News Feed in 2019 before they became available to use in Facebook comments and stories in 2020. Earlier this year, the company gave its avatars a new 3D look and started letting users add them to feed posts, Facebook profile pictures, and Instagram Stories. As per The Verge, at the time, Meta's general manager for avatars and identity, Aigerim Shorman, touted the update as part of Meta's efforts toward building out its idea of the metaverse, which not only includes virtual and augmented reality, but also bridges "more familiar platforms like your phone and computer."



Those with access to the feature will see a new 'Avatar' category in their settings menu that they can use to customise the digital version of themselves.

'Less Than 5 Hours Of Night Sleep Linked To Risk Of Chronic Diseases'

Press Trust Of India

Sleeping for less than five hours in mid-to-late life is associated with the risk of developing at least two chronic diseases, a UK study has found. Researchers from the University College London (UCL) in the UK found that people who reported getting five hours of sleep or less at age 50 were 20 per cent more likely to be diagnosed with a chronic disease. They were also 40 per cent more likely to be diagnosed with two or more chronic diseases over a follow-up period of 25 years, compared to those who slept for up to seven hours. The study, published in the journal PLOS Medicine, also found that sleeping for five hours or less at the age of 50, 60, and 70 was linked to a 30 per cent to 40 per cent increased risk of multimorbidity, or being diagnosed with two or more chronic diseases, when compared with those who slept for up to seven hours. "Multimorbidity is on the rise in high income countries and more than half of older adults now have at least two chronic diseases," said study lead author, Severine Sabia. "This is proving to be a major challenge for public health, as multimorbidity is associated with high healthcare service use, hospitalisations and disability," Sabia said. The researchers also found that sleep duration of five hours or less at age 50 was associated with 25 per cent increased risk of mortality over the follow-up period. This can mainly be explained by the fact that short sleep duration increases the risk of chronic diseases that in turn increase the risk of death, they said. "As people get older, their sleep habits and sleep structure change. However, it is recommended to sleep for 7 to 8 hours a night - as sleep durations above or below this have previously been associated with individual chronic diseases," said Sabia. The researchers examined the relationship between how long each participant slept for, mortality and whether they were multimorbid such as with heart disease, cancer or diabetes over the course of 25 years. The study analysed the impact of sleep duration on the health of more than 7,000 men and women at the ages of 50, 60 and 70, from the Whitehall II cohort study, which was conducted

from 1985 to 1988 and examined the health of 10,308 civil servants aged 35 to 55, of whom two thirds were men and one third women. "Our findings show that short sleep duration is also associated with multimorbidity. To ensure a better night's sleep, it is important to promote good sleep hygiene, such as making

sure the bedroom is quiet, dark and a comfortable temperature before sleeping. "It is also advised to remove electronic devices and avoid large meals before bedtime. Physical activity and exposure to light during the day might also promote good sleep," said Sabia.



As people get older, their sleep habits and sleep structure change. However, it is recommended to sleep for 7 to 8 hours a night - as sleep durations above or below this have previously been associated with individual chronic diseases

As part of the study, researchers also assessed whether sleeping for a long duration, of nine hours or more, affected health outcomes. There was no clear association between long sleep durations at age 50 and multimorbidity in healthy people. However, if a participant had already been diagnosed with a chronic condition, then long sleep duration was associated with around a 35 per cent increased risk of developing another illness. Researchers believe this could be due to underlying health conditions impacting sleep. The researchers noted that because the data used for the study was self-reported by the participants, it was likely to be subject to reporting bias, even though the findings were confirmed through electronic measurements of the sleep of 4,000 participants. The research only involved members of the civil service, who were all employed when recruited to the study and likely to be healthier than the general population, they added.

OBSERVER

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FRIENDS NEWS AGENCY	KULGAM
JAVAI NEWS AGENCY	KULGAM
MALIK NEWS AGENCY	AERWANI
IRSHAD NEWS AGENCY	KOKERNAG
RAYEES NEWS AGENCY	AWANTIPORA
PAMPOR NEW AGENCY	PAMPOR
SANGAM NEWS AGENCY	SANGAM
GAZI KHURSHED NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
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ALTA NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
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BOOZE NEWS AGENCY	AWANTIPORA
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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in-----

Gist of e-tender
e-NIT No: MHCHD/TS/2022-23/130/e-tendering
Dated: 22.10.2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered, reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in months)	TS No.	AAA accorded	Earnest Money Deposit (In Lacs)
1. Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Central Heating System to Sub District Hospital, Kangana.	88.00	2000	03 months	MED/K/TS/82, 25/DHSC of 2022, Dt:24-09-2022		1.76

- Downloading of Bids:- 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 from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 22.10.2022 (15.30 hrs) and can be downloaded from 22.10.2022 (15.30 hrs).
- Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 22.10.2022 (16.00 hrs) to 28.10.2022 (12:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids:- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 28.10.2022 (13.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MH&CHD, Srinagar.

DIPK-12321/22
Sd/- Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar
No: MHCHD/TS/6629-35 Dated:25-10-2022

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TLMD II PAMPOR, KASHMIR, J&K Power Transmission Corporation Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING e-Bids
e-NIT No. TLMD II/30 of 2022-23 dt:25.10.2022.

The Executive Engineer, TLMD II Pampore Kashmir, J&K Power Transmission Corporation Ltd, for and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, invites online e-bids from registered surveyors / civil engineering consultants possessing required surveying equipments and fulfilling eligibility and qualification requirements specified hereunder for Detailed survey along with preparation of DPR for foundations, Line Profile and Tower schedule for construction of 220 kV Transmission Line for 160 MVA, 220/33 kV GIS sallar Bijbehara at Hatigam Bijbehara by taking tap from 220 kV KPTL at Marhama Sangam Submission of e-Bid shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms & conditions with full understanding of its implications. The tender is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid, submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

a	Date & Time of downloading of NIT.	The NIT Documents can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 25.10.2022 (2.00 PM) to 25.10.2022 (2.00 PM)
b	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	3.11.2022 up to 4.00PM
D	e-Bid submission (end) date & Time	4.11.2022 at 4:00 Pm
F	Date & time of online opening of bids	Rs.9.75 Lacs
G	Estimated cost	The Office of Executive Engineer TLMD II Pampore Kashmir J&K.
H	Venue of opening of e-Bids	Rs. 700.00 (Seven hundred only) in the shape of non-refundable Demand Draft drawn in favor of Executive Engineer TMD-II Pampore
I	Cost of e-Bid document	2% Of estimated cost
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Committed
K	Status of funds	

DIPK-NB-4601/22
Sd/ Executive Engineer, TLMD II Pampore,

Veteran Kashmiri Leader Molvi Abbas Ansari Passes Away

Thousands join funeral prayers at Zadibal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Veteran Kashmiri leader Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari passed away after protracted illness on Tuesday morning.

Maulana breathed his last at his residence in Khankhali Sokhta Nawakadal family sources said.

Amid moist eyes, many prominent Shia and Sunni scholars participated in the funeral.

Thousands of people from all walks of life joined his funeral procession from Khanqah e Sokhta, Nawa Kadal to Alamgari Bazar where his funeral prayers were offered. He was laid to rest at Baba Mazar graveyard at Zadibal and his funeral prayers were led by Maulana Abdul Baqi Rizvi.

Popularly known as Molvi Abbas, he was the last surviving politician of the Plebiscite Front era.

An alumni of Najaf seminary, Maulana Abbas founded Anjuman-e- Ittehadul Muslimeen after his return from decade long stay in Iraq in 1962. Molvi Abbas spent years behind bars for his relentless struggle for rights of Kashmiri people.

In 1987 Abbas became founding convener of Muslim United Front (MUF) which changed the political landscape of Kashmir.

After his release from prison he co-founded the All Parties Hurriyat Conference. He led several rounds of talks with New Delhi during Atal Behari Vajpayee era as he was a strong proponent of peaceful settlement of Kashmir dispute. However his differences with Pakistan's approach later led to his ouster from the multiparty combine.

Abbas virtually retired from active political life and was mostly engrossed in spiritual pursuits.

Molvi Abbas has penned scores of books on spiritual aspects of Islam.

His autobiography penned during his jail stay titled "Khare Gulistan" meaning "thorn of garden" was released in 2018.



Demise Of Maulana Abbas Widely Condolored

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: People cutting across political boundaries have expressed grief at the death of Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari who passed away at the age of 86 here on Tuesday.

"Maulana Abbas Ansari lived a life dedicated to the cause of peace and Islam. An ardent advocate of unity who led a pious and a humble life. He leaves behind a rich legacy etched into the hearts and minds of people of Kashmir. Allah darjat buland farmaye (May Allah bless the soul)," People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti tweeted.

The National Conference (NC) also condoled Ansari's death.

"Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Moulvi Abbas Ansari Sahab. May Allah grant him a place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and give his loved ones enough strength to bear the ir-

reparable loss," the NC tweeted.

Senior Congress leader Saifuddin Soz said that Maulana Abbas Ansari's demise is a great loss to the J&K State as his voice was always meant for conciliation and reconciliation.

"I feel extremely sad at the demise of Maulana Abbas Ansari, Co-founder of Plebiscite Front and Hurriyat Conference. Maulana Abbas's distinct quality as a separatist leader was that he was always prepared for conciliation and reconciliation, as a peaceful solution to political issues. In spite of his separatism, he was never averse to dialogue and discussion with the opposite camp," Soz said in a press statement.

Soz said that the late leader was concerned about the death and destruction in Kashmir and was seeking a peaceful solution to the Kashmir problem.

Apni Party President Syed Altaf Bukhari also expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of the veteran

Kashmiri leader.

In his condolence message, Syed Altaf Bukhari said, "I am deeply saddened to hear about the passing away of Molvi Abbas Ansari Sahib. Today, we have lost a great religious leader who spent his entire life serving people and contributing to society. He was a reformist and contributed to the education sector as well"

Paying glorious tributes to the late leader, the Hurriyat Conference said that throughout his life Maulana Abbas resolutely and unyieldingly advocated resolution of the Kashmir conflict in accordance with the aspirations of its people, and made personal sacrifices for his political stand, as he was jailed several times and spent years in jail. His belief that the resolution could be attained through peaceful means became evident during the regime of Perverz Musharraf and late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, when he proactively championed the Hurriyat stand that the

Kashmir dispute be solved through dialogue and negotiations with India and Pakistan.

APHC said that with the demise of Maulana Ansari, an era has truly come to an end and it is not possible to fill the void created by his passing away in the political and religious circles of J&K.

Mirwaiz Umer Farooq in a separate statement said: "As its (Hurriyat) first chairman in 1993, Maulana Ansari guided me like a father figure and in our association of last 30 years shared an affectionate bond with me."

Anjuman-e-Share-Shiayani president Aga Syed Hassan Al-Mosvi while expressing his deep shock and grief over the demise of Maulana Abbas Ansari said that Kashmir has lost a great religious scholar and a political leader. "Kashmir and its people needed leaders like Abbas sahib but death keeps no calendar. Today, he left this world. We will miss him forever," he said.

Thousands of people from all walks of life joined his funeral procession from Khanqah e Sokhta, Nawa Kadal to Alamgari Bazar where his funeral prayers were offered

Healthy Minds Counselling Center Inaugurated At KGP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: HELP Foundation in collaboration with (KASHMER) Kashmir American Society for Healthcare, Medical Education and Research inaugurated Healthy Minds Counselling Clinic at Kashmir Govt Polytechnic Gogji Bagh Srinagar. The facility was inaugurated by the Special Secretary to Govt. Skill Development Dept. Mr Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, Principal KGO Eng Intiyaz Ahmed Shaw, and Dr Syed Riyaz Ahmed, Project Director KASHMER.

The event was attended by members of the healthy minds team, faculty and students of KGP. Speaking on the occasion Ashraf emphasized upon broadening the scope of mental health service to cater

larger sections of the community. In this regard he envisioned cooperation between the entities to carry the program to all skill development institutions in the valley. Project Director KASHMER briefed the audience about different programs conducted in collaboration with HELP Foundation and Help Poor Voluntary Trust in Kashmir valley. Experts in the field of clinical psychology Dr Muzaffar Khan, Director YDRC and consultant clinical psychologist also spoke on the occasion on various aspects of mental health and substance abuse in community coping. The facility will be free of cost for all needy students and staff. Also highlighted on the occasion was the importance of pre-hospital care* and how it helps reduce mortality and morbidity of patients that require urgent treatment.

KU VC Takes First-Hand Appraisal Of Key Varsity Centers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan on Tuesday made a surprise visit to some key centres of the University to have a first-hand appraisal of their functioning.

Accompanied by Dean of Academic Affairs Prof Farooq A Masoodi, the Vice-Chancellor visited Directorate of Lifelong Learning where she passed instructions for exploring ways and means to facilitate placement of pass-outs of B.Voc degrees in Auto-

motive Technology and Electronic Media offered under the DDU Kausal Kendra scheme.

The Vice-Chancellor then visited the Centre for Career Planning and Counselling (CCPC) to take a stock of ongoing programmes there. She also interacted with aspirants of IAS coaching being offered by the Centre.

Following the CCPC visit, the Vice-Chancellor made a surprise inspection of Institute of Technology Zakura Campus, where she visited the Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CCPE).

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POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas Mrs Shaista Manzoor as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 16.08.2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Mr.Faisal Fayaz Dar S/O Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Dar R/O Gulshanabad KP Road Anantnag Sole Prop. Of M/S Faisal fayaz Dar Ganiwara Anantnag along with Mortgagors/Guarantors (Hereinafter referred as Borrower/s) to repay an amount of **Rs. 26,93,015.04 (Rupees Twenty six lacs ninety three thousand fifteen and paise four only)** being the balance outstanding as on **31.07.2022** in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower/s having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgaged property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 19th day of month of October of the year 2022

The said borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to **Rs. 26,93,015.04 (Rupees Twenty six lacs ninety three thousand fifteen and paise four only)** together with future interest thereon from 01.08.2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

Description of the Immovable Property

A Double storeyed residential house having plinth area of 429 SFT,with land underneath and appurtenant to, measuring 2 Marlas 5 Sirsai and 17 SFT comprising of Khasra No 3122, Khata No 2998 and Khewat No 977 at Qasba Baghat , Tehsil and District Anantnag, Kashmir

Dated: 19-10-2022

DIPK-NB-4612/22

Shaista Manzoor

Place : Nazuk Mohalla, Qasba Bhagat

Authorized Officer

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES :
2479488,2452222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

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

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

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:21
ZUHR	12:15
ASR	4:07
Magrib	5:48
ISHA	7:09

HIJRI CALENDAR
29 Rabi ul Awwal
1444

This Day In History

- 740 - An earthquake strikes Constantinople, causing damage to city walls and buildings
- 1366 - Comet 55P/1366 Ul (Tempel-Tuttle) approaches 0.0229 AU of Earth
- 1524 - Spanish troops give Milan to France
- 1905 - Union of Sweden & Norway ends
- 1917 - World War I: Brazil declared in state of war with Central Powers.
- 1918 - Germany's supreme commander General Eric Ludendorff resigns, protesting the terms to which the German Government has agreed in negotiating an armistice
- 1922 - Italian government resigns under pressure from fascists & Benito Mussolini
- 1942 - Battle of Santa Cruz: Japanese naval offensive against US forces near Solomon Islands
- 1950 - Mother Teresa founds Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India
- 1955 - British troops occupy Saudi Arabian oil field at Boerami
- 1962 - Nikita Khrushchev sends note to JFK offering to withdraw his missiles from Cuba if US closed its bases in Turkey; offer is rejected
- 1962 - US performs atmospheric nuclear test at Johnston Island
- 1967 - Shah of Iran crowns himself after 26 years on Peacock Throne
- 1968 - Soviet Union launches spacecraft Soyuz 3
- 1971 - UN votes to replace Taiwan with China
- 1973 - Israeli forces reach Suez, trapping Egyptian army
- 1973 - President Nixon releases first White House tapes on Watergate scandal
- 1975 - Anwar Sadat becomes the 1st Egyptian president to officially visit the United States
- 1975 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1976 - Trinidad & Tobago becomes a republic
- 1977 - 5th & final test of space shuttle Enterprise
- 1977 - Last natural case of smallpox discovered in Merca district, Somalia. Considered the anniversary of the eradication of smallpox, the most spectacular success of vaccination

From KO Archives

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

Observer News Service

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

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

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

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

(Kashmir Observer, October 26, 2000)

WhatsApp Back Online After Global Outage



Agenceis

Meta Platforms said it has fixed an issue with its messaging service, WhatsApp, after users across Europe, Asia, and the United Kingdom were not able to use the application for hours.

At around 0750 GMT on Tuesday, outage reporting site DownDetector showed over 68,000 users reporting problems with the app in the United Kingdom. Problems were reported by 19,000 people in Singapore and 15,000 people in South Africa, as well.

"We know people had trouble sending messages on WhatsApp today. We have fixed the issue and apologise for any inconvenience," a spokesperson for WhatsApp parent company Meta Platforms said.

The company did not disclose the reason for the outage.

WhatsApp has become a criti-

cal means of communication for households and businesses. When WhatsApp had an hours-long outage last October, it hit trading of assets from cryptocurrencies to oil, before traders switched to alternative platforms such as Telegram.

WhatsApp's latest outage came during the festive season in India - its biggest market by user count - when people use the platform even more than usual to send season's greetings.

Shares of WhatsApp-parent Meta Platforms fell 0.7 percent to \$128.85 in premarket trading following the outage.

The company had not sent any fresh updates as users in Asia, India and the United Kingdom started seeing some connections come back online.

#Whatsappdown was trending on Twitter, with more than 142,000 tweets and hundreds of memes flooding the internet.

In Vice-Chancellors Row, Kerala Chief Minister's Stern Warning To Governor

Agenceis

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan's move to seek the resignation of Vice-Chancellors of nine universities has kicked up a huge political storm in the southern state with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday issuing a stern warning to the Constitutional head asking him not to cross the limits of his powers.

Meanwhile, the ruling LDF announced two-day state-wide protests beginning on Tuesday.

Amid growing tension between the Raj Bhavan and the Left government, Mr Khan, using his powers as the chancellor, issued show-cause notices to Vice-Chancellors of nine universities after they refused to send their resignation letters to him before 11.30 AM on Monday as per his directive on Sunday. The Vice-Chancellors have been given time till November 3 to respond.

The "unusual steps" initiated by Mr Khan also led to a legal battle with eight vice-chancellors challenging the chancellor's move in the Kerala High Court.

The high court held a special sitting on Monday evening, despite being a holiday for Diwali and ordered that the vice-chancellors can continue in their respective posts and they can be removed only after following due procedure.

Justice Devan Ramachandran, who heard the urgent plea filed by the eight vice-chancellors, said the communication sent by the Chancellor was not proper.

The court noted that since the chancellor has given time till



November 3 to the vice-chancellors to show cause as to why they should not be ousted, the communication seeking resignation lost its importance.

In their pleas, the VCs told the court that the entire action of the chancellor asking them to resign within 24 hours was illegal, if not mala fide.

Mr Khan, in a press conference, justified his actions against the Vice-Chancellors, saying the notices were issued upholding the verdict of the Supreme Court, which has declared as "void ab initio" any appointment as a Vice-Chancellor made on the recommendation of the Search Committee, which is constituted contrary to the provisions of the UGC regulation.

"Now, they have refused to resign. Now formal notices have been issued," Mr Khan said.

The Governor also rejected the allegations of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan that the VCs have been denied natural justice.

"I only suggested an honourable way out. I have not sacked them", the Governor said.

Rishi Sunak Appointed As Britain's First Indian-Origin Prime Minister By King Charles III



Agenceis

LONDON: Rishi Sunak on Tuesday scripted history when he was appointed by King Charles III as Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister after being elected unopposed as the new leader of the governing Conservative Party on Diwali.

The 42-year-old former Chancellor of Exchequer, a devout Hindu, is the youngest British prime minister in 210 years.

He is also the first Hindu Prime Minister of Indian heritage in the UK.

Sunak became the ruling Conservatives' new leader on Monday after rival contender Penny Mordaunt failed to secure enough nominations from Tory MPs, and Boris Johnson dramatically aborted a comeback bid.

In his first address as Tory leader soon after the result was declared on Monday, Sunak said his priority would be to bring the country together and said he was "humbled and honoured" to get the "greatest privilege" of his life to give back to the country "I owe so much."

"The UK is a great country,

but there is no doubt we face a profound economic challenge," said Sunak, with reference to the economic turmoil he is inheriting following former prime minister Liz Truss' disastrous tax-cutting mini-budget last month.

The 47-year-old Truss announced her resignation last Thursday, admitting she could not deliver her "mandate" from Conservative members -- who had chosen her over Sunak in the summer.

Sunak, the second prime minister in as many months and the third this year in Britain, will be moving into 10, Downing Street at a time when Britain's economy is facing a triple whammy of slowing growth, high inflation triggered by spiralling energy prices in the wake of the Ukraine war and a budget shortfall that has eroded its financial credibility internationally.

His first task will be to restore Britain's international financial credibility after outgoing leader Truss's plan for unfunded tax cuts and a costly energy price guarantee spooked the bond market.

He will have no option but to

raise tax rates and make spending cuts that will be unpopular and may have unforeseen political consequences.

Rishi Sunak becoming UK's Prime Minister is "our Barack Obama moment," said the leader of a Hindu temple that was set up by the Indian-origin leader's grandfather.

The Vedic Society Hindu Temple in Southampton, nearly 110 km from the south-west side of London, was established by Sunak's grandfather Ramdas Sunak, in 1971, with his father, Yash, continuing his connection as a trustee during the 1980s. The Independent newspaper reported.

Sunak regularly visits the temple in the Hampshire city where he was born and he last attended in July when he provided a meal for worshippers which his family does every year.

Speaking outside 10 Downing Street here - the prime minister's official residence, Sunak said he would confront the "profound economic crisis" with compassion and lead a government of "integrity, professionalism and accountability."

Israel Targets Lion's Den In Nablus, Kills Six Overnight

Agenceis

Just past midnight on 25 October, a large contingent of Israeli troops descended upon the city of Nablus in the occupied West Bank as part of a renewed assault against local resistance factions, leaving six dead and injuring dozens more.

In a statement, the Israeli army announced that the overnight operation targeted the Lion's Den resistance faction, and alleged success in neutralizing "high value targets and weapon workshops."

The Israeli troops allegedly killed one of the leaders of the Lion's Den, Wadih al-Houh, a longtime ally and companion of Ibrahim al-Nabulsi, a local leader killed earlier this year.

Additionally, the army destroyed a workshop repurposed for manufacturing homemade explosive devices, used in nu-



merous attacks against Israeli checkpoints and personnel.

Four other members of the newly-established faction were killed in different areas around the city, as Israeli special forces hunted down a group of influential fighters deemed as an "immediate threat."

They have been identified as Hamdi Sharaf, Ali Antar, Hamdi

Qayyim, and Mishaal Baghdadi. Twenty other fighters and citizens were injured, including a few in critical condition.

The army's statement emphasized that the forces operated on the ground, intending to refute all reports that a vehicle was targeted from the air. At least one car was destroyed, seemingly by an anti-tank rocket system.

Salman Rushdie Loses Sight In Eye And Use Of One Hand After Knife Attack: Report

Agenceis

New York: Salman Rushdie has lost sight in an eye and his one hand is incapacitated following the brutal knife attack on the acclaimed Mumbai-born author in August, his literary agent said.

Rushdie, who faced Islamist death threats for years after writing "The Satanic Verses" book, was stabbed in the neck and stomach on stage in front of a stunned audience by 24-year-old New Jersey resident Hadi Matar, a US national of Lebanese origin.

The attack on 75-year-old Booker Prize-winning author came as he was getting ready to speak at a literary event at the Chautauqua Institution in Western New York.

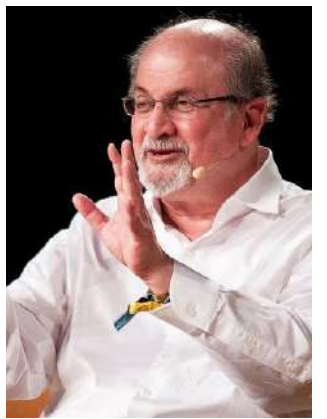
Rushdie's wounds "were profound, but he's [also] lost the sight of one eye... He had three serious wounds in his neck. One hand is incapacitated because the nerves in his arm were cut. And he has about 15 more wounds in his chest and torso. So, it was a brutal attack," his literary agent Andrew Wylie told the Spanish-language newspaper El Pais in an interview.

When asked if Rushdie was still in the hospital, Wylie said he cannot give any information about the celebrated author's whereabouts.

"He's going to live... That's the more important thing," he said.

He was asked if the attack on Rushdie so many years after the fatwa was issued against him meant that "we're living at a particularly dangerous time for freedom of expression in the world."

"I think the attack was probably something that Salman



and I have discussed in the past, which was that the principal danger that he faced so many years after the fatwa was imposed is from a random person coming out of nowhere and attacking [him]," Wylie replied.

"So, you can't protect against that because it's totally unexpected and illogical. It was like John Lennon's murder," he said.

India had condemned the "horrific attack" on the celebrated novelist and wished him a speedy recovery.

"India has always stood against violence and extremism. We condemn the horrific attack on Salman Rushdie and we wish him a speedy recovery," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at his weekly media briefing in August.

The attack on Rushdie had triggered global condemnation and an outpouring of support for the author.

Rushdie spent years in hiding after Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, issued a 'fatwa' in 1989 calling for his death following the publication of his novel 'The Satanic Verses'.

Delhi's Air Quality Turns 'Very Poor' As People Burst Crackers Despite Ban

Agenceis

New Delhi: A large number of high-decibel firecrackers thundered throughout Diwali night on Monday as people in Delhi flouted the ban imposed on these by the city government.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai last week said bursting firecrackers in the national capital on Diwali will attract a jail term of up to six months and a fine of 200.

Despite the legal deterrent in place, people in many parts of the city, including in south and northwest Delhi, started bursting crackers by dusk. High-intensity firecrackers could be heard going off on the ground or mid-air.

And, as the night progressed the intensity of firecrackers increased breaching permissible decibel limits, prompting some to wonder "if there was any ban at all".

Bursting of firecrackers on Diwali is an age-old tradition, but authorities in Delhi said the decision to restrict it was taken after considering environmental concerns and health hazards associated with it.

Delhi's air quality turned "very poor" on Monday amid an increase in stubble burning, bursting of firecrackers and moderate-

ly unfavourable meteorological conditions which allowed the accumulation of pollutants.

However, the 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 312 was still the second-best for Diwali in seven years. The city recorded an AQI of 281 on Diwali in 2018.

Earlier in the day, experts feared that if the volume of firecrackers burst goes up again this year, the air quality is likely to dip further.

In case firecrackers are burst like last year, the air quality may plunge to "severe" levels on the night of Diwali itself and continue to remain in the "red" zone for another day, the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) had earlier predicted.

Notwithstanding the ban, people burst firecrackers with impunity in various areas, starting around 6 pm.

In south Delhi's East of Kailash, and neighbouring places like Nehru Place and Moolchand, firecrackers going off mid-air could be heard in the evening. Some residents burst crackers in their neighbourhood like every year.

In Burari too, many residents burst firecrackers despite widespread dissemination of information about the ban.

NEWS MAKERS

Congress Says Its Ex Minister's Remarks On Bhagavad Gita Unacceptable

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday said the remarks made by party leader and former Governor Shivraj Patil on the Bhagavad Gita were unacceptable and asserted the scripture was a key foundational pillar of Indian civilisation.

Mr Patil has claimed the concept of jihad was not just in Islam, but also in the Bhagavad Gita, and in Christianity.

The BJP hit out at the Congress over Mr Patil's remarks and accused it of playing vote bank politics.

"My senior colleague Shivraj Patil reportedly made some comments on Bhagavad Gita that's unacceptable. Subsequently, he clarified. The Congress's stand is clear. Bhagavad Gita is a key foundational pillar of Indian civilisation," Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter.

He also shared excerpts from Jawaharlal Nehru's book 'The Discovery of India', wherein the



former Prime Minister wrote: "The message of the Gita is not sectarian or addressed to any particular school of thought. It is universal in its approach for everyone, Brahmin or outcaste. 'All paths lead to me,' it says. It is because of this universality that it has found favour with all classes and schools."

"During the 2,500 years since it was written, Indian humanity has gone repeatedly through the pro-

cesses of change and development and decay; experience has succeeded experience, thought has followed thought, but it has always found something living in the Gita, something that fitted into the developing thought and had a freshness and applicability to the spiritual problems that afflict the mind," Mr Nehru also said in his book.

Speaking at the launch of Congress veteran and former Union minister Mohsina Kidwai's biography, the former Lok Sabha Speaker and Ex Union Minister Patil stated that it is said there is a lot of discussion of jihad in the religion of Islam.

The concept comes to the fore when despite having the right intentions and doing the right thing, nobody understands or reciprocates, then it is said one can use force, he said.

"It is not just in Quran, but in Mahabharata also, the part in Gita, Shri Krishna also talks of jihad to Arjun and this thing is not just in Quran or Gita but also in Christianity," he claimed in his remarks in Hindi.

He Wanted To Be Appointed President Of India. What Supreme Court Said



Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday rejected a man's plea seeking to be appointed as the President of India and asked the Registry not to entertain his further petition on similar issues in the near future.

A bench of justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli said that the petition is "frivolous" and an abuse of the process of the Court.

The top court also said that the petition was "scurrilous".

The court had turned down the plea filed by Kishore Jagannath Sawant and directed the Registry not to entertain his further petition on similar issues in the near future.

The court also directed the registry to expunge "scurrilous" remarks made by Jagannath Sawant from the record.

Jagannath Sawant, the appeared petitioner-in-person, alleged that he was not allowed to contest the recent Presidential polls.

Fearing Mob Justice, Thief In Bangladesh Calls Cops On Self

Agenceis

Dhaka: An alleged professional burglar in Bangladesh brought a premature end to his career when he called the police and reported his own crime after an angry mob caught him in the act.

Yasin Khan, 40, broke into a closed grocery store in southern Barisal city early on Wednesday morning to steal goods from the shelves, local police chief Asad uz Zaman said.

"When he finished the job and was about to go out, Khan realised it was not dark anymore and people woke up and started coming to the market," Zaman told AFP Friday.

With an angry crowd gathered, and fearing a violent attack, Khan called the police emergency line to plead for a rescue.

"We went to the shop and brought him out and took him in our custody before the mob



could touch him," Zaman said. "I have never seen such an incident in my career," the police chief added.

Jhontu Mia, the store owner, told reporters that Khan had stuffed a big bag with valuable items but had been unable to escape the scene. Khan was arrested and sent to jail after admitting to the break-in, the local police station said.

From Schools To Sects – Kashmir Mourns Its ‘Patron of Unity’

Popularly known as Molvi Abbas, he was the last surviving politician of the Plebiscite Front era.

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Among the mourners carrying posters and coffin of Kashmir's veteran leader on the regulated stretch of Old Srinagar Tuesday were some sentimental schoolboys.

Those young pallbearers raised faint cries of faith and shed tears in silence for the man whose demise was personal to many of them.

"These schoolchildren are Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari's torchbearers," said Mustafa Ali, a teacher from Budgam. "He wasn't merely a political or spiritual leader, but a luminary whose thrust on education uplifted masses and produced some finest professionals."

In a first daytime funeral procession post abrogation of Article 370, the presence of these schoolchildren made the patron's passage a collective bereavement in Kashmir.

As the procession moved from Nawa Kadal towards his resting place at Zaidal under the sharp gaze of police force, oral historian and socio-

cultural researcher Ilyas Rizvi showed up as a mourner.

"I couldn't stop myself to pay obeisance to a multi-dimensional personality," said Rizvi, following thousands of mourners under the warm October sun. "His educational campaign empowered less privileged masses who were grappling with an unjust system in the valley."

Maulana's most important role, Ilyas said, was his foundation of a chain of schools named Madina Public Schools.

"Those schools have illuminated hundreds of candles in those pockets of Kashmir where poverty and backwardness has kept people in darkness," he said.

"These schools have changed the educational landscape of vast areas of North and Central Kashmir. The contemporary history of Kashmir is incomplete without a chapter on him."

Earlier, as the news of the revered cleric's demise spread, a pall of gloom descended on Khanqah-e-Sokhta, a historic place in old Srinagar where Maulana Abbas has lived all his life.



lana Abbas has lived all his life.

Soon people from all walks of life began pouring in from all across, many recalling the legend of the man who played a pivotal role in unifying Kashmiri Muslims.

"The history of Kashmir is incomplete without Maulana Abbas Ansari," said Imdad Saqi, a senior journalist.

"Maulana Abbas was the pioneer of Muslim unity in Kashmir who tirelessly worked for the cause of Kashmiri people. He played a crucial role at various stages of Kashmir history in past six decades and his role in contemporary times has been crucial and important. I feel short of words to describe his stature."

Popularly known as Molvi Abbas, he was the last surviving politician of the Plebiscite Front era.

An alumni of famous Najaf seminary Maulana Abbas founded Anjuman-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen after his return from a decade long stay in Iraq in 1962. He rose to a star position during Moi-Muqaddas movement of mid sixties.

In 1987 Molvi Abbas became founding convener of Muslim United Front (MUF) which changed the political landscape of Kashmir.

He spent years behind bars for his relentless political campaign and penned his autobiography—"Khare Gulistan"—as a political prisoner.

After his release from prison he co-founded All Parties Hurriyat Conference. He led several rounds of talks with New Delhi during Atal Behari Vajpayee era as he was a strong proponent of peaceful settlement of Kashmir dispute. However his differences with Pakistan's approach later led to his ouster from the multiparty combine by the hardline camp.

Molvi Abbas virtually retired from active political life and was mostly engaged in spiritual pursuits. He has penned scores of books on spiritual aspects of Islam.

"The demise of Abbas sahab is a tragedy for all Kashmiris regardless of sects," said Maulana Khurshid Ahmad Qanoongu, Imam of Astana Aalya Mirza Kamil Sahab.

"Abbas sahib has been a champion of Muslim unity. Despite many ups and downs in his life, he preached the message of Prophet Muhammad [PBUH] and his Ahlulbait [A.S]. His contribution to Kashmir will be remembered for all times to come," said Maulana Mir Mustafa.

As thousands of mourners followed his coffin from Khanqah-e-Sokhta to Zaidal via Eidgah for funeral prayers, the whole town erupted with elegy for the man who touched countless lives during his lifetime.

The sentimental scene only heaved the emotions of the schoolchildren who collectively gave a tearful farewell to their patron.

NHM Releases Ranking Of Public Health Facilities On JK e-Sahaj

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Health Mission has released ranking of public health facilities on Hospital Management Information System titled 'JK e-Sahaj', an electronic system for automation of hospital administration in different types of facilities including tertiary care, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and some new type of PHCs.

In first phase of implementation 585 facilities have been covered under this initiative and will be further extended to other facilities in a phased manner. JK E-Sahaj has been integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS) and 104 Centralized Health Helpline for outbound calling.

In the category of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges, the first rank has been clinched by Psychiatric Disease Hospital, Jammu, followed by Chest Disease Hospital, Jam-

mu, Government Dental College, Srinagar, Bone and Joint Hospital, Srinagar and GMC Kathua.

In the category of District Hospitals, first rank has been clinched by DH Samba followed by DH Poonch, DH Bandipora, Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu and DH Kulgam.

In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), first rank has been clinched by CHC Seer, followed by CHC Bijbehara, CHC Yaripora and Rajiv Gandhi Hospital, Jammu and CHC Kreeri.

In the category of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) & UPHCS, first rank has been clinched by PHC Kakapora followed by PHC Aishmuqam, PHC Zaidal, PHC Mattan and PHC Boniyar.

Pertinently, the ranking has been done on the basis of registration, conversion of EMR (Electronic Medical Record) and patient feedback uploaded on the portal of JK e-Sahaj for the month of September 2022, on real time basis. The detailed list of facilities is shared on NHM website.

CBC Organises Third Outreach Programme At Sankoo

Observer News Service

SANKOO (KARGIL): Continuing its outreach activities in the union territory of Ladakh, the Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of India on Tuesday organised an Integrated Communication and Outreach Program (ICOP) in Sankoo sub division of the Kargil district.

The programme was aimed at mass awareness about the Prime Minister's 15 point programme for minorities under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) and was organised by CBC's Field Office Anantnag at Aga Syed Haider Rizvi Memorial Government Higher Secondary School, Sankoo.

This was the third programme the bureau organised in Ladakh during the month of October as part of a series of awareness programmes being organised in the region which are meant for mass awareness about various schemes and welfare measures being implemented throughout the country.

Apart from this, information about the objectives and vision of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was also provided to participants which included the new initiatives of Swaraj Television Series and Azadi Quest Mobile Games.

The information about these initiatives was provided by means of standees, printed Information Education and Communication (IEC) material, pamphlets, brochures, group discussions, face to face communication as well as using traditional performing arts.

Aga Syed Ahmed Rizvi, Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, presided over the program as chief guest. In his presidential address Rizvi appreciated CBC Regional Office, Jammu for organising the outreach programme for the people of Sankoo.

He said that awareness of people at the grassroots level is an important part of national development. He urged the people to take advantage of the various programmes being run by the Government of India and the administration of Ladakh for public welfare.

He said that each citizen, particularly youth, needs to be part of India's developmental journey. Rizvi said that students need to develop inquisitive minds and scientific temper to script the story of a developed India.

In his introductory remarks Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Anantnag and Leh said that there are different welfare programs being run by the government for the socio economic upliftment of the people especially minorities. He said that the success of these programs and welfare measures is in the hands of the public who need to avail the benefits.

Lone, while presenting an overview of the mandate and activities of the CBC in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh regions, said that no program or policy is going to be successful until all the stakeholders join hands for its meaningful implementation.

On the occasion tehsildar Sankoo, Sajad Ahmad provided details of various programs being implemented in the sub division. He said that there is a need to sensitise people at the grassroots level to ensure the benefits reach the intended beneficiaries.

Nodal officers from departments of Health, POSHAN Project (ICDS) and Rural Development also gave detailed presentations about the schemes being implemented by them. Medical Officer, Sankoo, Dr. Abul Hassan educated the audience about various programmes run by the department making a special mention of Ayushman Bharat, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK).

Around 4290 Youth Clubs Established Across J&K: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Government of Jammu & Kashmir has conceived a pioneering initiative of youth clubs to engage and empower youth as partners in governance under the aegis of Mission Youth, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

He said that the clubs established in 2021 aim to offer the youth of J&K an opportunity to become change-makers and around 4,290 clubs have been formed.

"The volunteers in youth clubs are trained to work through real challenges and make meaningful change. These volunteers develop a civic identity as leaders and change-makers and become socially more socially active," he said.

"The volunteers in these clubs are being trained in all aspects of government schemes and are part of emergency and crisis management plans and subsequently involved in planning and decision-making. The

clubs serve as the focal point for positive engagement of the youth and endeavour to strive that they do not fall for radical propaganda and other social issues that trouble our youth," he added.

The spokesperson said that an amount of 7.25 Cr has been provided as grant in aid for specified activities of the youth clubs in last financial year and Youth Engagement programs have been convened in all districts through these youth clubs and more than 2 lakh youth have been associated with the program.

Aqib, a youth volunteer from Pulwama said that they were always feeling alienated, from the system but after joining Youth we are feeling part of the system and governance. He said they are supporting Government in drug de-addiction campaign in every Panchayat of the district. "We will make Pulwama Drug free district within next few months", he said.

In Poonch district, the

spokesperson said, youth volunteers feel jubilant about their participation in socio-economic expansion of their district. "The process of developmental planning and governance apparatus was never as much participatory as made by this novel initiative of the Government", said Rameez from Poonch. "Our youth volunteers organized scores of community oriented activities during last year."

We were able to plant more than 30000 saplings including Chinars in the district in a single go", he added.

Similarly in Budgam district, youth volunteers are participating actively in every welfare program of Government. The mega Covid vaccination and deworming program in the district was organized by Youth Volunteers in collaboration with Health authorities. "We ensured to reach every child of every household in every Panchayat", said Mehjabeen, one of the lead members of Youth Volunteer Program.

Jitendra Singh Slams Mehbooba Over 'Divisive' Remark

Says India's Democracy Far Better Than Any Other Country's

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Tuesday took a dig at PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti for using the elevation of Rishi Sunak as Britain's prime minister to lament alleged divisiveness in India, saying that India's democracy is far better than that of any other country in the world.

The Minister of State for Personnel, without naming anybody, questioned the mindset which is "possibly motivated by reluctance to accept the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is part of India".

"Anybody who is familiar with the history of independent India and the history of Indian democracy would have no doubt that democracy in India is far better than any other country's in the world," Singh told reporters here.



For example, India has witnessed more than one presidents either from the minority or from the weaker sections, he said.

"I am proud to say that during the Vajpayee regime, we had APJ Abdul Kalam as the President of India. After Prime Minister Modi took over, we had Ram Nath Kovind and now we have (Droupadi) Murmu.

"Incidentally, all of them are either from the minority section or from the weaker section, and if you think Jammu and Kashmir is also part of India, I think everybody would accept that the

President (of India) is also the President for Jammu and Kashmir," the minister said.

"But what worries me is that the mindset which articulates such kind of phrases and such kind of observations is possibly motivated by reluctance to accept the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is part of India," said Singh, who is a Lok Sabha member from Udhampur constituency of the Union territory.

The minister was asked to respond on the remarks by PDP chief and former J&K chief minister Mufti.

"Proud moment that UK will have its first Indian origin PM. While all of India rightly celebrates, it would serve us well to remember that while UK has accepted an ethnic minority member as its PM, we are still shackled by divisive & discriminatory laws like NRC & CAA," Mufti had tweeted on Monday.

Trucks Transport 16,500 Cattle From Ramban Via Jammu-Srinagar NH

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Nearly 16,500 cattle were transported on trucks from Banihal in Ramban district to Jammu in order to avoid traffic disruption on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway caused by foot movement of nomadic families and their livestock, officials said.

The Ramban authority has banned the movement of nomadic families with their livestock to prevent traffic disruption on the strategic 270-km highway, the district's only all-weather road linking Kashmir to the rest of India.

A senior district official said, "Around 16,500 livestock of migra-



tory tribal families were transported from Banihal in coordination with the tribal affairs department and Jammu and Kashmir State Road Transport Corporation."

He added that more cattle would be shifted in later phases. The families are being ferried

on road transport corporation buses, the official said.

Every year, lakhs of people from nomadic tribes migrate to the Valley when temperatures soar in the plains of Jammu in April-May before returning ahead of the onset of winter.

Various Hospitals De-Empanelled Under SEHAT Scheme: SHA

Term Reports About Suffering Of Dialysis Patients' Half-Truth

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir State Health Agency on Tuesday stated that 43 hospitals and dialysis centres have been empanelled till now under the SEHAT scheme in Kashmir division.

On an average, these centres cater to over 452 dialysis patients on a daily basis.

Reacting to a report, carried in a section of a press, regarding sufferings caused to some dialysis patients, the SHA has said that Khyber Hospital, through emails on August 10, 2021 and November 20, 2021 had requested the Agency for empanelment. The State Health Agency held several meetings with the administration of the Khyber Hospital, requesting it to continue the services as an empanelled hospital under the Scheme.

The hospital gave various reasons and expressed unwillingness for the renewal of the contract, including financial crunch faced by the hospital, payments pending with the Insurance Company, backlog of cases and poor response of SHA J&K and Insurance Company on non-payment of cases.

All the concerns raised by the hospital were examined by SHA J&K while the concerns regarding non-payment of claims were nullified by the Insurance Company as per the data.

SHA J&K organized several

meetings from time to time addressing various issues of the Khyber hospital and review of the rejected cases. The genuine issues of the hospital were addressed from time to time and supported the hospital by relaxing (Turn Around Time) TAT guidelines when and wherever it was necessary.

It was also reported by the Insurance Company that the hospital did not adhere to TAT guidelines issued by the National Health Authority which led to the rejection of claims of the hospital by the Insurance Company.

"Furthermore, any empanelled hospital under the scheme is supposed to extend all the available services to the beneficiaries under the schemes and cannot cherry pick the procedures/specialities as per their choices and convenience. However in this case, the hospital has not shown its willingness to extend the entire gamut of available services", the SHA stated.

For smooth relocation of patients being served by Khyber Hospital, SHA J&K telephonically contacted all such dialysis patients. All the patients who were receiving dialysis services at Khyber Hospital are adjusted in other centres, and still spare dialysis capacities exist, it added.

SHA reiterated commitment to provide cashless services to the empanelled hospitals and dialysis centres. The agency has paid Rs. 792.5 crore to the empanelled hospitals till now and there is no backlog of payment under the ongoing policy.

Jan-Abhiyan

KPDCL Achieves 50% Target Of Works



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has achieved a target of about 50 percent under Jan-Abhiyan, B2V4 programme of Govt of J&K.

As part of the programme, various Maintenance activities are being carried out and till date out of 5875 distribution Transformers deducted for Oil topping, KPDCL team has so far achieved a target of 2371 No. and likewise out of 2746 distribution transformers, 1668 have already been checked for Load Imbalance and corrective measures were taken on spot by the field staff so as to minimize the DT outage, besides the routine maintenance activities of the field staff.

The Engineers and Staff of KPDCL under the guidance of Managing Director (MD), KPDCL Yasin M Choudhary carried out various inspections of HT/LT

network and conducted mass contact programmes to achieve various deliverables which are targeted to provide better services to the public at large.

The MD said that the field staff has been asked to conduct thorough inspections of various distribution transformers and other allied HT/LT networks across the villages of Kashmir so as to provide better reliability of electric power to the consumers specially keeping in view the onset of the Winter.

As a part of Jan-Abhiyan-B2V4 program, necessary instructions have been passed out to the field staff to carry out wide publication of the amnesty scheme recently launched by Govt of J&K in the interest of the public, Choudhary said.

He added that the scheme will prove highly beneficial to the poor section of the society by way of clearing their long pending electricity dues.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

End Of Pandemic?

In what has happened for the first time since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, Jammu and Kashmir has reported no fresh COVID-19 cases and no death due to the virus in the last 24 hours. There are now just 23 active Covid cases in the union territory. So far 4785 people have succumbed to the virus and among them, 2352 are from the Jammu division and 2433 from the Valley. On an all-India level too, just 1,334 fresh coronavirus infections have been recorded, the lowest in 188 days. The number of active cases has declined to 23,193.

However, this is no reason to let our guard down. The virus is now a part of lives and it has already become endemic. Besides, the new variants of the virus keep triggering fresh outbreaks. For example, India has recently witnessed the emergence of a new Omicron sub-variant XBB, which is expected to be the dominant strain of the COVID-19 virus in India within a month. According to data, there were 71 confirmed cases of XBB-driven COVID-19 infection in India in the beginning of this month, and the number jumped to 235 on October 24.

But the overall trend remains one of a steep decline in the cases. Though there is some cause for optimism here, things could still turn messy if the existing pandemic-related precautions are thrown to the winds. The Omicron wave early this year was gigantic in nature but its fallout was cushioned by the relatively moderate nature of the virus. But the continuously mutating sub-variants of the Omicron virus could in time trigger yet another wave. So people have to continue to take care. It is too soon to abandon the masks or give up the use of sanitizers. The Standard Operating Procedures remain as relevant as they did when the pandemic broke out in early 2020. Meanwhile, we can celebrate our triumph on the Covid pandemic with the least number of Covid cases and fatalities to date.

In Kashmir, there is a greater need for precaution in winter, generally the season of flu. Though zero cases and zero fatalities in the last 24 hours is a heartening development, the situation can stay this way if people don't give up SOPs. Meanwhile, the drastic reduction in Covid cases is a cause for celebration. It is also a boon for tourism which has witnessed a bumper year so far with over one crore people visiting the union territory. We can't afford to let this momentum slow down.

OTHER OPINION

On The Supreme Court Order Against Hate Speech

There is good reason for the Supreme Court of India to ask the police to be proactive in dealing with hate speech by taking immediate legal action without waiting for a formal complaint. The Court has also warned of contempt action if the police showed any hesitation in compliance. Directed at the police in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the order is in response to the "unending flow of hate speeches" highlighted in a writ petition before it. The Court has referred to the growing "climate of hate", and taken note of the inaction in most instances, despite the law containing provisions to deal with the phenomenon. It is quite apparent that the governments at the Centre and in some like-minded States do not share the Court's concern for communal harmony, fraternity and tranquillity; in fact, some of them may be contributing to the vitiated atmosphere either by studied inaction or complicity in allowing provocative speeches in purported religious gatherings by majoritarian elements. Intervention by the highest court has become necessary in the light of some controversial religious leaders getting away lightly after making unacceptable comments, some of them tinged with a genocidal tenor. It is in such a backdrop that the Court has underscored the constitutional values of secularism and fraternity among all religions and social groups.

It was a religious conclave held in Haridwar late last year that set the tone for the 'hate speech' case that is being heard now. Even then, the Court had called for corrective measures, leading to another conclave being prevented by local authorities in Roorkee in Uttarakhand. While the intervention may have halted a few meetings at that time, it cannot be said that such transgressions have ended. There has been a disconcerting pattern of Hindu festivals becoming an occasion for the conduct of religious processions that end in clashes caused by provocative behaviour. In the name of dealing with the resulting clashes or disturbances, officials have resorted to demolishing the houses of those allegedly involved in the incidents, without following any process of law. Such developments have given rise to new curbs on minorities, such as unwarranted police probes into the holding of group prayers, and new allegations of purported plots to infiltrate Hindu events. Some television channels have been adding to the bigotry by their manner of functioning. Administrative bias on the one hand and the spread of social prejudice on the other cannot be allowed to vitiate the national mood. Towards that end, the Court must do everything possible to nudge authorities to enforce the law against the propagation of hate.

The Hindu

Rishi Sunak Is a New and Old-Fashioned Tory

Adrian Wooldridge

It is a nice coincidence that Rishi Sunak has won the leadership of the Conservative Party, and hence the prime ministership, on the most important day of Diwali, the "festival of light" celebrated by Hindus, along with Sikhs, Jains and some Buddhists. Diwali supposedly marks the triumph of "light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance." It is also associated with wealth and prosperity. In February 2020, Sunak took his oath of office as chancellor of the exchequer holding a copy of the Bhagavad Gita and celebrated Diwali by putting lights outside his official residence at Number 11 Downing Street. He will now be the first Hindu to become UK prime minister. His time in office will hinge on his ability to deliver a reasonable measure of prosperity to a country that is in dire economic straits.

Sunak has a fighting chance of restoring order to the Conservative Party and the UK government. Certainly better than Penny Mordaunt, who dropped out of the race at the very last moment. While popular, she is relatively inexperienced, having only served for a few months in the cabinet as defense secretary. We don't have to recite the resume of Boris Johnson, a one-man wrecking ball. Perfectly turned out in a suit and narrow tie, Sunak cuts a commanding presence compared to Johnson. Fitting the two men into Max Weber's equation, Sunak is "ethic of responsibility" made flesh while Johnson is his "ethic of irresponsibility."

In many ways, Sunak is a completely conventional British prime minister. He was educated at Winchester College (where he was head boy or "Sen. Co. Prae" in the idiosyncratic language of that institution) followed by Lincoln College, Oxford where he read PPE (that is, received a degree in philosophy, politics and economics, the staple subject of aspiring politicians and civil servants). He is inordinately fond of football. If the naughtiest thing that Theresa May did while growing up was to run through a field of wheat, the naughtiest thing that Sunak did as a schoolboy was to smuggle a handheld television into the school so that he did not miss any key Euro 96 matches. On his 18th birthday, he received a card signed by the entire squad of his favorite team, Southampton, a gift that became one of his most prized possessions.

Soon after making his fortune as in the world of finance, he went into parliament in 2014, inheriting one of the safest seats in the country, Richmond, Yorkshire, from a previous Party leader, William Hague. He rose rapidly and smoothly up the ministerial ranks, becoming undersecretary of state for local government in 2018, chief secretary of the treasury in 2019, and chancellor in 2020, a meteoric rise that saw him enter the cabinet just 50 months after winning his seat.

In other ways, starting with his Hindu faith, he is unconventional. He is part of a wave of upwardly mobile ethnic minorities who flooded into the Conservative Party in defiance of the leftwing illusion that non-Whites are natural socialists. (Kwasi Kwarteng, Liz Truss's chancellor, was another example of this phenomenon.) His parents immigrated to Britain from India after a spell in East Africa and made their careers in the health service — his father as a doctor in Southampton, his mother as the owner of a small pharmacy. The fact that Sunak just missed getting a scholarship to Winchester, an expensive as well as an academically demanding private school, meant that the family had to scrimp to afford the fees.

Sunak is more of a global citizen than most of his fellow Tories. He completed his education at Stanford Business School, in the heart of Silicon Valley, where he met his Indian-American wife, Akshata Murthy. He laid the foundations of his personal fortune working for Goldman Sachs Group Inc. in New York before joining a US hedge fund. He loves the American, particularly the Californian, entrepreneurial spirit, and has a house in Santa Monica, Los Angeles.

He is also much richer — indeed, arguably



This doesn't mean that he's any less of a Tory as some of his critics imagine, including Brexit ideologue Jacob Rees-Mogg who has dubbed Sunak a "socialist." (Rees-Mogg is establishing some kind of record by becoming more ridiculous as he gets older.) Sunak was a Brexiteer when Johnson was still undecided on the subject

the richest prime minister since Arthur Balfour whiled away his time in office playing golf on the two golf courses in his estate in Scotland. His wife is the daughter of one of the richest men in India, N.R. Narayana Murthy, one of seven founders of the outsourcing and IT giant, Infosys. He's a plutocrat in a party that has been taken over by the struggling bourgeoisie.

Sunak belongs to the governing Conservative wing that swings wildly between responsible government and irresponsible populism. He's an excellent manager who has received plaudits from the permanent civil service in every department that he's been part of. Tom Scholar — the former permanent secretary of the treasury who Liz Truss sacked in one of the first moves that doomed her premiership — has waxed lyrical about Sunak's abilities as a newly arrived chief secretary of the treasury. He's also a natural technocrat who speaks the same language as technocrats the world over.

This doesn't mean that he's any less of a Tory as some of his critics imagine, including Brexit ideologue Jacob Rees-Mogg who has dubbed Sunak a "socialist." (Rees-Mogg is establishing some kind of record by becoming more ridiculous as he gets older.) Sunak was a Brexiteer when Johnson was still undecided on the subject, regarding Europe as a hidebound backwater in a world that would be increasingly dominated by Asian giants and American dynamism. The incoming prime minister is also a long-standing believer in a small-state and tax cuts. In a budget debate in July 2015, two months after he was first elected to parliament, he declared that "in normal times public spending should not exceed 37% [of gross domestic product]. That is the best estimate of our income as a government and therefore the best guide to what we can afford to spend."

His disagreement with the Tory right was about timing and pragmatism — not about the desirability of allowing money to fructify in the pockets of the people. He favored "a big bazooka" during the Covid epidemic in order to prevent a collapse in demand ("this is not a time for ideology and orthodoxy"); and he opposed Truss's combination of tax cuts and increased public spending because he thought that it would crash the economy.

Sunak, then, is a traditional post-Thatch-

erite Tory whose heart is in the same place as most other Tory MPs but who is also devoted to good government. This combination will go down well with the markets, which want nothing more than stability over the chaos of recent weeks, and with technocrats, in Brussels, Washington and elsewhere, who recognize Sunak as one of their own.

But his ascension threatens to produce serious tensions among the Tories. The Conservative Party contains a dangerous little-England strain. In an interview on radio station LBC that has gone viral, a Tory Party member proclaimed that he was backing Johnson because Sunak is a globalist with Indian roots who doesn't love England the way Johnson does. The fact that Sunak kept his US green card when he was chancellor and that his wife claimed tax exempt status by claiming not to be a UK resident provide little Englanders, on both the left and the right, with powerful ammunition. She has since renounced the status and he has surrendered his American residency.

The Party also contains an even larger populist strain that rails against the rule of technocrats and experts — resents constraints on the popular will, whether they come from judges or bond traders. Both little Englandism and populism have been significantly strengthened by the very Brexit policy that Sunak supported for very different reasons.

Sunak has supporters from across the party from left to right. He also has a taste for order and process. But whether the Conservative Party in its current incarnation — traumatized by Brexit, schooled in rebellion and divided over fundamental principles — can come to heel and behave sensibly is still to be discovered.

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

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Power Theft – Who's Responsible?

WITH the potential to generate 20,000 megawatts of hydropower, Kashmir is still in darkness. Being the chief producer of electricity in India, Kashmir should have the least electricity crisis but that is far from the ground reality. The valley faces power cuts throughout the year but during winter it becomes very hard to live with electricity for several days.

Electricity, in the 21st century, is not a luxury rather a necessity, like air and water. But in Kashmir, even the capital city of Srinagar faces a lot of power cuts. And even when electricity is available the voltage is so low that

a bulb doesn't work properly, let alone other heavy electrical appliances.

With such circumstances, people are left with no option but to go through unethical and illegal means like electricity theft. The PDD department needs to understand the necessity and provide electricity accordingly. That's the only solution to curb power thefts. Also, transformers burn at least every five days during winter, leaving people suffering for days.

The price people pay for electricity is unfair because first of all rates are higher than the supply and secondly, electricity should be cheap because it is generated domestically. Why would

anyone pay such a huge amount for a bare minimum? If the government had to purchase electricity from outside then it was somewhat justified.

One of the reasons for electricity theft is that many people don't consider it as theft because they feel it's their own as it is produced in the valley. It could be stopped only when the population is made aware that this is theft as most of the population doesn't consider it as theft. The clergy delivering Friday sermons should educate people regarding the theft.

The PDD should carry regular checks to make sure employees are not indulging in corruption and doing

their work with proper ethics. Whenever any field staff member is caught taking bribes and helping the public in thefts, strict action should be taken against them.

While government agencies should set an example by taking strong action against the field staff and public involved in the wrongdoing, at the same time PDD should update their infrastructure and make sure that the public is getting sufficient amounts of electricity during winters, so that they won't resort to theft.

Tabia Masoodi
Srinagar

Breathing BAD

Majid Yousuf

Being a Kashmiri, it has been a very disturbing and disappointing trend for me to observe that there is a steady increase in the number of Kashmiri youngsters who are addicted to smoking. Whereas there has been a decreasing predilection towards smoking in Western youth, there seems to be no cessation in the habit of our young generation in Kashmir.

Smoking is a serious health hazard because tobacco contains some 4000 chemicals, 43 of which are known carcinogens. Some of these like nicotine, a poisonous alkaloid, tar and carbon monoxide are well known but acrolein, ammonia, prussic acid and other substances though less known are no less malicious.

Cigarette is a number one cause of lung cancer all over the world and a major culprit in the cancers of larynx, oral cavity, pharynx and oesophagus and is a contributing cause in the development of bladder, pancreas, uterine cervix, kidney, stomach cancers and a number of leukaemias. Cardiovascular disorders including hypertension, strokes and other heart attacks have also been increasingly linked with smoking.

COPD is a dangerous incurable and highly probable disorder associated with this habit. The list of smoking related maladies in an unending list of debilitating and often fatal complications. Lung cancer and COPD being most formidable and prevalent of the lot will be the focus herein.

LUNG CANCER

Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer around the world. It also is the most tragic in being preventable, since smoking is its number one cause. 87% of all lung cancers are caused by smoking. The two major types of lung cancers are: Small cell cancers and non-small cell cancers. Non-small cell cancer is the most prevalent and spreads slower to different sites in the body than the other type. Squamous cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma and large cell carcinoma

are the three sub types within this type. Non small cell cancers account for 80% of all lung cancers.

The development of lung cancer is insidious with an interval of upto 30 years, before the onset of a symptomatic disease. There is no apparent threshold in the dose response relationship between exposure to tobacco smoke and incidence of the disease, but higher incidence rates are associated with higher lifetime levels of tobacco consumption and early age of starting the habit. Lung cancer is a passive killer, in its symptoms being rarely felt till the disease

THERE IS A STEADY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF KASHMIRI youngsters who are addicted to smoking. Whereas there has been a decreasing predilection towards smoking in Western youth, there seems to be no cessation in the habit of our young generation in Kashmir

has reached an advanced stage.

Overall, lung cancer prognosis is not good. Only about 13% patients survive 5 years after diagnosis of the disease. These low numbers reflect the advanced stage of the most lung cancers. Prognosis for a young patient whose tumour has been surgically removed is much better. However, lack of symptoms and screening procedure means that most tumours are already advanced when detected.

Treatment options depend on the stage

and extent of malignant growth. Most treatments are designed to provide palliative care and reduce symptoms rather than providing a cure. All in all, being by and large a preventable form of cancer, the better bet lies in preventing causation rather than pursuing cure.

COPD

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is an umbrella term used to describe airflow obstruction that is associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis. It is potentially terminal and has no known cure as of now.

Long term smoking is the most frequent cause of COPD. It accounts for 80 to 90% of

all cases. COPD decreases the lung ability to take in oxygen and re-

move carbon dioxide. A typical course of COPD might be -

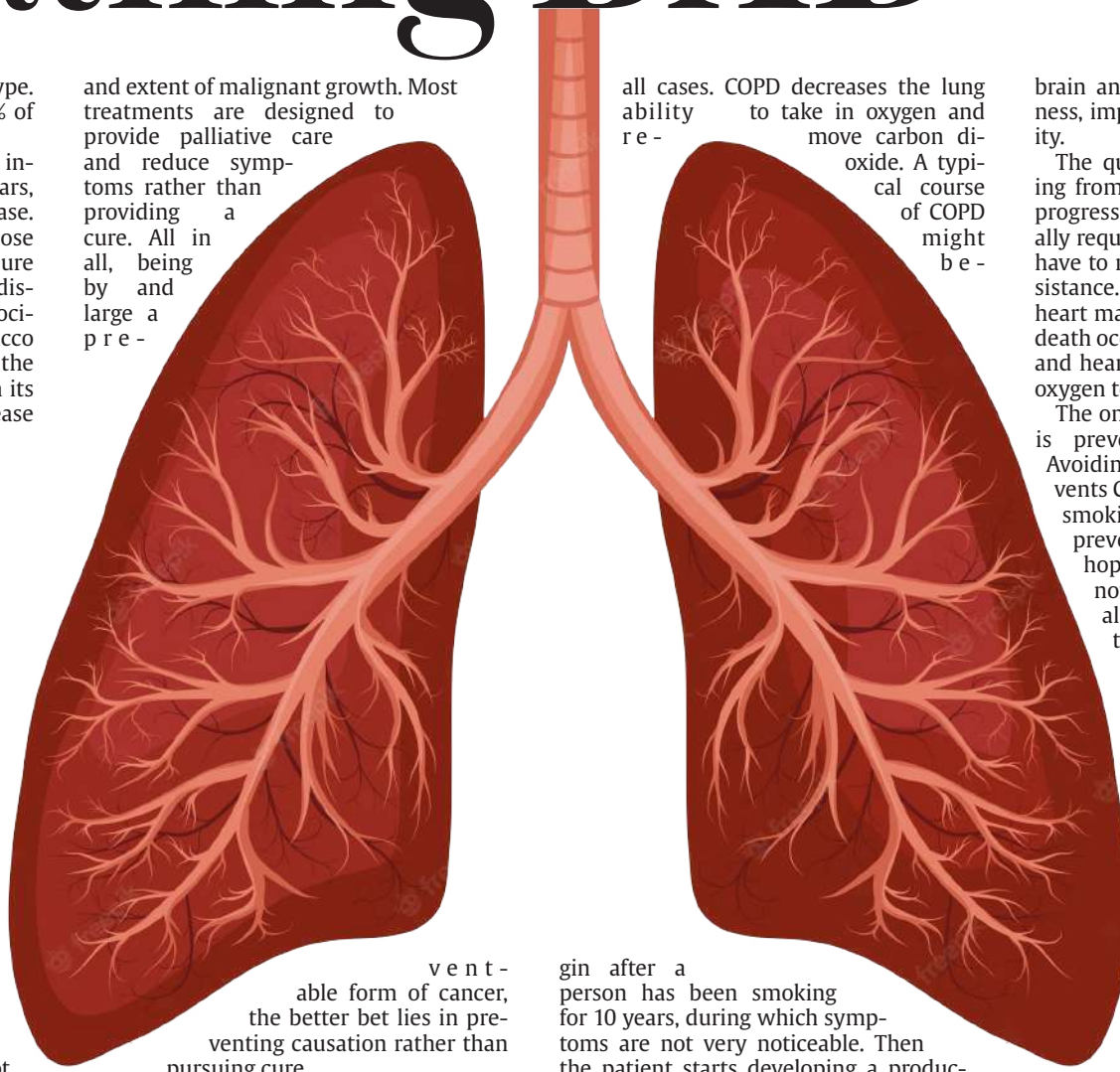
brain and can cause headache, sleeplessness, impaired mental ability and irritability.

The quality of life for a person suffering from COPD diminishes as the disease progresses people with COPD eventually require supplemental oxygen and may have to rely on mechanical respiratory assistance. In latter stages of the disease, the heart may be severely affected. Eventually death occurs when the function of the lung and heart is no longer adequate to deliver oxygen to the body organs and tissues.

The only effective weapon against COPD is prevention; avoiding or cessation. Avoiding smoking almost always prevents COPD from developing and ceasing smoking slows the disease process. The preventive course of action is thus only hope as COPD is incurable. Smokers not only jeopardize their health but also expose people around them to unnecessary health hazards by way of passive smoking.

In conclusion, the mammoth proportions this habit has acquired in our community will not only reflect in the personal health and life-style of each smoker, it will also reflect in the productivity of our Society as a whole. A collective effort needs to be launched to combat this courage that eating away at the health and life of our community. The young from the valley need to spearhead a campaign that demands a total ban on public smoking. Whatever course of action be taken, it is clear that strong public sentiment against the habit will only be activated when a re-evaluation occurs at the individual level, serious enough to make abstinence a priority in our life-styles.

The author is a Radiodiagnosis student at Government Medical College, Anantnag



Diet Can Influence Your Mood

Monica Dus

During the long seafaring voyages of the 15th and 16th centuries, a period known as the Age of Discovery, sailors reported experiencing visions of sublime foods and verdant fields. The discovery that these were nothing more than hallucinations after months at sea was agonizing. Some sailors wept in longing; others threw themselves overboard.

The cure for these harrowing mirages turned out to be not a concoction of complex chemicals, as once suspected, but rather the simple antidote of lemon juice. These sailors suffered from scurvy, a disease caused by a deficiency of vitamin C, an essential micronutrient that people acquire from eating fruits and vegetables.

Vitamin C is important for the production and release of neurotransmitters, the chemical messengers of the brain. In its absence, brain cells do not communicate effectively with one another, which can lead to hallucinations.

As this famous example of early explorers illustrates, there is an intimate connection between food and the brain, one that researchers like me are working to unravel. As a scientist who studies the neuroscience of nutrition at the University of Michigan, I am primarily interested in how components of food and their breakdown products can alter the genetic instructions that control our physiology.

Beyond that, my research is also focused on understanding how food can influence our thoughts, moods and behaviors. While we can't yet prevent or treat brain conditions with diet, researchers like me are learning a great deal about the role that nutrition plays in the everyday brain processes that make us who we are.

Perhaps not surprisingly, a delicate balance of nutrients is key for brain health: Deficiencies or excesses in vitamins, sugars, fats and amino acids can influence brain and behavior in either negative or positive ways.

VITAMINS AND MINERAL DEFICIENCIES

As with vitamin C, deficits in other vitamins and minerals can also precipitate nutritional diseases that adversely impact the brain in humans.



For example, low dietary levels of vitamin B3/niacin – typically found in meat and fish – cause pellagra, a disease in which people develop dementia.

Niacin is essential to turn food into energy and building blocks, protect the genetic blueprint from environmental damage and control how much of certain gene products are made. In the absence of these critical processes, brain cells, also known as neurons, malfunction and die prematurely, leading to dementia.

In animal models, decreasing or blocking the production of niacin in the brain promotes neuronal damage and cell death. Conversely, enhancing niacin levels has been shown to mitigate the effects of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Huntington's and Parkinson's. Observational studies in humans suggest that sufficient levels of niacin may protect against these diseases, but the results are still inconclusive.

Interestingly, niacin deficiency caused by consumption of excessive amounts of alcohol can lead to similar effects as those found with pellagra.

6 This brings us to a critical aspect of the effect of diet on the brain: time. Some foods can influence brain function and behavior acutely – such as over hours or days – while others take weeks, months or even years to have an effect

Another example of how a nutrient deficiency affects brain function can be found in the element iodine, which, like niacin, must be acquired from one's diet. Iodine, which is present in seafood and seaweed, is an essential building block for thyroid hormones – signaling molecules that are important for many aspects of human biology, including development, metabolism, appetite and sleep. Low iodine levels prevent the production of adequate amounts of thyroid hormones, impairing these essential physiological processes.

Iodine is particularly important to the developing human brain; before table salt was supplemented with this mineral in the 1920s, iodine de-

ficiency was a major cause of cognitive disability worldwide. The introduction of iodized salt is thought to have contributed to the gradual rise in IQ scores in the past century.

KETOGENIC DIET FOR EPILEPSY

Not all dietary deficiencies are detrimental to the brain. In fact, studies show that people with drug-resistant epilepsy – a condition in which brain cells fire uncontrollably – can reduce the number of seizures by adopting an ultralow-carbohydrate regimen, known as a ketogenic diet, in which 80% to 90% of calories are obtained from fat.

Carbohydrates are the preferred energy source for the body. When

they are not available – either because of fasting or because of a ketogenic diet – cells obtain fuel by breaking down fats into compounds called ketones. Utilization of ketones for energy leads to profound shifts in metabolism and physiology, including the levels of hormones circulating in the body, the amount of neurotransmitters produced by the brain and the types of bacteria living in the gut.

Researchers think that these diet-dependent changes, especially the higher production of brain chemicals that can quiet down neurons and decrease levels of inflammatory molecules, may play a role in the ketogenic diet's ability to lower the number of seizures. These changes may also explain the benefits of a ketogenic state – either through diet or fasting – on cognitive function and mood.

SUGAR, SATURATED FATS AND ULTRAPROCESSED FOODS

Excess levels of some nutrients can also have detrimental effects on the brain. In humans and animal models, elevated consumption of refined sugars and saturated fats – a

combination commonly found in ultraprocessed foods – promotes eating by desensitizing the brain to the hormonal signals known to regulate satiety.

Interestingly, a diet high in these foods also desensitizes the taste system, making animals and humans perceive food as less sweet. These sensory alterations may affect food choice as well as the reward we get from food. For example, research shows that people's responses to ice cream in brain areas important for taste and reward are dulled when they eat it every day for two weeks. Some researchers think this decrease in food reward signals may enhance cravings for even more fatty and sugary foods, similar to the way smokers crave cigarettes.

High-fat and processed-food diets are also associated with lower cognitive function and memory in humans and animal models as well as a higher incidence of neurodegenerative diseases. However, researchers still don't know if these effects are due to these foods or to the weight gain and insulin resistance that develop with long-term consumption of these diets.

TIME SCALES

This brings us to a critical aspect of the effect of diet on the brain: time. Some foods can influence brain function and behavior acutely – such as over hours or days – while others take weeks, months or even years to have an effect. For instance, eating a slice of cake rapidly shifts the fat-burning, ketogenic metabolism of an individual with drug-resistant epilepsy into a carbohydrate-burning metabolism, increasing the risk of seizures. In contrast, it takes weeks of sugar consumption for taste and the brain's reward pathways to change, and months of vitamin C deficiency to develop scurvy. Finally, when it comes to diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, risk is influenced by years of dietary exposures in combination with other genetic or lifestyle factors such as smoking.

In the end, the relationship between food and the brain is a bit like the delicate Goldilocks: We need not too little, not too much but just enough of each nutrient.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Genes Link Bipolar Disorder And Schizophrenia, Once Thought Unrelated

Associated Press

When Chastity Murry had her first psychotic break, she went into her bathroom and downed a whole bottle of pills, hoping to die. Her teenage daughter had to perform CPR to save her life.

Around that same time more than a decade ago, the man who would become her husband, Dante Murry, also lost touch with reality and considered suicide.

Different illnesses led them down similar paths bipolar disorder in her case and schizoaffective disorder in his conditions long considered by many to be distinct and unrelated.

But a growing body of research shows that bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and the in-between diagnosis of schizoaffective disorder share common genetic underpinnings as well as overlapping symptoms and signs.

"They can be considered as part of a spectrum," said Dr. Morgan Sheng, who co-directs a psychiatric research center at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

Bipolar disorder is known for causing extreme mood swings. Schizophrenia is characterized by delusions, hallucinations and disordered thinking. Schizoaffective disorder includes symptoms of both.

The theory that they exist on a continuum has gained ground as more and more studies have found that variations in some of the same genes influence how susceptible people are to these conditions. One of the latest examples is the AKAP11 gene, which scientists at Broad and elsewhere pinpointed as a strong risk factor for bipolar disorder and schizophrenia in research published in the journal Nature Genetics this year.

Experts say these insights will help doctors better understand what drives the illnesses, how they affect the body's most notoriously bewildering organ and what more can be done to help people. Down the road, experts envision the research could help guide treatment and lead to better drugs.

For now, they hope it reinforces the idea that such disorders are biologically rooted and not moral failings or mysterious, unknowable conditions.

That's what the science is giving us a clear indication that there are genetic markers and risk factors, said Dr. Ken Duckworth, chief medical officer for the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

The Murrys who met through the alliance and married in 2020 hope the research provides answers for them and so many others with mental illness who they've gotten to know. With their help of doctors and one another, they are keeping their disorders in check and have found purpose helping others in similar straits.

Chastity Murry, 48, called them perfect partners; He's the peanut butter; I'm the jelly.

Yes, Dante Murry, 50, added with a smile. She's sweeter than I am.

PASSING DOWN PUZZLING CONDITIONS

Mental illness runs in both of their families haunting hers for at least five generations, she says.

Knowing this helped me to understand why this is happening to me, Chastity Murry said. That possibility was always there.

Sheng said genetics plays a big part in bipolar disorder, schizoaffective disorder and schizophrenia. But experience and environment also play a big part, and these things interact in subtle ways. So it's not like everyone with risk genes is destined to become ill.

Morgan said a severe risk gene for schizophrenia, for example, may increase the chance of getting the disease 10-fold. But that only brings it up to 10%, since the population-wide risk of developing the illness is 1%. Given those odds, parents with the gene might not have any children with the illness. But if you take a whole extended family that has that risk gene, there will be a number of cases popping up, Morgan said. It's a roll of the dice.

Experts say other illnesses along what



some call the psychosis continuum are also more likely. When you look at a family, if you have one person with schizophrenia, you're more likely to have schizophrenia yourself, but you're also more likely to have bipolar, said Dr. Fernando Goes, a psychiatrist at Johns Hopkins University.

The same is true for schizoaffective disorder, studies show.

There are no tests for these conditions which together affect around 9 million U.S. adults so diagnosis is based on history and the sometimes overlapping symptoms. For instance, psychosis can happen in all three illnesses.

This can make diagnosis difficult. Sally Littlefield of Oakland, California, was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, then schizoaffective disorder, after spiraling into psychosis during a work meeting in 2018. For 10 months, she was convinced a team of psychologists had assumed control of her life and was experimenting on her against her will.

At one point during a manic episode, Littlefield wandered the streets of San Francisco, breaking into houses and cars,

shoplifting and jumping from one car roof top to another. She was eventually tackled by police and hospitalized. She came to realize she was ill when her delusions got so grandiose she believed she was president of the United States.

She said she's now doing well and willing to tell her story to help dispel stigma, discrimination and shame, which prevents a lot of us from recovering.

A VERY LONG JOURNEY

People with mental illness hope stigma fades as doctors learn more about how these disorders arise and affect the brain.

A 2019 study said a growing number of experts now recognize that schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder and bipolar not only share common genetic risk factors and symptoms but also look similar in neuroimaging and may have common treatment regimens. The mood stabilizer lithium, for example, is often used to treat bipolar and schizoaffective disorder. The recent Broad Institute research may provide clues to how

the drug works, since AKAP11 interacts with what's thought to be lithium's target.

Other drugs also treat more than one of the illnesses. The Murrys take several of the same medications.

Someday, experts said genetic insights might allow doctors to intervene earlier in the disease process. While few people get genetic testing now except perhaps to see how they might react to a particular drug scientists said that could change in the future. If people knew their genetic risk and family history, Sheng said, they could seek help if something didn't seem quite right, before an illness caused major problems.

Some scientists, while acknowledging common genetic underpinnings of bipolar, schizoaffective disorder and schizophrenia, are skeptical about framing them as on a psychosis continuum, particularly if that leads to changing categories doctors use to diagnose people with each disorder. They say the current criteria are useful in deciding treatment and care.

Scientists agree that more research is needed. Finding new illness risk genes, for instance, is only the first step toward developing new medicines. A broad road map says researchers must also figure out how the genes function, understand disease mechanisms and identify targets for the drugs.

NAMI's Duckworth said it might be 5 to 50 years before genetic findings translate into changes in clinical practice. It's a very long journey.

Meanwhile, many people living with mental illness rely on peer support in addition to medication and psychotherapy. The Murrys check on each other daily.

I can always tell when he's having a bad day. He can always tell when I'm having a bad day, said Chastity Murry, who has also been diagnosed with borderline personality disorder and an anxiety disorder. If I'm acting a little off or something, he'll ask me: Have you taken your meds today? But I don't get offended because I know he's got my best interest in mind.

Anxiety Disorder Has No Effect On Vaccine Hesitancy: Study

IAN5

Individuals who deal with anxiety are no less hesitant to get the Covid-19 vaccine compared to those without anxiety, according to new research.

The new study led by the University of Waterloo in Canada aimed to investigate the relationship between vaccine hesitancy, psychological factors associated with anxiety, and individuals' reasoning for and against getting the vaccine.

"People with anxiety difficulties were not more hesitant about the vaccine. Rather, the more discomfort they had with uncertainty, the less hesitant they were," said Dr Christine Purdon, professor of Clinical Psychology at Waterloo in a paper published in the Journal of Anxiety Disorders.

"The opposite was true of those without anxiety, suggesting that discomfort with uncertainty may be an important factor when addressing vaccine hesitancy," Purdon added.

To conduct the study, the researchers surveyed 148 participants with and without anxiety disorders. All participants completed an online questionnaire examining Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy along with other related variables such as conspiracy beliefs, individualism, and intolerance of uncertainty.

They also surveyed the top rea-

sons why individuals were motivated to get the vaccine and the top reasons why they were hesitant.

by individualistic worldviews, conspiracy beliefs, and a lack of trust in authority.



The most common reasons that participants were hesitant to get the vaccine were related to the vaccine's effectiveness and novelty, and fear of adverse effects.

In contrast, the most frequent reasons that participants were motivated to get the vaccine were to protect others, to protect self, and to return to a sense of normalcy.

The researchers found that anxious and non-anxious participants did not differ in vaccine hesitancy. However, discomfort with uncertainty predicted greater vaccine hesitancy in non-anxious participants, and in both groups' vaccine hesitancy was predicted

Aliya McNeil, lead author of the study, said that the findings could suggest that people without anxiety disorders are concerned with uncertainty related to the vaccine itself, whereas people with anxiety disorders might view the vaccine as an opportunity to reduce stress and uncertainty related to the virus.

This may indicate that vaccine hesitancy is related to how one values independence.

The researchers hope that their findings will help aid in future research that continues to explore vaccine hesitancy and interventions to promote vaccine uptake.

Starlink Signals Could Work As GPS Alternative: Report

IAN5

The Starlink constellation is, by far, the largest in history, with almost 3,000 satellites in orbit, and offers enormous potential for worldwide connection.

Recent research asserts that its signals might be processed and utilised to replace conventional GPS, with or without SpaceX's approval, there is only so much Todd Humphreys and his colleagues at the University of Texas at Austin can learn about the "signal structure" of the Starlink downlink without having access to inside information from the corporation itself,

they did uncover a lot of important information, reports TechCrunch.

Satellites must pass their signal down to the ground at some point, and in Starlink's case, it is pretty much a constant stream. That does not mean anyone can tap in, though the signal itself is structured and encoded in a proprietary way that, presumably, SpaceX has decided best for the kind of orbital broadband it's providing, the report said.

The exact parameters of this signal are not known, but to make sure packets are arriving in order and intact, the transmission -- like any data transmission these days -- includes very precise timing data and other telemetry so the receiver

and sender can stay in sync. By carefully analysing an incoming signal from a single satellite and combining that data with what is known about the satellite's exact position, the time down to the nanosecond, and so on, Humphreys was able to decode the transmission to a certain extent.

They document their results in a paper, currently awaiting peer review and publishing.

A side effect of having precise telemetry coming from a few satellites (in addition to other measurements like Doppler radar) is that users can use it to work out their exact location, and the paper describes how this might be done.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.**

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER
RETENDER

NIT No: - 185/Xen/Rew/Bla/2022-2023 Dated.22/10/2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs.)	EMD AMOUNT	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS
1	C/O GWM Community Soak Pit with drainage system at Newdori Dewpora Under SBM, Gii year 2022, 23 Block Chandilwanigam	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	SBM	AAA
2	C/O GWM Community Soak Pit Tangsaji mohalla Fidarpora Under SBM, Gii year 2022, 23 Block Rafiabad	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	SBM	AAA
3	C/O GWM Community Soak Pit Near masjid Aram seer Ganiwanizandpal Under SBM, Gii year 2022, 23 Block Chandilwanigam	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	SBM	AAA
4	C/O GWM Community Soak Pit with drainage at Lone Mohalla ward-6 Patidarakassi Gogaldara Under SBM, Gii year 2022, 23 Block Chandilwanigam	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	SBM	AAA
5	C/O GWM Community Soak Pit At Bakhpora Batpora Sheikhpura Under SBM, Gii year 2022, 23 Block Rafiabad	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	SBM	AAA
6	C/O GWM Community Soak Pit At Sein Sheikhpura Under SBM, Gii year 2022, 23 Block Rafiabad	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	SBM	AAA
7	C/O GWM Community Soak Pit At Sheikhpura Under SBM, Gii year 2022, 23 Block Rafiabad	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	SBM	AAA
8	C/O GWM Community Soak Pit Near Panchayat Ghar, Nolwari Under SBM, Gii year 2022, 23 Block Sheerabad Khore	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	SBM	AAA
9	C/O GWM Community Soak Pit at ward 3 near jamia masjid Wanikhal Lalpora B Under SBM, Gii year 2022, 23 Block Lalpora	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	SBM	AAA
10	C/O GWM Community Soak Pit Near Markazi Imambada Ahmadpora Under SBM, Gii year 2022, 23 Block Sheerabad Khore	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	SBM	AAA
11	C/O GWM Community Soak Pit Near Panchayat Ghar Agrikalan Under SBM, Gii year 2022, 23 Block Sheerabad Khore	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	SBM	AAA
12	C/O GWM Community Soak Pit Near Jamia Masjid at Sonium Under SBM, Gii year 2022, 23 Block Lalpora	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	SBM	AAA
13	C/O GWM Community Soak Pit at Ningli Ghat Tarzoo C Under SBM, Gii year 2022, 23 Block Sogore	2.00	200	4000	30days	DEE	SBM	AAA
14	Construction of Garbage pits in every panchayat Halqa @ Rs 25000 per pit for 24 Panchayat Halqas under Aspirational Block Development Programme, year 2022, 23 Block Singhpora	6.00	300	12000	30days	CEE DEE	ABDP	AAA Accorded
15	Construction of Garbage pits in every Panchayat Halqa Rs 50000 per Halqa for 13 panchayat Halqas under Aspirational Block Development Programme in convergence year 2022, 23 Block Uri	6.50	300	13000	30days	CEE DEE	ABDP	AAA Accorded

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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 the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22-10-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 22-10-2022 to 28-10-2022 up to 6:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start date	22-10-2022
4	Bid Submission End Date	28-10-2022 up to 6:00 PM

5. Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online) Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online.

- If the bidder quotes his bid exceeding the tendering cost, his bid will be automatically rejected.
- In case of dilemma/confusion, the rate and the unit against any item shown in Boq, the SOR rate along with its unit will be applicable.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt under HEAD 0515 mentioning therein Name of work and NIT No. in favour of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender inviting Authority).
- 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 at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.
- All the Bidders has to deposit Earnest Money (2% of Advertised cost) in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering as per the Circular of Finance Department.
- The 1ST Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of allotted cost of Contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ BG within 02 Days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% performance security.

4.a Unbalanced Bid:
The successful bidder shall have to deposit an additional performance security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG before award of contract in case the bid of the successful bidder is found to be unbalanced and the following scale shall apply thereto:-

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz -a- viz Adv. Cost	Additional performance security to be deposited on
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2	>15% upto and including 20% below	5%
3	>20% upto and including 25% below	10%
4	>25% upto and including 30% below	15%
5	>30% below	20%

- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, if:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No:1641-1648
Dated: 25-10-2022

DIPK-12274/22
Executive Engineer,
REW Baramulla

Lumpy Skin Disease: Govt Sets Deadline Of Nov 5 For Inoculation



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday reviewed status of vaccination for lumpy skin disease in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

In this regard, ACS had a meeting with Directors of Animal Husbandry Kashmir and Jammu, Chief Animal Husbandry Officers and District Animal Husbandry Officers of J&K besides other senior officers including experts from SKUAST.

Atal Dulloo set deadline of November 5 for completing carpet vaccination of eligible cattle population in all districts of the UT. He directed the departmental staff to take part in the vaccination procedure on top priority.

Reviewing district wise data, ACS underlined that the rate of infection and mortality is higher in Kashmir division and needs

immediate measures to be taken up for its containment. It was also observed that no LSD case has been reported in several districts of Jammu since the past week.

ACS directed the Directors to ensure availability of vaccines in both the divisions in sufficient quantity to meet the requirement. He asked them to ensure that stocks of antibiotics, Methylene Blue and other necessary medicines are maintained. He also took stock of fogging in the districts.

ACS issued instructions to Director Kashmir to constitute teams comprising veterinarians, para-veterinarians and experts from SKUAST to undertake block level visits every day to assess local requirements and administrative issues to check the spread of this animal skin disease.

He also suggested that experts from the Centre be invited to share expertise and help contain the disease in the UT.

SKUAST -K Conducts First Ever Fruit Mela In South Kashmir



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Krishi Vigyan Kendras of South Kashmir viz. Shopian, Pulwama, Anantnag and Kulgam organised a Mega Fruit/ Kissan Mela as a part of back to village programme of Govt. of J&K (UT) at old fruit mandi Arhama Shopian.

The Mela was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K in presence of District Development Commissioner Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Director Extension SKUAST-K Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi and Director Horticulture Kashmir, Gh Rasool Mir. Other officers of the university and district development departments and public representatives DDC Member Raja Waheed, President Pesticide dealers association and President Fruit growers association of district Shopian were also present on the occasion.

The main activities conducted in the Mela included Fruit Show, Technology Exhibition, Method Demonstration, Farmer Scientist Interaction, Apple FPO start-up,

Machinery Mela etc. More than Fifty stalls were installed by KVKS of south Kashmir, AARC Pahnoo Shopian, Agriculture & Allied departments of South Kashmir, Agri-input companies, NGOs, FPOs, SHGs, Champion Farmers and Entrepreneurs etc. Thousands of farmers participated in the Mela which included progressive farmers, officials of the line departments etc.

In the interaction part of Mela, Director Extension SKUAST-K, Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi welcomed the dignitaries and participants and briefed the audience about the importance of this Fruit/Kissan Mela for widening the mental horizons of all the stakeholders like; farmers, rural youth, entrepreneurs and students. He stressed about importance of mela, regulation of market flow, utilization of funds under Agriculture infra structure fund. Four progressive farmers highlighted the problems being faced by the farming community. The marketing issue in Apple was the main concern highlighted by them. District Development commissioner.

CS Reviews Establishment Of Industries Under New Industrial Policy

Around 600 units with an investment of Rs 850 cr came under production this year

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday reviewed the progress for establishment of industrial units here in the UT under New Industrial Policy (NIP) 2021-30.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Directors of Industries, Jammu/Kashmir; MD SIDCO & SICOP and many other concerned officers in person or through virtual mode.

Dr Mehta impressed upon the officers to ensure that each of the prospective unit holder is facilitated to establish their units in a hassle-free manner. He asked them to have inter-departmental coordination for better performance under single window system created by the government.

The Chief Secretary upheld that the youth are the direct beneficiaries of the policy as the industrialization is proportional to employment generation. He emphasised on the fact that the applicants who do not come forth for execution of lease deeds should be put to notice for cancellation of their allotments. He asked them to give these to other applicants who are waiting for the allotment for establishing their units.

The Chief Secretary was in-



formed that during the year 2022-23, 197 units with an investment of Rs 542 cr and employment to 2202 persons have come under production in Jammu Division. In Kashmir Division some 401 units have come under production with an investment of around Rs 300 cr and employment generation for 4120.

It was given out that 70 units in Jammu have initiated work on ground with a projected investment of Rs 1454 cr. Similarly in Kashmir Division 38 units with a projected investment of Rs 952 cr have initiated work on ground. Besides it was added that the total employment potential of all applications is nearly 2.8 lakh persons.

The meeting was further apprised that 314 lease deeds have been executed till date and more 295 are under process. Moreover, land has been allotted to 519 new units in

Jammu Division and 1122 units in Kashmir Division.

In the ensuing month it was revealed that 55 lease deeds had been executed and 30 have deposited the premium. In addition, 132 lease deeds are under execution and 35 units have initiated work on ground during this month. The meeting also came to know that work in 4 industrial estates has been initiated during this period.

The meeting also deliberated that a total of 529 units in Kashmir Division were granted general extension upto June, 2022 by APCC. Out of which 401 units have come into production, about 85 units have completed construction of factory shed and require further extension of 6 to 12 months for coming into production.

Similarly a total of 325 units in the Jammu Division were granted general extension. Out of which 160 units could come into production and were granted Permanent Registration whereas 2 units merged/amalgamated into existing units.

It was informed that a slew of policy measures to promote ease of Doing business have been initiated. In this direction some 161 e-Services majorly G2B services pertaining to 17 Departments are being provided on a single window portal.

Director JKEDI Inaugurates 10-Day EDP In Ganderbal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Ajaz Ahmad Bhat Tuesday visited district Ganderbal and took a detailed review of activities to be undertaken under Jan Abhiyan and 'Back to Village' programme phase-IV (B2V4).

The Director reviewed the set targets for Jan Abhiyan and B2V4 for the institute and stressed on an all inclusive and a vigorous approach towards involving all sections of the society. He directed the officers to organize public outreach programs at grass-roots level involving panchayats and various social groups in the villages with a proper synergy between all the concerned line departments.

Bhat also inaugurated a 10-Day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) conducted by JKEDI district Centre, Ganderbal. The programme is conducted under Tejaswini livelihood scheme at Boys Hr. Secondary School, Ganderbal. This scheme is a special endeavour of Mission



Youth, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the programme, Dr. Meiraj-Ud-Din Bhat, Faculty and Incharge training, JKEDI gave an overview of employment scenarios and the need for capacity building. Vishal Ray, Faculty/Incharge Startup Policy talked about the startup scenario of the Union Territory.

In his address, Director JKEDI stressed upon the need to choose an appropriate business venture which is high in demand around the area like Dairy, Sheep farming, Fashion Technology and related services. Utilization of local raw material can enhance the viability of the venture.

He further said that one must become a smart mar-

keteeer and use social media and digital platforms for promotion of business. He added that there is a need to incorporate entrepreneurship as a subject right from school level. He also pointed out that Youth empowerment is the focus of the current government under the leadership of Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor of J&K.

Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, Vice Principal of Boys Hr. Secondary School, Arif Ahmad Khan, Communication Officer JKEDI and Rafiya, Career Counselling Officer were also present on the occasion.

The EDP is coordinated by Abdul Rouf Khan, Assistant Faculty and Syed Nazneen Assistant Faculty is the Trainer for the program.

PLAY STORE POLICIES

CCI Slaps Rs 936.44 Cr Fine On Google For Abusing Dominance

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: In its second ruling against Google in less than a week, the Competition Commission on Tuesday slapped a penalty of Rs 936.44 crore on the internet major for abusing its dominant position with respect to its Play Store policies.

The regulator has also directed the company to cease and desist from unfair business practices as well as carry out various measures to address the anti-competitive issues within a defined timeline, according to an order.

This is the second major CCI ruling against Google in less than a week. On October 20, the watchdog imposed a penalty of Rs 1,337.76 crore on the company for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in relation to Android mobile devices and ordered the internet major to cease and desist from various unfair business practices.

In a release on Tuesday, the Competition Commission of India (Commission) said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 936.44 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position with respect to its Play Store policies. The penalty amount translates to 7 per cent of the company's average relevant turnover.

Google's Play Store constitutes the main distribution channel for app developers in the Android mobile ecosystem, which allows its owners to capitalise on the apps brought to market. The regulator noted that



making access to the Play Store for app developers dependent on mandatory usage of GPBS (Google Play's Billing System) for paid apps and in-app purchases constitutes an imposition of an unfair condition on app developers.

Apart from the penalty, CCI said Google should not restrict app developers from using any third-party billing/ payment processing services for purchasing apps.

There was no immediate comment from Google on the latest CCI order. On October 21, the internet major said it will review the order with respect to the Android devices matter.

Through the two orders passed in less than a week, the watchdog has imposed "provisional" penalties totalling Rs 2,274.2 crore on Google. The latest ruling related to Google Play Store came on the last day of the tenure of CCI Chairperson Ashok Kumar Gupta.

In February 2018, the regulator imposed a fine of Rs 136 crore on Google for unfair business practices in the Indian market for the online search.

Currently, the regulator is probing Google in cases of alleged anti-competitive practices by Google with respect to news content and smart TV.

Sprite Becomes Billion-Dollar Brand In Indian Market

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Global soft drinks major Coca-Cola Company on Tuesday said its lemon and lime-flavoured soft drink Sprite has become a billion-dollar brand in the Indian market.

The company has recorded a "strong" volume growth in its India business in the third quarter of 2022, helped by its sparkling soft drinks portfolio and fruit drink brand Maaza.

During an earnings call, while speaking on the performance in the Indian market, Coca-Cola Company Chairman and CEO James Quincey said, "Trademark Coke delivered strong growth through effective execution and occasion-based marketing."

"We drove 2.5 billion transactions in India at affordable price points through the expansion of returnable glass bottles and single-serve PET packages," he noted.

In the first half of 2022, Coca-Cola continued to strengthen as it gained share in sparkling offerings, he added.

"Sprite has grown to become a billion-dollar brand in the

market, driven by the success of locally adapted, occasion-based global marketing campaigns and screen time," said Quincey.

Earlier in January this year, Coca-Cola had said its Indian soft drink brand Thums Up had become a billion-dollar brand in 2021.

India is the fifth-largest market for Coca-Cola globally.

For the three months that ended September 30, 2022, overall, Coca-Cola Company's unit case volume grew by 4 per cent. Its developed markets grew in the mid-single digits while developing and emerging markets grew in low single digits.

"Growth in developed markets was led by Western Europe, Mexico and the United States, while growth in developing and emerging markets was led by India, China and Brazil," said an earnings statement from the Atlanta-headquartered firm.

Its sparkling soft drinks grew by 3 per cent, "primarily led by India, Mexico and China," it said.

Nutrition, juice, dairy and plant-based beverages also grew, led by Minute Maid Pulpy in China, Maaza in India and fairlife in the US market.



SHORT TAKES

Markets Halt 7-Day Rally On Profit-Booking

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Equity benchmarks nursed losses on Tuesday as investors booked profits after a seven-session rally amid weak Asian market cues and foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex failed to hold on the early gains and declined 287.70 points or 0.48 per cent to finish at 59,543.96. During the day, it hit a low of 59,489.02 and a high of 60,081.24. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty fell 74.40 points or 0.42 per cent to end at 17,656.35.

Nestle India was the top loser in the Sensex pack, slipping 2.83 per cent, followed by Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finance and Asian Paints.

Market heavyweight Reliance Industries was the biggest drag on the benchmark following lacklustre Q2 results. In contrast, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, Larsen & Toubro, Dr Reddy's, SBI, NTPC and M&M were among the winners, climbing as much as 3.29 per cent.

"The domestic market pared its early gains with FMCG and private banks pressuring the benchmark. Market attention has shifted to central bank policy announcements since the European Central Bank is expected to hike interest rates at its upcoming policy meeting.

States Borrowing Cost Again Rises Sharply

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: After falling last week, the market-funding cost for the states continues to head north, with the latest auction seeing the average cut-off rate or yield jumping by as much as 12 bps to 7.84 per cent, but for the Centre, it remained flat.

After rising for four weeks in a row, the average price that the states pay to their debt investors fell by 11 bps to 7.72 per cent at the auctions held on October 18.

The weighted average cut-off rose by 12 bps to 7.84 per cent from 7.72 per cent in the last auction, with a rise in weighted average tenor to 13 years from 12 years, Aditi Nayar, the chief economist at rating agency Icria said in a note.

As against this, the benchmark 10-year G-sec yield only inched by 1 bps to 7.44 per cent, while the weighted average cut-off of the 10-year state bond jumped 10 bps to 7.83 per cent. Accordingly, the spread between the weighted average cut-off of 10-year state debt and the 10-year G-sec yield increased to 39 bps from 30 bps.

Tuesday's auction was the first so far this fiscal wherein the states borrowed more than what was notified in the quarterly auction calendar, as 14 states have drawn down Rs 25,200 crore, which is 3 per cent more than indicated (Rs 24,500 crore) in the auction calendar. This auction was also the second largest this fiscal.

Apple Urges Global Supply Chain To Decarbonise By 2030

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Apple on Tuesday exhorted its global supply chain to decarbonise by 2030, as the tech giant said it will evaluate the work of its major manufacturing partners to decarbonise their Apple-related operations, and track annual progress.

Cupertino, California-headquartered Apple has been carbon neutral for its global corporate operations since 2020, and is focused on the goal to become carbon neutral across its entire global supply chain and the life cycle of every product, the company said in a newsroom post.

"Apple calls on global supply chain to decarbonise by 2030," the post said.

The company is accelerating work with suppliers to decarbonise Apple-related production and expanding investments in clean energy and climate solutions.

Apple "will evaluate the work of its major manufacturing partners to decarbonise their Apple-related operations — including running on 100 per cent renewable electricity — and will track yearly progress".

As the impacts of climate change are increasingly felt, Apple also announced new initiatives and investments aimed at helping decarbonise the global economy and promote climate solutions for communities.

Sebi Fines 6 Entities In Deutsche Mutual Fund Front-Running Case

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator Sebi has imposed penalties totalling Rs 15 lakh on six entities in a case pertaining to front-running the trades of Deutsche Mutual Fund, which is now known as DHFL Pramerica Mutual Fund.

Those penalised by Sebi are -- Kanchan Jena, Hemlata Dei Jena, Malati Lata Jena, Jayant Chhaparia, Abhishek Chhaparia and Progressive Share Brokers.

They have been directed to pay the fine within 45 days, according to two separate orders passed by Securities and Board of India (Sebi) on Friday.

Sebi found that the Fund Manager (FM) of Deutsche Mutual Fund (DMF) and his parents had employed a scheme to 'front run' the orders of the DMF and also were involved in every step that led to the fruition of the scheme, from the beginning till the withdrawal of the wrongful gain of the front running trades.

However, three sisters -- Kanchan Jena, Hemlata Dei Jena, Malati Lata Jena -- Jayant Chhaparia, Abhishek Chhaparia facilitated them in executing front-running trades during the investigation period from September 2014 and May 2015.

ESIC Scheme Adds 14.62 Lakh New Members In August

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Around 14.62 lakh new members joined the ESIC-run social security scheme in August 2022, according to official data released on Tuesday.

The latest data is part of a report -- Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective - August 2022 -- released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

It showed that the gross new enrolments with Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) rose to 1.49 crore in 2021-22, from 1.15 crore in 2020-21. It was 1.51 crore in 2019-20 and 1.49 crore in 2018-19.

From September 2017 to March 2018, around 83.35 lakh new subscribers joined the ESIC scheme.

The report said gross new enrolments with ESIC from September 2017 to August 2022 were 7.22 crore.

The NSO report is based on the payroll data of new subscribers of various social security schemes run by ESIC, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

According to the report, net new enrolments with retirement fund body EPFO stood at 16.94 lakh in August 2022.

Delhi's Post-Diwali Air 'Very Poor' But Best Since 2015

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Delhi recorded "very poor" air quality on Tuesday after residents flouted the ban on firecrackers in many parts of the capital on Diwali night, but the pollution levels for the next day were the lowest since 2015 thanks to favourable meteorological conditions that diluted the effect of the fireworks and stubble burning.

However, the neighbouring cities of Ghaziabad (266), Noida (299), Greater Noida (272), Gurugram (292) and Faridabad (289) reported "poor" air quality.

An air quality index (AQI) between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

The firecracker emissions pushed the PM2.5 concentration at most places in the capital over 550 micrograms per cubic metre by 1 am. However, the PM2.5 levels dropped below 150 micrograms per cubic metre by 4 pm due to warm and windier conditions, which are favourable for the dispersion of pollutants.

PM2.5 are fine particles that are 2.5 microns or less in diameter and can travel deep into the respiratory tract, reaching the lungs and entering the bloodstream.

Delhi recorded an AQI of 310 at 11 pm on Monday. It increased to 326 by 6 am on Tuesday, remained stable till 9 am and started decreasing thereafter.

The 24-hour average AQI at 4 pm stood at 303, the lowest for the day after Diwali since 2015, when the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) started maintaining air quality data.

Delhi's AQI on the day after Diwali stood at 360 in 2015, 445 in 2016, 403 in 2017, 390 in 2018, 368 in 2019, 435 in 2020 and 462 in 2021.



Since Diwali was observed early in the season this year, moderately warm and windier conditions prevented rapid accumulation of pollutants from firecrackers bursting and reduced the effect of stubble burning.

Diwali was celebrated on November 4 in 2021 and on November 14 in 2020, when the temperatures were considerably low and the winds calm.

"Early Diwali, with slightly better meteorological conditions and comparatively lower fire counts, had a lower pollution base compared to the last few years," Sunil Dahiya, an analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), said.

"Bursting of firecrackers led to a sharp increase in the air pollution with the PM2.5 concentration, on an average, jumping to 540 micrograms per

cubic metre across Delhi by 12:30 am. Several monitoring stations in the capital recorded PM2.5 levels above 950 micrograms per cubic metre between 10 pm and 1 am," Dahiya told PTI.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the results of the residents' efforts to curb pollution in the city are encouraging, but there is still a long way to go.

"Delhiites are working hard to curb pollution. The results have been very encouraging but there is still a long way to go. We will make Delhi the best city in the world," Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said the city saw fewer incidents of firecracker bursting this year and consequently, the air pollution levels dropped by around 30 per cent.

"The people of Delhi were very thoughtful on Diwali this year and I want to thank them. Today, the pollution level is the lowest in five years," Rai told reporters.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government last month announced a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1, including on Diwali, a practice it has been following for the last two years.

Rai had earlier said bursting of firecrackers in Delhi will attract a jail term of up to six months and a fine of Rs 200.

He had said production, storage and sale of firecrackers will be punishable with a fine of up to Rs 5,000 and three years in jail under section 9B of the Explosives Act.

A total of 408 teams have been formed to implement the ban. The Delhi Police has set up 210 teams under assistant commissioners of police, the Department of Revenue has set up 165 teams and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has constituted 33 teams.

The Delhi Police has reported 23 infractions of the ban on bursting of firecrackers and 150 violations of the ban on the sale of fireworks since October 1.

V K Soni, the head of the India Meteorological Department's Environment Monitoring and Research Centre, said: "The people of Delhi need to be applauded as firecrackers bursting and vehicular traffic were less as compared to the previous years."

The better AQI this year can be attributed to a proactive implementation of measures under the second stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) three days ahead of Diwali, he added.

Earlier, the authorities would implement the measures only after the PM2.5 and PM10 concentration touched a particular threshold.

The hospitals in the national capital also saw fewer people coming in with respiratory illnesses as compared to last year.

Also, fewer instances of burn injuries were reported in the hospitals than in 2021.

Doctors, however, warned that it is too early to reach a definitive conclusion about the prevalence of respiratory illnesses post-Diwali since people tend to come to hospitals only when their condition worsens.

Experts and forecasting agencies said the number of farm fires in Punjab and Haryana has increased but their contribution to pollution on Diwali remained low.

"Farm fires raged across Punjab and

Haryana on Monday but the wind direction changed to south westerly, which is unfavourable for the transport of smoke. Hence, the contribution of stubble burning to Delhi's pollution (five to eight per cent) was also not very significant," said Gufran Beig, chair professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science.

Dahiya said stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana peaks only in October-end and November and hence, its contribution to air pollution on Diwali was not very significant. However, it is likely to rise sharply in the upcoming days.

Emissions from firecrackers and farm fires have contributed significantly to Delhi's PM2.5 pollution on Diwali over the years.

The share of farm fires in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution was 25 per cent on Diwali in 2021, 32 per cent in 2020 and 19 per cent in 2019.

According to the Early Warning System of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), the air quality is forecast to remain in the "very poor" category on Tuesday and is likely to improve slightly over the next two days.

Delhi recorded a 24-hour average AQI of 312 at 4 pm on Monday -- the second best for Diwali in seven years.

The city had recorded an AQI of 281 on Diwali in 2018.

Delhi had recorded an AQI of 382 on Diwali last year, 414 in 2020, 337 in 2019, 319 in 2017, and 431 in 2016, according to the CPCB.

On Sunday evening, the city reported a 24-hour average AQI of 259, which was the lowest for Diwali eve in seven years.

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute reported 1,019 farm fires in Punjab, 250 in Haryana and 215 in Uttar Pradesh on Monday evening.

CBI Files Chargesheet Against 12 In Bengal Teacher Recruitment Scam

Press Trust of India

Kolkata: The CBI named 12 people, including former chairman of West Bengal Central School Service Commission (WBCSSC) Subiresh Bhattacharya, in a charge-sheet filed at a court here on Tuesday in connection with its probe into alleged illegal appointment of assistant teachers.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) also named an ex-advisor, a former assistant secretary of the WBCSSC, two former programme officers of the commission and six others in the charge-sheet submitted to special judge, Alipore, an official of the CBI said.

"It was found that the accused, including public servants and private persons, entered into conspiracy with one another in order to extend to unqualified candidates undue appointments to the post of assistant teacher for Classes IX and X in secondary and higher secondary schools in West Bengal in 2016, after the expiry of that year's panel," he added.

Of the 12 named in the chargesheet, six of them -- the former chairman, ex-advisor, and then assistant secretary of WBCSSC, then president of an adhoc committee of West Bengal Board of Secondary Education,



and two private persons -- are presently in judicial custody.

"Further investigation is underway to find out if there was a larger conspiracy involved and also the role played by each of the accused," the CBI official said.

Earlier, the central agency had filed another chargesheet at a court naming 16 people as accused in the case.

The Calcutta High Court has directed the CBI to look into the alleged irregularities involved in the recruitment of Group-C and D staff as well as teachers in government-sponsored and -aided schools on recommendations of the commission. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is tracking the money trail in the scam.

The ED has so far arrested former chairman of West Bengal Board of Primary Education and Trinamool Congress MLA Manik Bhattacharya, former Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee and his alleged close associate Arpita Mukherjee in the case.

India, China Should Seek Common Ground For Development And Resolve Differences Through Dialogue: Chinese Envoy

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: As neighbours, it is natural for China and India to have some differences but the focus should be to seek common ground for development while resolving the pending issues through dialogue, outgoing Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong said on Tuesday.

His comments came at the end of his little over three-year tenure that saw the ties between India and China coming under severe strain following the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15, 2020, which marked the most serious military conflicts between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

"China and India are important neighbours to each other. It is only natural for China and India having some differences. The key is how to handle the differences," Sun said in his farewell remarks.

"We should be aware that the common interests of the two countries are greater than differences. Meanwhile, the two sides should strive to manage and resolve differences, and look for a proper solution through dialogue and consultation, instead of defining China-India relations by differences," he said.

He also referred to Rabinranath Tagore.



"The famous Indian poet Rabinranath Tagore said that we Easterners can neither borrow the minds of the West nor the temperament of the West. We need to discover our own right to be born with. I fully agree with him."

Sun said the two countries need to respect each other's political systems and development paths, and uphold the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs and avoid "misunderstanding and miscalculation".

"If the Western theory of geopolitics is applied to the China-India relationship, then major neighbouring countries like us will inevitably view each other as threats and rivals. Consequently, competition and confrontation will be the main mode of interaction, and zero-sum game will be inevitable

result," he said.

"But the reality is that geographical proximity is an objective existence. It should be an opportunity for us to have more interaction and cooperation, tap our potential and learn from and complement each other," the ambassador said.

The ambassador mentioned three specific dimensions of the Sino-India ties, emphasising on enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation between the two sides.

"We should enhance communication and cooperation. China and India have established dialogue mechanisms in various levels and departments. We should make full use of all the communication channels, deepen mutual understanding in order to avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation," he said.

Lumpy skin disease: J&K sets Nov 5 deadline for inoculation of cattle

Press Trust of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday set a deadline of November 5 for completing vaccination of all eligible cattle against lumpy skin disease (LSD) in all districts of the Union territory, officials said.

No LSD case has been reported in several districts of Jammu division since last week, they said.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday reviewed status of LSD vaccination in all districts, and directed the staff to expedite the vaccination process, the officials said.

Reviewing district wise data,

the ACS underlined that the rate of infection and mortality is higher in Kashmir division and immediate measures should be taken for its containment.

Dulloo directed the officials to ensure availability of vaccines in both the divisions in sufficient quantity to meet the requirement.

He also directed to constitute teams comprising veterinarians, para-veterinarians and experts to undertake block-level visits every day in Kashmir division to assess local requirements to check the spread of LSD.

He also suggested that experts from the Centre be invited to share expertise and help contain the disease in the UT.



CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG Inaugurates

pass on the valued traditions of Jammu Kashmir to the coming generations; preservation of folklore, UT writers camp, national theatre festivals, inter-state cultural exchange programmes, international visits and cultural events in far flung areas will strengthen our traditional cultural richness," the LG said.

"We are aware of the difficulties being faced by many such senior artists, writers who are not active today due to ill health and the hardships of the families of those artists who are not with us anymore. The Government will ensure such artists, writers or their dependants are provided with financial assistance," he added.

The spokesperson further said that the LG appreciated the role of voluntary organizations and institutions for the promotion of literature, folk art and music and said that the scheme of financial assistance for the registered societies related to various arts has also been approved.

Sinha, he said, also highlighted the efforts being made to document and preserve folk treasure of songs and tales.

The LG, he said, also urged the cultural organizations, departments,

artists and the people to work collectively for preserving the precious cultural and folk traditions of Jammu Kashmir.

On the occasion, the spokesperson said, the LG felicitated the artists for their excellent contribution in preserving and promoting the local art, culture and folk traditions.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board in her address lauded the contribution of the artists who are the face of culture and values of J&K and the country.

She said that the LG-led UT administration has provided a new lifeline to the field of art and culture in J&K.

Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Chairman, All J&K Folk Artists Association expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for providing continuous support to art, culture and artists of J&K. He said the renewed energy being filled in the field of art and culture of Jammu Kashmir has brought prosperity in the life of all artists across the UT.

He also thanked the Lt Governor-led administration for launching the J&K film policy and other initiatives for promoting art, culture and traditions of Jammu Kashmir and welfare of performing artists.

On the occasion performances of

different folk music and dance were presented by the artists from across the UT.

10 KP Families

"The situation is not conducive for us to live in Kashmir Valley. We live in fear due to killings. There is no security for us," another villager said.

The villagers alleged a police post was set up away from their village even though they repeatedly sought protection. They said they have left everything in their houses, even the recent harvest of apple.

Those who have reached Jammu are living with their relatives.

Is Bilal Lone

of anonymity expressed to a local media house in the Union territory. -- ANI

4 Held Over

assaulted the assistant director while a few employees were also beaten.

An employee said that the incident took place when a delegation from Khushalpora Chinnad was pleading for the ration to be supplied through a sale centre instead of a fair price shop at the location, where they resorted to verbal duels with the employees.

He said, that the matter is already in court and the department is just adhering to the Court orders in letter and spirit. "There are clear directions from the honourable court, that only one fair price shop would run at the location but some vested interested persons are instigating and provoking the villagers, resulting into these assaults", he added.

The employees threatened to strike if the culprits are not put behind the bars. "There will be no food distribution in any of the stores in Baramulla district if action is not initiated against the culprits", they said.

They also alleged that the violent incident had been carried out at the behest of a so-called journalist who owns a shop in Sopore and is a resident of Chinnad Sangrama.

The employees alleged that the so-called journalist instigated people against the department officials in various areas of Baramulla district in order to fulfil his ulterior motives.

Repeated attempts to contact Assistant Director Sheikh Tariq could not materialise.

A Police official when contacted told a local news agency KNO that they have registered the case in this regard and further investigations have been

taken up.

"We have arrested four people so far and hunt to nab the other culprits," the official added.

Diwali Lamps

Committee president Ravinder Pandita said.

Led by construction committee member Ajaz Khan, it was for the first time since partition that Diwali was celebrated in Teetwal.

The Save Sharda Committee has taken the lead of reconstruction of the temple and a Sikh gurdwara after reclaiming the same last year, he said.

"Prior to the tribal raids in 1947, a dharmshala and a Sikh gurdwara used to exist in the same plot that was burnt down in the raids. On similar lines, the committee is reconstructing the Sharda temple and the Sikh gurdwara. The reconstruction is nearly complete", Pandita said.

Teetwal was a traditional route of pilgrimage to Sharda Peeth which was last stopped in 1948 after the tribal raids and partition.

"Ever since no such yatra has taken place. The committee comprising the civil society of Tangdhar Karnah is actively engaged in recreating this ancient heritage," he said.

Inmate Falls

to Sub-district hospital (SDH) Kupwara for treatment. However, the doctors declared him dead on arrival. The deceased was an accused in an NDPS case.

J&K Logs 4

division and 2433 from the Valley. Besides, they said, three Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours--one from Jammu and two from Kashmir. There are now 24 active cases-- nine in Jammu and 15 in Kashmir.

Ex- Minister,

issues of the Kulgam district pertaining to establishment of Women's Degree College at Kulgam & Devsar; upgradation of Primary Health Centre at Devsar & Killam; Polytechnic College at Killam; Railway station halt point at Sangran; Boarding school; children park at Gundipora; widening of Vessu to Devsar road; strengthening of road network; besides other welfare issues of fruit growers.

"The Lt Governor while interacting with the former Minister and the members of the delegation assured them of appropriate redressal of their genuine demands on merit," the spokesperson added.



JKSC Officials Initiate Youth Reach Out

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Sports Council officials visited many panchayats and had a series of interaction on Tuesday under the public out-reach programme under Jan Abhiyan and B2V4. The officials interacted with locals which chiefly comprised of youth, with many of them being the professional sports persons and yet a vast majority of them being students, waiting in wings to start their sports career.

A function under the programme was organised by J&K Sports Council in collaboration with local Administration in Women's ITI at Kangan, Ganderbal on Tuesday.

Secretary Sports Council highlighted the importance and benefits of sports besides initiatives taken by the administration to upgrade sports infrastructure and provide quality coaching.

Responding to various issues raised by the youth regarding sports, Nuzhat Gull assured that every step shall be taken to maxi-

mise the benefit of various schemes launched by the government.

A huge gathering of participants including sports persons, citizens attended the day-long programme.

SDM Kangan, Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir, Tehsil-dar Kangan, officials from local administration and council also attended the function.

A number of sports activities were also conducted during the programme.

Meanwhile Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Joint Secretary also visited Nilandrusu in South Kashmir under a similar programme, where a huge number of youth including citizens participated.

Joint Secretary Sports Council made people aware about the mega sports programs being carried out by the council.

Bashir Ahmad also apprised the presentees about the benefits of the JK sports policy, and a checklist of recognised sports disciplines, national as well as international events besides various other incentives being offered under the sports policy.

POSITIVE KASHMIR

Two Matches Played



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two matches of the ongoing 2nd Positive Kashmir Knock-out Tournament were played on Tuesday at Synthetic Turf TRC.

In the first match Bandipora FC surprised Jehlum FC while in the second game Ali Jana FC defeated Kashmir Avengers FC.

The clash between Bandipora and Jehlum ended 0-0 at full time, and was decided through penalties in which Bandipora FC defeated Jehlum FC 5-3.

The second match also ended 0-0 and was decided through penalties. Ali Jana FC defeated Kashmir Avengers FC 3-0.

With this win Bandipora FC and Ali Jana enter the third round of the championship while their opponents were eliminated from the tournament.

As per the fixtures issued by the organisers, Downtown Heroes FC will take on Athletic FC on 26th October at 3 pm while the Jammu and Kashmir Police team will also be in action at 6 pm.

Budgam Wins Inter District U-14 Kabaddi Championship



Observer News Service

PAHALGAM: District Budgam on Tuesday lifted the Provincial Level Inter District Kabaddi Championship for Under-14 Boys by defeating District Kulgam in a sensational finish by 2 points. The tournament was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner Anantnag Dr. Basharat Qayoom (IAS) at Sports Stadium Pahalgam on 24.10.2022 in the presence of Joint Director Youth Services & Sports Kashmir Bashir Ahmad (Organising Secretary) District Youth Services & Sports Officer

Anantnag Mushtaq Ahmad. A presentation ceremony was held at which Chairman Municipal Committee Owais Ahmad was the Chief Guest. Speaking at the ceremony Chief Guest lauded the efforts of the Youth Services and Sports Department for organizing this event at Pahalgam. He later felicitated the 1st three position holders.

Budgam bagged 1st, Kulgam 2nd and Baramulla settled at 3rd place.

120 players from ten districts of Kashmir division were part of this tournament. Kabaddi U-17 Boys competitions will start from 26th of October.

Hussaini Sports Club Holds 3rd AGM In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Hussaini Sports Club Tuesday held its 3rd Annual General Meeting here at Hotel Samci Riviera Srinagar in which all EC members, office bearers, district units (Baramulla, Bandipora, Budgam, Ganderbal and Pulwama) participated.

heads, Ulfat Mushtaq as Women's Wing head and Dr. Samreen Mukhtar as Publicity Secretary for the club. Bilqis Mir, known as Water Queen of Kashmir, joined club as Honorary member.

The elections were conducted under the supervision of Election Officer Irfan Hussain Malik (Physical Educator, GCOPE).

The elected office bearers shall hold the office for the period of two years. President assured all possible help to develop sports in the club, General Secretary Ahsan Ali thanked all members and promised to work whole heartedly for the upliftment of the club.

Qatar's Residents Squeezed As World Cup Rental Demand Soars



Agencies

DOHA: In the run-up to the world's biggest sporting event in the world's smallest host country, the struggle for housing is hardly limited to tourists. Qatar's real estate frenzy has sent rents skyrocketing and priced long-term residents out of their own homes, leaving many in the lurch.

"Landlords are taking full advantage of the situation and there's nothing in place to support the people who already live here," said Mariam, a 30-year-old British resident whose landlord refused to renew her annual contract in September, then quadrupled her monthly rent - from 5,000 Qatari riyals (some \$1,370) to 20,000 riyals

(\$5,490). Unable to afford the increase, she had no choice but to move out and is now staying at a friend's place.

"It's really demoralizing," she said, giving only her first name for fear of reprisals, like other renters interviewed in the autocratic nation. Others spoke on the condition of anonymity for the same reason.

Residents in the country, where expats outnumber locals nine to one, say the surging demand and shortage of rooms ahead of the World Cup has empowered landlords to raise rents by over 40% in many cases on short notice, forcing tenants to pack up and face an uncertain future.

Many long-term occupants in hotels and apartments say

they're being driven out to make room for players, staffers and fans.

Other renters renewing their leases reported signs appearing on their apartments marking the buildings as "chosen by the government to host the 2022 World Cup guests and events."

The Qatari government acknowledged the "increased demand for accommodation" and encouraged tenants who believe they have been wronged to file a complaint with the government's rental disputes committee.

Some 1.2 million fans are expected to descend next month on the Gulf Arab sheikhdom, which has never before hosted an event on the scale of the World Cup.



Ex Australia Captain Accuses South Africa Of Ball Tampering

Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: Former Australia captain Tim Paine has claimed in his book that South Africans were involved in ball tampering in the Johannesburg Test which was played a few days after the infamous sandpaper-gate scandal in Cape Town that rocked Australian and world cricket in 2018.

The fallout of the Cape Town Test, the third of the four-match series, was huge as it led to one-year bans on then Australian captain Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner.

Cameron Bancroft was suspended for nine months by Cricket Australia for his role in the scandal. It also prompted a cultural review into Australian cricket.

However, Paine claimed in his new book that the Proteas had

also indulged in ball tampering in the fourth Test at New Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg.

"I saw it happen in the fourth Test of that series," Paine wrote in his new autobiography 'The Paid Price.' "Think about that. After everything that had happened in Cape Town, after all the headlines and bans and carry on."

"I was standing at the bowlers' end in the next Test when a shot came up on the screen of a South African player at mid-off having a huge crack at the ball," he added.

Paine was part of the Australian playing XI in Cape Town (March 22-26) and then captained the side in Johannesburg (March 30-April 03).

Paine, who stepped down from Test captaincy last year, also alleged that the incident was covered up by the broadcasters.

Pakistan Greats Wonder If Shaheen Afridi Was Rushed Into Action

Press Trust of India

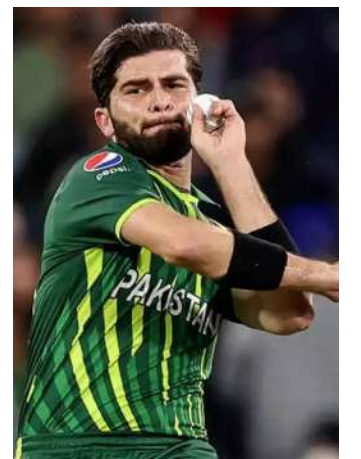
KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board and its medical panel is facing numerous questions on whether premier fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi has recovered enough from a knee injury to be match fit for the ongoing T20 World Cup.

Former fast bowling greats, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, former captain Misbah-ul-Haq and Lahore Qalanders head coach Aaqib Javed all felt that Shaheen looked short of match fitness and practice while playing against India on Sunday in Melbourne.

"This was not the Shaheen that we know. His rhythm was not there and it begs the question, has he been picked in the side too early and is he match fit now for such a big tournament?" Waqar questioned.

Shaheen, who suffered a knee injury while fielding in the first Test against Sri Lanka at Galle in mid-July, went into the crucial match against India on Sunday after bowling just 6 overs in two warm up games in Brisbane.

Aaqib, who has worked closely with Shaheen at the Lahore Qalanders franchise, said there



was no doubt that Shaheen was not his usual self against India.

"He looked anxious and reluctant to really bend his back and that is natural when you are making a comeback from a knee injury. I just wonder whether he has been rushed back into competitive cricket early," the former Test bowler said.

Pakistan's long-serving captain Misbah said he had always believed in only fielding a player who was 100 percent match fit.

"It is never worth the risk to gamble with a bowler who is short on match practice," he added.

WI Head Coach To Quit After T20 WC Debacle



Press Trust of India

ST JOHN'S: West Indies head coach Phil Simmons will step down from his role at the end of this year, following the Caribbean side's debacle at the ongoing T20 World Cup where they failed to reach the Super 12 stage.

West Indies, the T20 World Cup's most successful team with triumphs in 2012 and 2016, crashed out of the showpiece event in the group stage, after losses to Scotland and Ireland. They beat Zimbabwe in the round-robin league but that was good enough to finish at the bottom of the four-team group.

This was the first time West Indies failed to advance further from the group stage since the inaugural tournament in South Africa in 2007.

"His last assignment will be the upcoming two-Test series against Australia from 30 No-

vember to 12 December," Cricket West Indies (CWI) said in a statement on Monday night.

Some reports in the local media said that his contract requires that he gives his employers 12 weeks' notice and hence his exit will happen in January next year.

The 59-year-old, a former West Indies all-rounder, described the side's early exit from the T20 World Cup as unfathomable.

"I acknowledge that it's not just the team that is hurting but the proud nations we represent as well. It's disappointing and heart wrenching but we just didn't turn up," Simmons said in the statement.

"We weren't good enough and we now have to watch a tournament play-out without our involvement. It's unfathomable and for that I deeply apologise to our fans and followers," said Simmons who played 26 Tests and 143 ODIs from 1987 to 1999.

T20 WORLD CUP

Stoinis Smashes 18-Ball 59 In Australia's Easy Win Over SL



Press Trust of India

PERTH: Marcus Stoinis blazed away to an unbeaten 18-ball 59 as Australia crushed Sri Lanka by seven wickets in their T20 World Cup match here on Tuesday.

Sent into bat, Sri Lanka scored 157 for six. Opener Pathum Nissanka top-scored with 40 but consumed 45 balls to score those runs.

Dhananjaya de Silva chipped in with 26 in 23 deliveries, while Charith Asalanka remained not out on a 25-ball 38, helping the islanders cross 150.

In reply, Australia completed

the task in 16.3 overs. Stoinis was undoubtedly the star of the day for Australia, hitting six sixes and four boundaries in his explosive knock. Glenn Maxwell smashed a 12-ball 23.

Despite losing fast bowler Binura Fernando to injury in the first over, Sri Lanka kept themselves in the game for a major part of Australia's chase.

Earlier, defending champions Australia produced a disciplined bowling effort for the majority of the innings before Asalanka propped up the total on a quick pitch.

The last four overs yielded

46 runs for Sri Lanka including a 20-run final over from Pat Cummins.

All the Australian frontline pacers -- Josh Hazlewood, Cummins and Mitchell Starc -- picked up a wicket each. Cummins' final over effort spoilt his overall figures, though.

Brief scores:

Sri Lanka: 157/6 in 20 overs (Pathum Nissanka 40, Charith Asalanka 38 not out; Glenn Maxwell 1/5).

Australia: 158/3 in 16.3 overs (Marcus Stoinis 59 not out; Dhananjaya de Silva 1/18).

Ronaldo Returns To Training With United Squad After Omission

Agencies



MANCHESTER: Cristiano Ronaldo returned to first-team training with Manchester United on Tuesday after being omitted from the squad ahead of the team's Premier League match at Chelsea at the weekend.

Ronaldo was disciplined for refusing to come on as a substitute in United's 2-0 win over Tottenham in the league on Wednesday. He then headed to the locker room before the final whistle of the game at Old Trafford in a show of dissent.

United manager Erik ten Hag said afterward that the Portugal striker "remains an important part of the squad" but had to be sanctioned for the sake of the culture within the team.

Ahead of Saturday's game at Chelsea, which United drew 1-1, Ronaldo did individual training with fitness coaches at the club's training ground.

Now he is back in practice with the squad ahead of the home game against Sheriff Tiraspol in the Europa League on Thursday.



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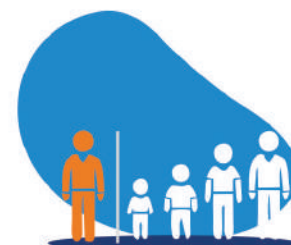
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*Based on the variant opted in your health plan

Health Prime Rider can be opted only with Bajaj Allianz Health and PA products

To know more:

Contact your nearest J&K Bank Branch

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd., Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road, Yerawada, Pune - 411006. IRDAI Reg No.: 113. | CIN: U66010PN2000PLC015329 | Health Prime (Rider) UIN: BAIHLIA22169V012122 | Health Prime Rider (Group) BAIHLGA22166V012122
 For more details, log on to: www.bajajallianz.com or call at: Sales - 1800 209 0144 / Service - 1800 209 5858 (Toll Free No.) | For more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale. | BIAZ-O-JK-0016/25-May-22

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