

J&K Bank To Sell Rs 960 Cr NPAs To Improve Balance Sheet



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Bank will put up for sale non-performing assets to the tune of Rs 960 crore, as part of its efforts to improve its balance sheet, sources in the bank said. The bank is hoping that the process of sale of these non-performing assets to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) will be completed by the end of this month, the sources said. Of the six accounts, the JK Bank has an exposure of Rs 230 crore in the now-bankrupt Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited, Rs 188 crore in Jaypee Infratech, Rs 176 crore in Jaiprakash Associates Limited

and Rs 126 crore in Coastal Energen Private Limited. Jammu and Kashmir Bank's Rs 960 crore NPAs are part of the Rs 9,234 crore bad assets of the Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) lenders that the NARCL has offered to buy at Rs 3,570 crore in the first phase. The proceeds from the sale of the NPAs, which the NARCL is doing on 15-85 basis over a period of five years, will aid Jammu and Kashmir bank's plans to raise capital for its foray into markets beyond the union territory of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir. The bank has set a goal of raising Rs 1,000 crore capital by the end of the current fiscal to fuel its expansion plans. The bank has [More on P6](#)

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK'S RS 960 CRORE NPAS ARE PART of the Rs 9,234 crore bad assets of the Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) lenders that the NARCL has offered to buy at Rs 3,570 crore in the first phase.

PM Modi Pitches For Indigenous Products

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday emphasised on promoting indigenous products and self-reliance for prosperity, and said by adopting them, one can keep the art, culture and civilization of India alive.

Addressing a gathering to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Jain saint Vijay Vallabh Surishwar via video confer-



ence, he said the message of 'swadeshi' and self-reliance is extremely relevant in the "Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal", a reference to the period till 2047, for India to become a developed country.

A commemorative postage stamp and coin dedicated to the saint was also released on Wednesday.

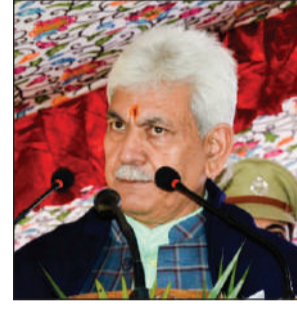
Paying tributes to the saint, Modi said when the world is experiencing the crisis of war, terror and violence and is looking for inspiration to break out of this vicious circle, ancient traditions and philosophy coupled with the power of today's India is turning out to be a big hope. He said the path shown by Surishwar and [More on P6](#)

J&K Has Set New Trends In Development: LG

'Days Of Separatism, Terrorism, Corruption And Dynastic Politics Are Over'

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Claiming that Article 370 and dynastic politics had deliberately deprived the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that the days of separatism, terrorism, corruption and dynastic politics are over and that [More on P6](#)



Inaugurates LPG Bottling Plant In Anantnag

Asserting that Jammu Kashmir is marching ahead to a glorious future with a new self-confidence, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that 100% saturation of social security and welfare schemes under the guidance [More on P6](#)

THIS IS THE NEW J&K WHICH HAS BECOME synonymous with prosperity, progress of youth and welfare of the common man. The administration no longer works for a few families but for 1 crore 30 lakh citizens of J&K. We have been successful in ensuring people's trust in the Rule of Law,"

Admin Rejects News Report On KP Families Migration

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The authorities in South Kashmir's Shopian on Wednesday rejected news report about the migration of 10 Kashmiri families from the district following a spate of civilian killings, including a community member Puran Krishan Bhat on October 18.

Rejecting the PTI news report that claimed 10 Kashmiri Pandit families have left from Chodrigund village of Shopian due to fear psychosis, an

official spokesperson said that the report is baseless and fake.

"The District Administration Shopian made it clear that proper and robust security arrangements have been put in place in the village even at other pockets of Kashmiri Non migrant Hindu habitations and villages," he said.

The spokesperson further clarified that due to the onset of winter and after the harvesting period is over, many families migrate to Jammu "And that there [More on P6](#)

BJP Leader Hopes To Raise Tricolour In PoK, Aksai Chin




Press Trust Of India


Jammu: The BJP on Wednesday celebrated "accession day" across Jammu and Kashmir, with its senior leader Ravinder Raina saying the day is not far when the tricolour will be hoisted in parts of the union territory occupied by Pakistan and China.

On October 26, 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh, the ruler of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, signed the instrument of accession on J&K.



The BJP had decided to celebrate the day as 'vilay diwas'. In Jammu, BJP leaders led by Raina, who is the party's Jammu and [More on P6](#)



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Deep Ocean Carbon Drawdown Not An Easy Climate Fix

360info

The ocean and climate are inextricably linked. More than 90 percent of the extra heat from global warming has gone into the deep blue sea, with associated climate-driven changes reducing the productivity of fisheries and threatening more than 600 million people through sea-level rise. Yet the ocean offers opportunities: it could also be a source of solutions rather than just a victim of climate change.

One possibility is increasing the ocean's uptake of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere and storing it in the deep. Doing so on a large scale would help deliver the net zero goal of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. But considerations beyond just the financial commitments of research and development, costed at US\$2.5 billion, will need to be taken into account.

Either biology or chemistry could be used to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to store it in the ocean. The most straightforward approach is a nature-based solution, restoring the natural functions and processes already provided by our environment.

Protecting marine ecosystems by ending overfishing and other conservation actions can reinstate the role of top predators in marine food webs, particularly those of the deep ocean found in depths beyond 200 metres. The resulting increase in the abundance of larger organisms, such as fish and whales would transfer organic carbon from surface waters to deeper layers through faeces and deadfall, slowing the return of that carbon to the atmosphere.

The need to end overfishing through improved ocean protection is internationally recognised by UN Sustainable Development Goal 14, and associated targets of the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) and the World Parks Congress. The main problem in using this approach for climate mitigation is that the additional carbon removed from the atmosphere on a long-term basis is likely to be relatively small. The removal also cannot be easily attributable to any single country. Whilst ocean ecosystem restoration is undoubtedly worthwhile for the many non-climatic benefits it can provide, signatories of the Paris Climate Change Agreement are required to communicate their emission reduction strategies and quantify their national contributions.

In theory, much greater CO₂ drawdown is possible if the growth of marine phytoplankton (microscopic floating algae) can be increased by ocean fertilisation, for parts of the ocean where dissolved nutrients in seawater are in short supply.

Directly adding relatively small amounts of biologically-available iron, or larger amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus, would stimulate phytoplankton blooms, converting inorganic carbon dioxide to plant biomass. Pumping up nutrient-rich water from the deep using underwater pipes, referred to as artificial upwelling,



Whether fisheries might benefit or suffer if ocean productivity is increased in this way; whether there might be other damaging side effects; for example, reducing productivity elsewhere, potentially many thousands of kilometres away (linked by ocean circulation patterns) and the uncertain rate of return of CO₂ to the atmosphere over the next 50-100 years

could also be used to achieve the same effect. These ideas were first suggested in the early 1990s, and have been investigated by patch-scale field experiments and modelling studies, however, many key issues remain unresolved.

These include: whether fisheries might benefit or suffer if ocean productivity is increased in this way; whether there might be other damaging side effects; for example, reducing productivity elsewhere, potentially many thousands of kilometres away (linked by ocean circulation patterns) and the uncertain rate of return of CO₂ to the atmosphere over the next 50-100 years.

Concerns that there might be damaging side effects resulted in a non-binding moratorium on ocean fertilisation in 2008, followed by more detailed regulation of marine geoengineering defined as "deliberate intervention in the marine environment to manipulate natural processes including to counteract anthropogenic climate change and/or its impacts, and that has the potential to result in deleterious

effects, especially where those effects may be widespread, long-lasting or severe.

Marine geoengineering is now limited to strictly-controlled research under the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, referred to as the London Convention and London Protocol (LC/LP). There are also further restrictions in the Southern Ocean, where iron additions would potentially have greatest climatic effectiveness under various agreements.

The large-scale cultivation of seaweed (macroalgae) is another biological option for ocean-based climate mitigation. Seaweed photosynthesis would remove carbon dioxide from seawater, followed by managed long-term storage of carbon fixed in its biomass. This approach would be most efficiently carried out in shallow waters, scaling-up the cultivation and harvesting procedures of existing seaweed farms, widely used for food production in China, South Korea and Japan.

Cultivation in deeper water has also been

proposed, but requires a very large area (of around 10 million square kilometre or more than 40 percent of global shelf seas) for climatically-significant carbon removal. Deliberate sinking of the harvested seaweed to the deep ocean seafloor would then provide carbon storage.

Large scale open-ocean seaweed cultivation and its sinking could have substantive climate mitigation potential, according to a modelling study, currently under review. Since the seaweed would be physically moved to the seafloor (for example, by baling-up and adding ballast), there would also be much greater management control and less uncertainty than nutrient-based ocean fertilisation.

Yet there would also be adverse environmental impacts and climatically-important feedback effects, both in the water column, as a result of seaweed cultivation, and on the seafloor, as a result of storage.

In the upper ocean, shading and nutrient competition would decrease the natural productivity of phytoplankton (reducing their own

CO₂ removal), and increase the abundance of marine calcifiers, such as molluscs and other seaweed grazers (releasing CO₂).

At the seafloor, the seaweed would directly smother other organisms living there; its decomposition would also reduce oxygen levels over larger areas, affecting many more deep-sea organisms. Although the LC/LP regulation does not cover seaweed cultivation per se, it would fall under ocean disposal by deliberately counteracting anthropogenic climate change.

Chemistry-only methods for ocean climate mitigation focus on ocean alkalinity enhancement, primarily by adding large amounts of finely-ground silicate or calcium compounds to the open ocean or coastal waters, to convert CO₂ dissolved in seawater to bicarbonate and carbonate ions.

This process could, in theory, be very effective in removing carbon from the atmosphere. However, the extra amount entering the ocean would be hard to measure reliably with naturally variable water chemistry and air-sea exchanges of CO₂. In addition, the costs, logistics, and environmental footprints of mining, industrial transformation, pulverising, and transporting minerals require careful consideration, as noted by the United States' National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM).

Adding alkaline compounds to the ocean could be beneficial for marine communities, by counteracting ocean acidification as a result of the extra CO₂ in the atmosphere and ocean, added by human activities.

But adding alkalinity would also have other effects, depending on the specific elemental compositions of the minerals used. For example, high silica would cause significant changes to phytoplankton species composition and productivity, with the strongest effects closest to where alkalinity increases are made.

The governance of ocean alkalinity enhancement is also likely to be problematic, constrained by LC/LP regulation and strongly opposed by NGOs that reject climate interventions considered to interfere with nature. Whilst mineral dissolution in the ocean is undoubtedly a natural process, there is a much wider debate on where the boundary between natural solutions to climate change (generally regarded as acceptable) and technological solutions (widely rejected) should lie. From a purely scientific perspective, the distinction is arbitrary.

The ocean does have immense potential for delivering renewable energy. Yet, the deep ocean seems likely to provide, at best, only a very limited solution to climate change through carbon removal.

Whilst some approaches can be considered low regret (or no regret) because of the wide range of benefits they are expected to provide most remain at the conceptual stage, being too risky, uncertain or contentious to include in current policy actions.

New Plastics Prepare For Takeoff

The leading contenders to replace petroleum-based plastics are bioplastics

360info

If new plastics are an industry preparing for takeoff, then they are taxiing down the runway with the accelerator at full throttle. But the wheels haven't yet left the ground: cost, production and disposal issues are preventing lift-off.

Existing petroleum-based plastics are durable, lightweight and ideal for use as food packaging but their role in climate change, waste, marine pollution and poor air quality means they need to be phased out. It's time for new plastics to take flight.

The leading contenders to replace petroleum-based plastics are bioplastics. These have a similar molecular structure and qualities but are derived from natural resources such as plant-based starches and vegetable oils, and/or will decompose when disposed of properly.

Global production of bioplastics is expected to double from around 2.4 million tonnes in 2021 to around 5.2 million tonnes in 2023. Partly driving this demand, several food industries, especially those involving single-use applications, are starting to use bioplastics. Last year, Coca-Cola announced a limited run of a 100-percent plant-based plastic bottle. Three years ago, Qantas ran an experimental zero-waste flight.

Among the most studied bioplastics are poly(lactic acid) (PLA) and polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs). Both are polymers: long chains of repeating molecular subunits. PLA is assembled, using conventional chemistry techniques, from renewable ingredients, particularly sugar and starch. It is sometimes used as a clear plastic tub for take-away salad or as a bubble-tea cup.

PHAs are a family of related polymers assembled by various bacteria (for example *Alcaligenes eutrophus* and *Ralstonia eutropha*) as energy-storage molecules. PHAs are produced by fermenting sugar or lipids with the bacteria and extracting the polymer from the cells. PHA disposable knives and forks might accompany airline meals.

Traditional plastics are not often recycled and are discarded or incinerated

with other solid waste. But PLA and PHAs are biodegradable they are broken down by microbes in the right environmental conditions. PLA is biodegradable under industrial composting conditions (at a temperature of about 58C) but may remain for up to 1,000 years in the ocean. PHAs are biodegradable in compost and also in marine environments.

With about 450,000 tonnes produced in 2021, PLA is among the largest produced biodegradable polymers in the world. But bioplastics face many challenges before they can be more widely adopted. One of these challenges is cost.

At around US\$10 per kilogram, PLA's price is still high. Increasing production efficiency and competition will likely drive prices down. Similarly, new techniques to produce PHAs more cheaply are being explored. One research direction is to produce PHAs using inexpensive carbon feedstocks such as crude glycerol, a byproduct of biodiesel.

Another challenge is growing the feedstock sustainably. Agricultural activities associated with the production of PLA emit greenhouse gases, cause water pollution and occupy arable land.

One way to make PLA production more environmentally friendly is by optimising the conversion process of PLA. One study showed the conversion of the source material to lactic acid releases more than 50 percent of the carbon dioxide from the entire process. This step is a prime target for optimisation ideas.

Other challenges hindering wider adoption include lack of adequate labelling or composting for bioplastics, and concern over contamination of recycling systems. PLA's melting point is lower than for other plastics, so dedicated recycling plants are required to process it.

Global demand for bioplastics is expected to increase as pressure grows to phase out petroleum-derived plastics, so PLA and PHAs will become more widespread. But the obstacles to their sustainable production and disposal will need to be overcome before they truly take to the skies.

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'No Absolute Right Of burial To The Exclusion Of Others'

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant decision, a local court here has held there is no absolute right of burial to the exclusion of others in a graveyard which is recorded to be in possession of Ahl-i-Islam in revenue records.

The Court of Munsiff/Sub Registrar Srinagar presided by Touseef Ahmad Magray held this while disposing off a 13-year old case filed in 2009 wherein the parties were at dispute with regard to rights of burial of their dead in graveyard situated at Gasoo, Hazratbal in Srinagar.

The plaintiffs, residents of Gasso, had alleged that they had absolute right of burial in the graveyard to the exclusion of other side (defendants) who were residents of Village Homehair, Srinagar.

The Court after hearing both the sides and quoting from various works of scholars of Muslim Law and judgments of Supreme Court and High Courts held that "Under the Mahomedan Law, graveyard may be of two kinds; a family or private graveyard and a public graveyard. A graveyard is a private one which is confined only to the burial of corpses of the founder, his relations or his descendants."

"In such a burial ground, no person who does not belong to the family of the founder is

permitted to bury the dead. On the other hand, if any member of the public is permitted to be buried in a graveyard and this practice grows, so that it is proved by instances, adequate in character, number and extent, then the presumption will be that the dedication is complete and the graveyard has become a public graveyard where Mahomedan public will have the right to bury their dead. It is also well settled that a conclusive proof of the public graveyard is the description of the burial ground in the revenue records as a public graveyard," the court observed.

While giving the judgment, the Court held that since the graveyard at Gasoo in question is under the possession of Ahl-i-Islam which would mean that the followers of Islam have a right to bury their dead in it and already dead of different localities are buried in it, the graveyard in question is a public graveyard.

"The plaintiffs have failed to show that they have exclusive right of burial over this graveyard to the exclusion of others and it is a private one," the court observed.

By this judgment a 13-year old dispute was closed which had led to various instances of agitation between the both sides at the time of burial of their dead in the said graveyard," the court observed. (KNS)

Vlogger From City Outskirts Uses Social Media To Promote Kashmir

Agencies

Srinagar: A 24-year-old Yawar Wani is using the power of social media to promote Kashmir's scenic beauty.

Hailing from Mujgund in Srinagar outskirts is taking the internet by storm through his vlogs, as people across the world watch videos on YouTube and other social media platforms.

Yawar said that he started his journey by making random vlogs last year but within a short time his subscribers have crossed 100k.

Wani said that his friends and relatives used to troll him for being a vlogger as they thought that uploading videos on YouTube is not any sort of profession but an act of weirdness. "There was a stage



when I thought of giving up but my inner conscience never allowed me to do so", he added.

But, according to him, his parents supported him in his journey.

"Our youth have immense talent, they shouldn't lose hope. Nothing can stop you from achieving what you have wished for and keep struggling and shining," Wani said. (KNO)

There was a stage when I thought of giving up but my inner conscience never allowed me to do so

Canine Terror Looms Large In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: People from several areas of Srinagar city say that the dog population has increased tremendously in the areas including Habba kadal, Fathe kadal, Baba demb, khanyar, Jamalatta and Rahbab Sahab areas.

"This is a major problem for all of us. Stray dogs bite people, chase them when they go to prayers early in the morning, and scare away children," said a local.

Mohammad Iqbal, a local resident of Khanyar Gousia hospital, said that not only locals but also attendants are facing the problems from the last couple of months.

"Due to the presence of dustbins and garbage outside the hospital, there is always a risk of be-

coming the target of the dogs. The dog fear has become a problem for everyone in the area," he said.

Another resident, Gousia Nabi from Habba kadal area said children are unable to go outside alone as they easily become prey of stray dogs.

She said due to absence of waste management has led to the growing population of dogs in the area. "Even sweepers do not clean the roads, lanes regularly and heaps of garbage have become a source of food for the dogs," Gousia added.

Earlier, Dr Tawheed Ahmed Veterinary Officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Said that We have to abide by the Law, so we cannot kill stray dogs.

To reduce the dog population,

we have been carrying out the dog sterilization programme for the last many years.

The sterilization of dogs is being done at Shuhama Sterilization centre and around five to six surgeries are being performed daily on a daily basis.

Another dog sterilization centre is being made operational at Tengpora Bypass and work is nearing completion.

Around 60 kennels are being constructed. The work will be completed in around two weeks. Once the centre is made operational, we will be able to perform more sterilizations. Once the dog sterilization programme is done for the next six to seven years, the dog populace will stabilize.



A mother with her daughter at Shalimar garden under the warm October Sun. KO Photo Saima Shakeel

Condolences Continue To Pour In For Maulana Abbas

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The death of Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari is being widely condoled with people from all walks of life making a beeline to late leader's residence in downtown Srinagar. They include politicians, members of civil society groups, educational institutions and religious bodies.

National Conference President and Member Parliament Dr. Farooq Abdullah visited Khankah-e-Sokhta residence of late Moulvi Abbas and condoled his death.

Dr. Farooq said, "All his life, Moulvi sahib remained deeply engaged with the issues deeply rooted in religious and cultural pluralism of J&K. His great efforts to bridge the sectarian divisions will be remembered for all the times to come. I pay my tributes to him and pray to Almighty Allah and for peace to his departed soul in the highest realms of Jannat. My heart goes out to the bereaved family at this difficult time."

National Conference lead-



ers Aga Rohullah, Nasir Aslam Wani, Tanvir Sadiq and Aga Mehmood also visited the late leader's residence.

Awami Action Committee organized a condolence meet to pay tributes to Moulvi Abbas Ansari.

Awami Action Committee (AAC) has expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of a well-known religious scholar and founder of the Ittehadul Muslimeen Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari who passed away on Tuesday.

AAC organised a condolence meeting and paid glowing trib-

ute to the senior religious leader Moulana Abbas Ansari for his invaluable religious, political and social and services.

AAC has described Maulana Abbas Ansari as a far-sighted, intelligent and moderate leader.

All J&K Shia Association President, Molvi Imran Reza Ansari condoled the demise of Maulana Abbas said, "He was an all-encompassing Islamic scholar and an accomplished expert literary figure. He spent his life in the service of the high teachings of the Qur'an and the Ahl al-Bayt (AS)."

"I offer my profound condolences on the painful loss to the Ansari family of Nawakadal, especially his son Molvi Masrur Ansari, as well as to all the friends and admirers of the late scholar, and we ask mercy to Allah SWT for his forgiveness." Ansari in a statement said.

Maulana Ghulam Rasool Hami, Apni Party leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir, representatives of scores of Shrines and religious and social bodies were among those who visited the late leader's residence on Wednesday.

Ayatollah Khamenei's Office Sends Condolence

We are deeply saddened by the demise of a great religious scholar and multi-dimensional personality of Kashmir Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari, a statement by Hujatul Islam Mahdi Mahdaviipur,

representative Ayatullah Syed Ali Khamenei in India said on Tuesday.

"Late leader has rendered unparalleled services to improve the lot of his people and brighten the future of thousands of youth by providing them with countless

opportunities of learning and education", he said adding "Night and day he stood by his nation in trial and tribulations".

Agha Mahdaviipur prayed for the departed soul and extended condolences to the people of Kashmir.

SAD DEMISE



We inform you the sad demise of Fareeda Bano wife of showkat Ahmad Mir who died on 25/10/2022. His fateh Khawani will be held on 28/10/2022 at here residence Sarai Dangerpora

BEREAVED FAMILY
ZAHID FIRDOUS
Cell: 8899010549

- 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


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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR

1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:22
ZUHR	12:15
ASR	4:06
Magrib	5:47
ISHA	7:08

This Day In History

- 1627 - English assault on French Ile de Ré
- 1644 - Second Battle of Newbury: King Charles I beats parliamentary armies
- 1702 - British troops plunder St Augustine, Florida
- 1795 - Pinckney's Treaty [Treaty of San Lorenzo] signed by Spain and US, establishing the southern boundary of the US and giving Americans right to navigate the Mississippi River
- 1806 - The French Army enters in Berlin
- 1810 - United States annexes West Florida from Spain
- 1916 - Battle of Segale: Negus Mikael, marching on the Ethiopian capital in support of his son Emperor Iyasus V, is defeated by Fitawrari abte Giyorgis, securing the throne for Empress Zauditu.
- 1922 - In Italy, Liberal Luigi Facta resigns in the face of threats from Mussolini that 'either the Government will be given to us or we will seize it by marching on Rome'
- 1924 - The Uzbek SSR is founded in the Soviet Union
- 1941 - Nazi's directs gypsy ghetto in Belgrade
- 1942 - 5th day of battle at El Alamein: heavy battles/Australian advance
- 1948 - Israel recaptures Nizzanim in Negev
- 1954 - President Eisenhower offers aid to South Vietnam Prime Minister Ngô inh Diem
- 1957 - Celal Bayar re-elected president of Turkey
- 1958 - General Ayub Khan succeeds Iskander Mirza as President of Pakistan
- 1959 - Rare Pacific hurricane kills 2,000 in Western Mexico
- 1961 - 1st Saturn launch vehicle makes an unmanned flight test
- 1962 -Black Saturday - Russian nuclear missile crisis in Cuba
- 1966 - UN deprives South Africa of Namibia
- 1969 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to John Tinbergen
- 1971 - Republic of Congo-Kinshasa becomes Republic of Zaire
- 1972 - OPEC approves plan providing for 25 percent government ownership of all Western oil interests operating within Kuwait, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia

From KO Archives

Kashmiri Men Snapped To Identify Militants!

AGENCIES

Srinagar: Indian army soldiers have been photographing male civilians in some parts of Kashmir to help them identify militants, residents said Thursday.

In dozens of villages across Kashmir, army soldiers over the past few months have been conducting house-to-house surveys and photographing male members of every family.

"One, copy of the photograph is retained by the army, while the other is given to the family for proper preservation," said Altaf Ahmed of Sanoor Kalipora in central Kashmir district of Budgam.

"Each family is asked to pay Rs 15 for the photographs." Besides taking photographs, the soldiers record the men's names and professions. "Such an exercise helps in segregating militants from civilians," said an army officer, requesting anonymity.

"We conduct sudden and random raids on houses and if anyone else other than those photographed by us is present in the house he is questioned to establish his identity."

"The exercise is yielding guests at the nearest army good results," he said, and camp claimed it was more effective in Kashmir's borders areas adjoining Pakistan.

Locals, however, criticize the army for allegedly harassing them and arresting visiting relatives.

"Last week one of my cousins visited us from Srinagar and he was arrested as a suspected militant. Even nomadic shepherds, who move into mountains with their herds during summer, were photographed, locals said.

(Kashmir Observer, October 27, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

India-China Ties

The outgoing Chinese ambassador Sun Weidong in his farewell speech on Tuesday talked about 'broad prospects' in ties between India and China. He, however, added that both countries should refrain from interfering in the internal matters of the other while acknowledging that it was natural for the neighbours to have differences. "The key is how to handle the differences," he stressed adding their common interests were greater than the differences. The two years of Weidong's tenure witnessed a drawn border stand-off between the two countries in Eastern Ladakh. And interestingly his conciliatory noises follow the recent disengagement from the Gogra-Hotsprings border area in Ladakh after the Asian giants reached a consensus in the 16th round of the India-China Corps Commander-level meeting. The disengagement took place in a "coordinated and planned" manner and was meant to maintain peace at the frontier.

The two countries have been engaged in a bitter eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation ever since the Chinese army staged incursions across the Line of Actual Control in multiple areas in April-May 2020. The situation came to a head when 20 Indian soldiers lost their lives during a scuffle along the border. Since then multiple Corps Commander-level talks and a few meetings between the foreign ministers of the two nations yielded little result.

However, before the pullback at Gogra-Hotsprings, the two countries last year withdrew their troops from the south bank of Pangong lake area in eastern Ladakh following their agreement for "synchronised and organised disengagement". But there are still friction points left - Galwan Valley and Depsang. Up until now, they have proved difficult to sort out. But there is hope that like at Pangong and Gogra so far, the two countries will find a diplomatic solution to all the stand-off points, sooner than later.

And this is good for the region as this will bring the Asian giants closer to each other, a need of the hour in the evolving geopolitics. The world is becoming more and more multilateral as the US-led western dominance is showing signs of ebbing with each passing year. The US has staked everything in the ongoing Ukraine war to prolong its unipolar moment in history. And in this geopolitical flux, India has maintained an independent foreign policy. Rather than join the western camp, India has sought to play a mediatory role in resolving the Ukraine crisis. It has pursued its global policies while keeping its core interests in mind and steering clear of joining any geopolitical camp. This creates space for a viable India-China relationship. The two countries get along despite their differences as Weidong rightly said.

OTHER OPINION

What Pakistan's removal from FATF grey list signifies

The decision by the Financial Action Task Force to take Pakistan off its "grey list" shows both the possibilities and limitations of this international body. The FATF's mandate is to check global money laundering and prevent the misuse of international financial channels and instruments for terrorism and criminal activities. Pakistan, where the proliferation of terror groups and charities and non-government organisations fronting for these groups is well known, has been a prime candidate for increased monitoring by FATF through the last two decades. From around 1998, the US began deploying two international mechanisms in its fight against terror. FATF was one, while the other was the system of designation of terrorists in a global list under the UN Security Council resolution that also required states to implement sanctions against them. The UNSC designations embarrassed states hosting these entities/individuals, but did not put enough heat on them to comply with the requirements.

The FATF, on the other hand, was more effective on the ground. The tightening of banking regulations to comply with FATF monitoring requirements affected every Pakistani with a bank account, and extended the liability for the state's dalliance with terrorist groups to its citizenry. Though the FATF does not sanction states, being placed on its grey list is not just shaming but also has other real consequences, such as impacting a government's access to international finances, including assistance from multilateral agencies and from private lenders. Pakistan could duck compliance only at the risk of economic pain, and the possibility, though remote, of being put on a "black list". It put off the conviction of LeT boss Hafiz Saeed, and the jailing of Sajid Mir, but understood that it had to finally go through with both actions to get off the grey list.

The FATF cast of 39 members bring to the table their geopolitical predilections, friendships and rivalries. Clearly, the chief influencers in the body, including the US, and friends of Pakistan such as China, have concluded that the grey listing of Pakistan has run its course. While four years on the so-called grey list have forced Pakistan to scale down cross-border terror, the freedom of JeM chief Masood Azhar shows that its security establishment is yet to pull the plug definitively on terror as a means of inflicting harm on India. Delhi has sought to flag this through proposals at the UNSC for the designation of the LeT's Abdul Rehman Makki and more recently, of Saeed's son Talha Saeed, and LeT deputy head Shahid Mehmood. India's interests lies in playing the long game in these diplomatic battles with the goal of making the region more stable and secure.

Indian Express



A man feeds the doves at the Imam Ali Shrine in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan, 29 October 2019 (Photo: UNAMA/Flickr)

Why I am Pessimistic About Peace in Afghanistan

Dr. Naseer Ahmad Bhat

The pessimism comes from the fact that all the analysis comes from the people who live outside Afghanistan. The youth of Afghanistan who could have been game changers for its growth story have fled from the region to the western countries and even to India. India has good investments in Afghanistan and has stakes in peace in the region

Pace in Afghanistan is a huge ask. The statement is loaded with pessimism and the reasons I will be jotting down in the following paragraphs.

Ever since the takeover of Taliban on August 15, 2021, the challenges in the country have been manifold. The US invasion of the country in fact united the militias in Afghanistan against a single force (USA, the enemy) but after August 15, the country has opened up too many challenges both internal as well as external.

Firstly, the huge internal challenge is the lack of direction for the Taliban. The philosophical boundaries of the sharia law which they want to implement is in their minds an 'ideal construct'. In other words, they don't have any practical model to emulate. Plus, there is lot of disagreement among various scholars of the Islam about the implementation & form of political Islam. Likes of Ghamdi doesn't even consider the implementation of Islam at State level as obligation as vehemently supported by Abul A'la Maududi & Dr Israr Ahmad. It is the same issue that ISKP is locking horns with the Taliban. The claim is that the Taliban is moderate and is lenient on implementing sharia law. IS view about Sharia is even more harsher and extreme.

Women groups in Afghanistan have been demanding a certain share of rights in the new 'caretaker government'. The demand for education rights by women and for lessening the arsh implementation of hijab are two issues where we have seen scattered protests by women groups against militias of Taliban. We have seen two kinds of protests against the imposition gang. What we get from current protests in Iran, Afghanistan and India is that impositions are vehemently opposed by every community & religion. What hijab protests in Iran and India have shown us is that the problem is not with the traditional religious practices but that 'individuals defy all cataloging'. Whether it be Islamic

regime of Iran which is dictating terms to Iranian women or Hindutva ideologues issuing fatwas against the girls with hijab—although two extremes—both are categories of imposition.

The Taliban caretaker government hasn't taken other minorities along. Be it Hazaras, modernists, Tajiks or even Sikhs in Afghanistan. It is a Pashtun Government consisting of only those fighters who have been part of jihad against the foreign occupation. Ashley Jackson in his USIP paper shows that during the war against the United States of America, Taliban had two objectives—US withdrawal and imposition of Shariah. They have achieved the first one but the second one is more tedious and difficult one to achieve.

Let us now move on to the external factors which might deter the peace equation in Afghanistan. Peace in Afghanistan is always linked with relations with Pakistan. Pakistan we know can't survive without the blessings of America. Its army requires the goodwill of America. The recent killing of Aiman Al Zawahiri shows that Pakistan is playing foul with the Afghan Taliban. The removal of the Imran Government had US imprints throughout. Pakistan getting closer with the USA means more drone strikes in Afghanistan. This is definitely going to ire the Afghan Taliban and hence the peace equation. After the US withdrawal the most important player in Afghanistan is going to be China. China has huge stakes in Afghanistan, particularly in the context of huge mineral wealth. The country has 16 trillion cubic feet of gas, 1.4 million tons of rare earths, 2.2 billion tons of iron ore and 1.6 trillion barrels of crude oil reserves. This is a humongous amount of wealth in which both the Taliban and China have the stakes.

Taliban since its inception has had good ties with China. It has key stakes in Afghanistan but China wants a 'moderate Taliban' around to work with. China didn't even condemn the fall of Kabul but

instead argued that, "we respect the will of the people of Afghanistan". Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Ye has had meetings with Taliban leadership even before the fall of Kabul.

China faces threats from three extremist groups— Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), Baluch Liberation Army (BLA) and East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM). Recently, a deadly suicide attack was carried out on Chinese nationals in Karachi. Similarly, ISKP has also claimed Chinese as infidels. In 2014, Abu Bakr Al Bagdadi even vowed to liberate Xinjiang from China. In 2017, Islamic State showed through a video that they are giving training to Uyghur fighters in Iraq.

The above arguments highlight various threats to peace in Afghanistan and why its people are the main sufferers. The pessimism comes from the fact that all the analysis comes from the people who live outside Afghanistan. The youth of Afghanistan who could have been game changers for its growth story have fled from the region to the western countries and even to India. India has good investments in Afghanistan and has stakes in peace in the region. But with the Taliban at helm of affairs, India has been reluctant to engage with them. It is only after serious deliberations and strategic caution that India engaged with Taliban leaders. But given the high stakes of China and interventions of Pakistan, India will be at the periphery when it comes to Afghanistan. One thing India can do is to invest in the young people of Afghanistan and engage its population directly through soft-power in addition to the links with the Taliban. But it is quite a long term vision and the favorable end result is also not guaranteed.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is Lecturer Degree College, Baramullah*



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Series on Environmental Issues

Raja Muzaffar Bhat's article this week is a welcome intervention in environmental advocacy — one that he has

been championing over the years. I request KO to start a series on Environmental issues where former officials and current officials from

government environmental departments will also suggest measures to strengthen Environmental norms. Other stakeholders like environmen-

tal activists may also be called upon in this series.

Badrul Duja

INCOMING WINTER WONDERLAND?

Sama Zehra

Jehangir's "Firdaus" and "Behisht" of all poets and philosophers, blanketed in a thick layer of snow, illuminating the brightest colors of nature is undoubtedly, a sight for sore eyes. Starting the day with the delicious Kashmiri delicacy "Harisa", warming yourself up using "Kangris" or the "Hamam", and listening to the melody of nature while spending time with your loved ones, is a sugarcoated glance of Winters in Kashmir.

The reality is, that the envelope of snow, other than beauty brings with it an unwelcomed state of misery, and struggle for Kashmiris, one short glimpse of which was recently shared with us via different social media platforms. Two pregnant women, in different cities of Kashmir, were carried on cot for several Km's to the neighboring hospitals, one of them delivered a baby midway. Locals asserted that the lax attitude of the administration towards de-icing of roads is the cause of the problem.

De-icing of roads has never been given the required importance. For almost half of the winter, the roads remain blocked, the Srinagar-Jammu highway remains closed for vehicular traffic, therefore, bringing the lives of people to a standstill. The poor and inefficient drainage system has added fuel to the fire. A few inches of snow leads to waterlogging in all of the major roadways of Srinagar, water from drains overflows into the roads, therefore, turning them into a "cesspool". People have made innumerable requests and protests to the administration, demanding a modern drainage system, however, the current administration as well as all the preceding governments turned a blind eye towards the issue. In 2019, a senior official at SMC stated that the carrying capacity of drains has decreased considerably due to the silt accumulation during the 2014 floods. He further stated that tenders were issued in this regard however, SMC received no proper response.

Draining out of clogged water from roadways comes with collateral damage i.e., "damaging of roads". A few inches of snow or rain drastically damages the roads and the government dubiously argues that the "macadam" used is incapable of withstanding elements of rain or snow. Thereby, contradicting their boastful statements about the "excellent quality" of



WITH TIME, IT SEEMS LIKE THE IDEA OF WINTERS BEING A "season of merry and blessings" will only remain constricted to poets and philosophers. The onset of winters cannot be celebrated until and unless the grievances and concerns of people are heard

material used in the construction of roads.

The subzero temperature of Kashmir accompanied by unprecedented power cuts, continuous blackouts, shortage of essentials and traffic snarls is not a favorable combination. The issue of power cuts is one of the longest unsolved crises of the valley. Despite having the potential to produce 20,000 megawatts of hydropower, currently, the state only produces 3,263 MW, of which 2900 MW is generated by the NHPC (National Hydro Power Corporation). Merely 13% of the power generated by the NHPC is shared with Kashmir, and the power requirements of the state are met by purchasing electricity at sky-high rates from the northern grid of India. Nonetheless, Kashmiris are left with less than 9hrs of electricity per day.

Even though everyone in Kashmir is affected by the same difficulties, the upper class still manages to keep a safe distance from them. Poverty fuels the hardships faced by people, some struggles in winters are poor-centric and "Government initiatives", are not strong enough to prevent the harsh weather from reaching the poor families. Winters highlight the abyss of gulf between different classes, an exorbitant difference of perspectives between various social groups becomes evident. While an elite enjoys the chilly weather, the poor living on boulevards of Dal Lake struggles due to waterlogging and freezing temperatures. When forecasts predict harsh weather, people begin stocking up essentials ahead of time. But, if resources are scarce, the option of hoarding is not available

to people. Furthermore, the snowfall extensively damages the apple orchards, uproots and damages trees as a result, jeopardizing the livelihood of people living in the outskirts of Kashmir. Last year, untimely snowfall led to extensive damaging of apple orchards, the government decided to compensate however, many haven't still received any reimbursement. The government fixed a modest compensation rate of Rs. 2800 per Kanal, and surprisingly, failed to pay it.

In the olden times, winters were welcomed and celebrated by people. However, since the '90s, winters have marked the inception of a loop of miseries and struggle for the Kashmiri people. The arrival of winters is no more marked by the foliage of autumn leaves instead, it has been replaced by frequent power outages. Day in and out, the valley plunges into blackouts and residents are forced to endure long, harsh winter days without electricity. The government usually flaunts about the developments in Kashmir or about the construction of roads, however, on the realistic ground, nothing really has changed. A drizzle of rain makes Kashmir vulnerable to floods, snowfall disrupts normal life, causes fatalities, accidents and whatnot. The unpreparedness of government, their lackadaisical attitude towards miseries of people worsens the already harsh condition faced by people. Kashmiris still live in a time where developments are rare, connections are scarce and facilities uncommon.

With time, it seems like the idea of Winters being a "season of merry and blessings" will only remain constricted to poets and philosophers. The onset of winters cannot be celebrated until and unless the grievances and concerns of people are heard. Truly, Winter is a season of blessings, a season that displays the true beauty of nature and has a magical effect of resurrecting our dead spirits. In the words of Agha Shahid Ali,

"Snow gleams as if a lover's gaze has fallen to earth. How the season whiten! Even the evergreens are peppered with salt, and only love can take the place of the mountain".

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

The author can be reached at sama.zehra20@nlu.edu.ac.in

Through Kindness We Prevail



The measure of a good life is local; true satisfaction emerges most vividly in our immediate surroundings where we see the effects of helpful actions day by day. If we are able to live somewhere for a while, contributing to the lives of others leads to the slow accrual of respect and loyalty

Wendy Lustbader

Our immediate sphere—that's where our power is. As insignificant as we might feel within the larger realms of a society or a country, there is a circle of influence radiating out from our individual conduct. This is where the impact of decency flourishes and abides.

A friend used to walk the streets of her neighbourhood every week wearing rubber gloves and dragging along a large black plastic bag, picking up beer cans, cigarette stubs, candy wrappers, and all manner of detritus. For two miles in either direction from her house, the roadside was immaculate. She also made a practice of dropping in on sick, lonely, or grieving people in her vicinity, bringing baked treats and good cheer. When she died, the enormous church in her town was filled to overflowing. The tributes went on and on, so widely had her generosity of spirit inspired those who knew her.

The measure of a good life is local; true satisfaction emerges most vividly in our immediate surroundings where we see the effects of helpful actions day by day. If we are able to live somewhere for a while, contributing to the lives of others leads to the slow accrual of respect and loyalty. Over time, we gradually become wealthy in relationships. A neighbour never forgets how you picked up their groceries or mowed their lawn during an illness. The more we seize upon opportunities to be kind and act generously, the more we can count on the



kindness of others.

In these divisive times, it may be tempting to give up on the cumulative reciprocity we call community. The thousands of humble, person-to-person exchanges that add up to a sense of belonging can seem flimsy and insubstantial, not enough to build a life around. One person's actions don't make much of a difference, anyway. Such a stance absolves us from having to get involved, take responsibility, or even practice respectful restraint. Pulling inward, retreating into a "me first" pessimism, is seductive in its temporary convenience.

Self-absorption leads to a circle of insecurity based upon a dismal view of others. Everyone's in it for themselves, so I'd better look out for myself and take what I can get. Those caught in this point of view are often suspicious of help when it is offered. With a self-fulfilling expectation of betrayal and bitterness, they tend to shun an extended hand and thus rarely get to learn what goodness looks like firsthand.

A preponderance of decency is the only answer. I'm not saying this to be glib or to dismiss the weight of hardship that produces this rejection of hope. But I am staking a claim for the power of kindness, even in the midst of the deepest despair. In blighted urban areas of the US, for instance, many have turned abandoned lots into community gardens with the labour of their hands. At the end of each summer's growing season, some of these gardeners have set up give-away tables

where extra lettuce, tomatoes, squash, and other vegetables are put out there for the taking. The hand-lettered sign says 'free'. It's hard to insist on bitterness when such giving asks for nothing in return.

Inspiration lingers and grows. One morning years ago I drove past a traffic circle a few blocks from where I lived, going out to run a few errands. There a woman was energetically pulling out weeds and digging out the rocky soil to replace it with the bags of healthy topsoil she had stacked beside her. It was tough work, and she was going at it with unmistakable zeal. When I drove past there a few hours later, she was planting small flowering bushes around the edge of the circle. It was beautiful. I honked my horn, signalling my gratitude, and she waved. Immediately, we were both beaming. I did end up moving away from there and two decades have passed, but I haven't forgotten her diligence or the exchange of our smiles.

Let's use our power. The people who are sewing double-thick masks with good quilting cloth and giving them away, the ones who are bringing bags of treats and useful items for nursing home staff to take home with them after exhausting shifts, those who start making a better world by doing what they can to improve their neighborhood—these are our current exemplars. Kindness is never wasted. You never know whose life changes as a result of having this glimpse of something so beautiful. This is how we prevail.

—Psychology Today

Housing Apathy

Riyaz Kazmi

On that day, in a dicey weather, dark gloom descended over the horizon. It was a sad and startling news to hear that a promising youngster had died by suicide. It had sent shivers down our spine. There was confusion and cacophony. Most people were perpetuating narratives of vilification. We can rarely find the people who have impeccable character. Everyone has a dark side.

In this grievous and gruesome incident, it came to the fore that the deceased person was mulish to marry a divorced woman which was not approved by his defiant family as they thought it was just a passing whim! Adil (name changed) didn't toe his line. The rumours couldn't be scotched. Meanwhile, gadflies also nosed around and spewed their venom. It was mendacious and hurtful.

Alas, he could no longer grin and bear it. He was depressed and left everyone as well as the interminable pain.

It was a heart piercing tragedy which will always haunt us as a dreadful memory. The discussions divulged many bitter realities which clearly show how we as society have become enablers of such tragedies. It is as though we derive sadistic pleasure from pushing the vulnerable and meek people against the wall. Slowly and sadly, desperation and indignity becomes too much for them to bear.

In Kashmir, there is an alarming increase in mental illnesses which has its roots in the onset of insurgency in 1989. A large number of people suffer from depression, mood swings, mental revulsions and other severe ailments. The fallout of these problems have given rise to drug abuse, alcohol addiction, chain-smoking, rash driving, gang fights and impetuous behavior among the youngsters.

It is high time for us to look deeper into the pitfalls which have entrapped us in this vexing situation. We have to parse the severity of the situation keenly and consciously to intend and act now before we are left with only shame and shock. We have become so apathetic about the pain of others that we dilly dally in gossiping, gas lighting, back stabbing, bad mouthing about others. We have lost that human touch a long time ago. We leave no chance to slate and stultify others. We are hardly moved by emotions anymore. When someone is falling apart we ensure that we pull them down further.

In Kashmir, when more than 1.6 million

adults are suffering through depression as per 2015 survey figures, it's high time for us to look at the grave situation and introspect. Instead of hurling invectives and addressing them by demeaning nicknames, we should be kind enough towards our fellow human beings who are going through traumatic experiences. We should do our bit to get them out of this mental distress and "disgrace" (as we have labelled it).

We connive without a scruple of shame to vaunt our superiority. We are complacent and always keen on catching others on a wrong foot. It might seem innocuous to take a dig at others or look trivial but our fatuous remarks leave a long lasting negative impact over those who we target. We piddle around and are fond of pestering others and have become vicious and venomous to the extent that we turn a blind eye to our own faults.

Everyone is going through different trials and tests. By our arrogant and apathetic attitude, we actually afflict more hardships and bound our targets. When we indulge in the claptrap of ignorance and indifference, we make it very hard for them to live a peaceful life. It is unsettling and enervating for them. They get caught in the precarious life crises.

We have already lost too much to the ongoing conflict. Connect the dots and do your bit before it is too late.

Life is not always hunky dory. Everyone has their share of struggles and sufferings. Everyone navigates through challenges and criticism. Some have succeeded while others are stumbling. We should not stultify those who have fallen. What are we going to get by exacerbating and trashing people? In reality, doesn't that speak volumes about us?

We can either choose to be supportive or sarcastic, bitter or better. We have seen enough of vice and violence. In the disguise of humans, let's not be the spawn of the devil. We can notch up the victory over the mental crises by feeling the pain of our fellow beings. Live and let others also live peaceful. Be loving and caring to others - it's not just the medicines but also our beautiful manners and memories which have power and positive impact upon those who are going through mental anguish and anxieties. Let's do our part by helping and healing others - by our acts of kindness, love and laughter.

The author can be reached at Riyazahm72@gmail.com

Peace And Tranquillity In Border Essential: Jaishankar To Chinese Envoy



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Peace and tranquillity in the border areas are essential for normal ties between India and China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar conveyed to outgoing Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong on Wednesday.

Jaishankar made the remarks when the envoy called on him. India and China are locked in a lingering border standoff in eastern Ladakh for over 29 months. The bilateral relationship came under severe strain following the deadly clash in Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh in June, 2020.

"Received Ambassador Sun Weidong of China for a farewell call. Emphasized that the development of India-China relations is guided by the 3 Mutually. Peace and tranquillity in the border areas is essential," the external affairs minister tweeted.

"The normalization of India-China relations is in the interest of both countries, of Asia and the world at large," he said.

India has been asserting

that the Sino-India ties must be based on three mutuals: mutual sensitivity, mutual respect and mutual interest.

In his farewell remarks at an event on Tuesday, Sun said 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.

Last month, the Indian and Chinese militaries carried out disengagement from the Patrolling Point 15 in the Gogra-Hotsprings area last month.

However, there has been no progress yet on resolving the standoff in the Demchok and Depsang regions.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC were key for the overall development of the bilateral ties.

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

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

Heat-related deaths up by 68 pc between 2000-04 and 2017-21: Lancet Report

Press Trust of India

London: Heat-related deaths increased by 68 per cent between 2000-2004 and 2017-2021, while vulnerable populations -- the elderly and children less than a year old -- were exposed to 3.7 billion more heatwave days in 2021 than annually in 1986-2005, according to a global report.

The report, brought out by Lancet Countdown, focuses on the health effects of climate change amid the health, social and economic aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic, global energy and cost-of-living crises brought about by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and a persistent overdependence on fossil fuels.

While floods in Australia, Brazil, China, Malaysia, Pakistan and other countries have caused thousands of deaths, displaced hundreds of thousands of people and caused billions of dollars in economic losses, wildfires have caused devastation in countries like Greece, Algeria, Italy, Spain and record temperatures have been recorded in many countries, according to the report.

According to the report, extreme weather events caused damage worth USD 253 billion in 2021, particularly burdening people in low human development index (HDI) countries in which almost none of the losses were insured.



Food security was affected by climate change because higher temperatures threatened crop yields directly with the growth seasons of maize on average nine days shorter in 2020 and the growth seasons of winter wheat and spring wheat six days shorter than for 1981-2010 globally, it said.

Health systems are the first line of defence in an atmosphere where health impacts due to climate change worsen and compound other co-existing crises. However, just as the need for health care rises, health systems are being debilitated by the effects of the pandemic and cost-of-living crises.

Urgent action is, therefore, needed to strengthen health system resilience to prevent a rapidly escalating loss of lives and to prevent suffering in a changing climate.

In 2022, while marking the 30th anniversary of the signing of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), countries agreed to prevent dangerous anthropogenic climate change and its

deleterious effects on human health and welfare.

However, according to the Lancet report, this has been followed up with little meaningful action.

Fossil fuel dependence not only undermines global health through increased climate change impacts, but also affects human health and wellbeing directly, through volatile and unpredictable fossil fuel markets, frail supply chains and geopolitical conflicts, it said.

In low HDI countries, only 1.4 per cent of their electricity came from modern renewables, that is, wind and solar power in 2020. An estimated 59 per cent of healthcare facilities in low and middle income countries still do not have access to reliable electricity needed to provide basic care.

On the other hand, oil and gas companies, the report said, are registering record profits, even as their production strategies continue to undermine people's lives and wellbeing.

The world's largest oil and gas companies, as of February 2022, have been understood to exceed their share of emissions consistent with 1.5 degrees Celsius of global heating by 37 per cent in 2030 and 103 per cent in 2040, continuing to undermine decarbonisation efforts, it said.

Making things even worse, governments continue to incentivise fossil fuel production and consumption, the report said.

India to expand NaVIC, make signals more secure: ISRO chief

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: India plans to expand its regional satellite navigation system NaVIC in a bid to increase its use in the civilian sector and also by ships and aircraft travelling far from the country's borders. The Navigation with Indian Constellation (NaVIC) uses seven satellites to provide real-time positioning and timing services in India and an area extending upto 1,500 km from the country's borders.

However, several satellites of the constellation have outlived their lives and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) now plans to replace at least five of these with the improved L-Band, which would enable it to offer better global positioning services to the public.

"We have five more satellites in production, they have to be launched periodically to replace the defunct satellites. The new satellites will have L-1, L-5 and S Band," ISRO Chairman Somanath told PTI in an interview here.

Somanath was speaking on the sidelines of the India Space Congress organised by the SatCom Industry Association.

He said the NaVIC system was not in a "full-fledged operational regime" as some of its seven satellites have failed.

Somanath said the space agency has also approached the government for permission to launch an additional 12 satellites in the Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) to expand the reach of NaVIC.

"A regional to global

changeover will be very fast if you have a GEO-MEO constellation. We are talking to the government," the ISRO chief said.

Of the seven satellites used by NaVIC at present, three are in the geostationary orbit and four in the geosynchronous orbit. Also, the current constellation of satellites operate in L-5 Band and S Band, which are used for transportation and aviation sectors.

"We have to equip the new satellites with the L-1 band, which is a typical GPS band for public use. We do not have it in NaVIC. That is the reason it has not penetrated into the civilian sector easily," Somanath said.

The ISRO chairman said the new satellites being built for NaVIC would also have better features for safety of signals for different uses, particularly the strategic sector.

"Currently, we are providing only short code. Now, the short code has to become long code for strategic sector use so that the signal cannot be breached or spoofed or made non-available. We are doing this so that the user base can be widened. Unless you do this, it may not be user friendly," Somanath said.

In a bid to spur satellite manufacturing in India, ISRO is also keen to become an anchor customer for satellites in the country.

"Currently, all satellites required by the government are manufactured by ISRO. If there is a need for a government satellite, why not get it manufactured from a private supplier and use an ISRO launcher to launch it. That is the concept of an anchor customer," Somanath said.

Print Images Of Lakshmi, Ganesh On Currency Notes To Improve India's Economy, Kejriwal to PM Modi

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, Oct 26 (PTI) Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has a solution to the country's economic progress and prosperity -- print images of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesh on new currency notes. His demand, however, drew sharp reactions from the BJP, which called it an "unsuccessful attempt" to hide the "ugly" anti-Hindu face of AAP in view of upcoming elections.

Claiming that the Indian economy was not in good shape, Kejriwal said at a press conference the country needed a lot of effort to get the economy back on track along with the "blessings of our gods and goddesses".

"Today, I am appealing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the

Centre that our currency notes have the image of Mahatma Gandhi on one side. It should remain as it is but on the other side, there should be an image of Ganesh and Lakshmi," he said.

Asserting that he was not requesting to exchange all the notes in circulation, Kejriwal said his suggestion was to include the images of Ganesh and Lakshmi on the notes that are printed every month.

"This way, a significant amount of these notes will be in circulation in some time," he added.

The AAP national convener said his suggestion was not against anyone, adding that even Indonesia, a Muslim country with less than two per cent Hindus and more than 85 per cent Muslims, had images of

Lord Ganesh on its currency notes.

He claimed that the Indian economy was going through a delicate phase, adding that the rupee was getting weaker against the US dollar every day and the common man had to bear the brunt.

On Tuesday, the rupee appreciated 7 paise to close at 82.81 against the US dollar, as easing crude oil prices buoyed investor sentiment.

When asked about how the idea came to him, Kejriwal said he felt that currency notes should have the images of the two deities while performing Diwali puja on Monday.

"We want India to become a developed and prosperous country. We have to build schools, hospitals in large numbers and



develop infrastructure for electricity and roads to make this possible. All of us make efforts but they only bear fruits when God showers blessing on us.

"The entire country will be blessed if currency notes have the images of Lord Ganesh-Goddess Lakshmi," the chief

minister stressed.

Lashing out at Kejriwal, the BJP said his demand was the height of U-turn as he was "trying" to be a Hindu.

His hypocrisy is on show, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra told reporters as he noted that the Aam Aadmi Party government had recently warned people celebrating Diwali with firecrackers of legal action.

Patra also referred to AAP leader Rajendra Pal Gautam's presence at a controversial religious conversion event recently where a pledge was taken to not worship Hindu deities.

Gautam "abused" and "mocked" deities but he remains in the AAP, Patra said, claiming that his removal as a minister in the Kejriwal government was an eyewitness.

The BJP's Northeast Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari also slammed the AAP leader's demand, calling it an "unsuccessful attempt" to hide the "ugly" anti-Hindu face of the AAP in view of upcoming elections.

He said if Kejriwal meant what he said, then he should expel former Delhi minister Rajendra Pal Gautam and AAP's Gujarat unit chief Gopal Italia from the party for allegedly speaking against Hindu deities. He demanded that Kejriwal show his respect for Sanatan Dharma by expelling Gautam and Italia from the party.

"All such leaders... whether it's (Rajendra Pal) Gautam or the AAP's Gujarat unit president are still in the party."

Kejriwal, who has so far protected his party leaders who

"insulted Hindu gods and goddesses, is now trying to save his face in view of the elections", Tiwari alleged, referring to the upcoming elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Gujarat Assembly.

"Without even a letter from you, we developed the Mahakal corridor and started Ram temple construction that you opposed quoting your grandmother," the BJP MP said.

Putting her weight behind the Delhi chief minister, AAP leader Atishi asked the BJP to support Kejriwal's proposal.

"You (BJP) can continue to hate Arvind Kejriwal if you want to, but don't hate Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesh at least. Don't hate their blessings. Don't hate this country's prosperity at least."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Bank To

started 27 new business initiatives over the past five months while making gold loans available at 152 of its branches. It has also opened cluster offices in Mohali, Lucknow and Bengaluru.

The bank declared Q2 results earlier this week, which showed an increase of net profits to Rs 243 crore, up by 119 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

The good performance of the bank has also been reflected in the price of its shares on the stock exchange. The JK Bank share has witnessed an appreciation of 33 per cent in its value over the past 30 days.

J&K Has Set

the Union Territory is witnessing a new dawn of peace and progress.

"While the abrogation of Article 370 has brought a new dawn of hope to the aspirations of the people of J&K UT and the overall economy has taken a quantum leap, the Pakistan occupied Kashmir suffers from extreme poverty and an ailing economy," Sinha said.

He made these remarks during the release of Sheikh Khalid Jehangir's book "The Two Kashmiris", an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, commended the author for effectively countering the false propaganda and calling out the "lies and duplicity" of Pakistan.

"This book sheds light on harsh realities of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, where people are deprived of basic amenities, infrastructure, investment and welfare schemes. It has been kept in complete darkness for the last 75 years," the LG said.

"The poverty stricken country which failed to provide even basic facilities to its people continues to make nefarious attempts to mislead our youth. The society needs to identify and unmask Pakistan and its Sympathizers," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG further stated that the days of separatism, terrorism, corruption and

dynastic politics are over in J&K.

"Article 370 and dynastic politics had deliberately deprived the people of UT. Now, it's a new dawn of peace and progress. J&K has set new trends in development. Today, common people have become partners in J&K's developmental journey," Sinha said.

"On development front, Jammu Kashmir is presenting a new example before the world. Today, the citizens of Jammu Kashmir are contributing to nation-building, creating a rich legacy for future generations. On the other hand, the neighbouring country is building terror training camps & safe haven for the terrorists," he added.

The LG, as per the spokesperson asserted that J&K was witnessing progress and prosperity post-abrogation of Article 370.

Sinha, he said, maintained that Health, education, infrastructure, industries, agriculture, start-ups, tourism, connectivity, sports, handicrafts, e-governance, ease of living, empowerment of farmers, youth & women, in every sector, the UT of Jammu Kashmir was emerging as a top performer.

"There was a time when Pulwama used to be in the news for all the wrong reasons, but today Pulwama has become the top-ranked region in the District Performance Index and is also gradually emerging as the new business hub of the Kashmir Valley," the LG said.

The LG, the spokesperson said, also stated that big companies of the country and abroad are investing in Jammu and Kashmir. Sinha said that social equity, transparent & accountable governance system, improved work culture have reduced the development gap of decades.

"This is the new J&K which has become synonymous with prosperity, progress of youth and welfare of the common man. The administration no longer works for a few families but for 1 crore 30 lakh citizens of J&K. We have been successful in ensuring people's trust in the Rule of Law," the LG

said, while urging people to join hands and work towards achieving peace, greater progress and for upholding the pride of the tricolor.

Sheikh Khalid Jehangir, author of the book, according to the spokesperson, threw light on the contents of the book and gave a comparative overview of the development scenario of Jammu Kashmir and Pok.

Prof. Nilofar Khan, VC, University of Kashmir; Ashish Sood, Senior Politician; Rana Banerji, Distinguished Fellow at Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies and Renu Kaul Verma, CEO Vitasta Publishing Limited were also present on the occasion at India International Centre, New Delhi.

Organized by the International Centre for Peace Studies, the book launch event was followed by a session on "Jammu Kashmir: 75-Glorious Years and Looking Ahead."

Inaugurates LPG

of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has improved the living standards of the poor, farmers and the deprived section of the society

Sinha made these remarks during the inauguration of Indian Oil Corporation Limited's LPG Bottling Plant at Vessu-Nipora in Anantnag district on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, congratulated IOC, Jhelum Oil Agency and the people of the region on the commissioning of the new LPG bottling Plant and said that the Plant has the capacity to supply 3240 cylinders per day and will cater to the surge in demand of LPG during the winter season

"Jammu Kashmir is marching ahead to a glorious future with a new self-confidence. 100% saturation of social security and welfare schemes under the guidance of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has improved the living standards of the poor, farmers and the deprived section of the society," Sinha said.

"Under Ujjwala Yojana 1.0, a total

of 8 crore poor, deprived, backward, tribal families across the country were given LPG connections, while Ujjwala Yojana 2.0 aims to provide LPG connections to 1 crore low-income households that could not be covered under the first phase," he added.

The LG, as per the spokesperson said that social movements such as Ujjwala Yojana have brought massive transformation in the lives of women.

"Under the guidance of Prime Minister issues of basic amenities such as Housing, Electricity, Water, Toilet, Gas, Roads, Hospital and School have been addressed to benefit all sections of the society," the LG said.

"About 12.41 lakh households in Jammu and Kashmir have been provided LPG connections under Ujjwala 1.0 and it is our endeavor to extend the benefit to the left-out low-income households," he added.

The LG, the spokesperson said, further asked the officials and stakeholders to ensure that no eligible beneficiary remains left out under the Ujjwala Yojana.

He said Sinha also shared the details of the mass awareness programme of all services under the Public Services Guarantee Act during the Back to Village-IV programme.

According to the spokesperson, Jitendra Kumar, Executive Director and State Head, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in his welcome address termed the day as a significant occasion for IOCL and expressed gratitude to the LG-led UT Government for their support.

Kumar, he said, informed about the increased availability of petroleum products in the UT, besides the installation of CNG infrastructure in Jammu Division. He further shared the vision of IOCL to become carbon neutral by 2046.

"The new LPG Bottling Plant is set up over five acres of land having an annual capacity of 12,000 MT and daily capacity to dispatch 10 LPG trucks, i.e. 3240 cylinders per day, and can store more than 500 filled cylinders. Apart from Indian Oil, the distributors of

BPCL and HPCL will also be supplied continuously through the Plant," the spokesperson said.

He further said that LG along with other dignitaries also planted a tree sapling to mark the occasion. Composite Gas Cylinders were also distributed among the consumers.

PM Modi Pitches

the teachings of Jain gurus is the solution to these global crises.

Mahatma Gandhi had also adopted the path of 'aparigraha' as laid down by Jain gurus, he said.

Also recalling Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the prime minister said Gujarat has given two Vallabhs' to the country and noted that Patel's birth anniversary will be celebrated on October 31.

'Statue of Peace', dedicated to the Jain monk, is one of the largest statues of saints and the 'Statue of Unity' is the tallest statue in the world, he added.

These are not just tall statues, but they are also the greatest symbol of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat," he said.

While Sardar Patel as India's first home minister had united it, the Jain saint travelled to different parts of the country and strengthened the unity, integrity and culture of the country, he said.

Modi noted that the monk always wore khadi, urging his followers to promote made-in-India products with the concept of 'vocal for local'.

Rain, Snowfall

possibility of light to moderate snow, rainfall in J&K on November 01-02, November 5-6, 7 and 8," he said, adding that the weather would remain dry on November 3 and 4.

He added that the temperature would go further down after the wet spell.

The MeT Deputy Director further said that the people scheduled to travel on Srinagar-Jammu and Srinagar-Leh highway should wear warm clothes.

He also appealed to farmers to speed

up the harvesting process ahead of the fresh wet spell. (With KNO inputs)

Admin Rejects

are no instances of migration due to fear in the district," he added.

On Tuesday, PTI published a news story quoting unnamed residents as saying that ten families comprising 35 to 40 Kashmiri Pandits have migrated out of Chodrigund village due to the "fear psychosis".

BJP Leader Hopes

Kashmir chief, celebrated "accession day" or vilay diwas at the Maharaja Hari Singh park near the Tawi river.

The national flag was hoisted and tributes were paid to the Maharaja.

The whole of Jammu and Kashmir is celebrating this day as it has come after supreme sacrifices by nationalists, Raina said.

"Vilay diwas is like Republic and Independence day for us as this was the day when our Maharaja made J&K an integral part of India," he said, adding that the instrument of accession signed by the Maharaja was full and final.

It was through this that he united the whole of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of India, the BJP leader said.

"Some parts of Jammu and Kashmir are still under the illegal occupation of Pakistan and China, and the day is not far when we will hoist the tricolour there as well," he said and alleged that it was the Congress that ditched the Maharaja and Jammu and Kashmir.

While MP Jugal Kishore Sharma said accession day was very important and provided insight on the historic events related to Jammu and Kashmir, former deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh remembered the important role played by the Maharaja and chain of events during unification.

Celebrations of accession day also took place in Srinagar where BJP workers burst firecrackers. Reports of celebrations were received from various districts of the Jammu region too.

J&K UNIVERSITY BILL

ABVP Stages Sit-In To Demand Withdrawal

Press Trust Owf India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad on Wednesday staged a demonstration to demand the withdrawal of the Jammu Kashmir Public University Bill, 2022, that, it claimed, eroded the autonomy of universities in the Union Territory.

The administrative council led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha recently approved the bill.

With the view to address the issues regarding a wide variety of universities in Jammu and Kashmir and separate acts governing each university or group of universities with existing regulations, the government intends to frame a common Public University Bill, which would apply to all public universities of the Union Territory, an administration spokesperson had earlier said.

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) said it would not tolerate the erosion of the autonomous character of universities, which are governed by University Grants Commission (UGC) rules across the country.

Led by Mukesh Manhas, the state unit secretary of the RSS-affiliated organisation, ABVP activists carrying placards staged a sit-in and raised slogans to demand revocation of the bill.

Manhas said, "The bill erodes the autonomy of all universities in Jammu and Kashmir. It should be

immediately withdrawn."

The independence of universities has been snatched and vice-chancellors have been made ineffective, he added.

The ABVP leader said the bill granted the power of recruitment to the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the State Service Recruitment Board (SSRB) instead of universities, as per UGC laws. "Now recruitment will be done by the PSC and the SSRB, which has been involved in multiple recruitment scams in recent times," he alleged.

Questioning the Lieutenant Governor's administration for approving the bill, Manhas asked, "Why has this bill been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir alone while all universities across the country are governed by UGC rules?"

Manhas threatened massive agitations by students and staff members of all colleges and universities across the Union Territory and demanded that immediate withdrawal of the bill.

The ABVP leader said the amendments proposed in the bill infringed on the academic domain of universities and amounted to a mala fide attempt to increase unwanted interference of the bureaucracy.

He said universities were autonomous bodies and government interference in their functioning would disturb the working atmosphere and kill the basic spirit of autonomy at these institutions of higher learning.

Mehbooba Told To Vacate Fairview Residence By Nov 15



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has asked PDP president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti to vacate her Fairview residence by or before November 15, saying the reply furnished by her in response to the eviction notice served to her on October 15 doesn't justify retaining of the accommodation.

The Jammu & Kashmir's Estates Department has asked Mehbooba Mufti and other occupants of the Fairview residence to vacate the accommodation by or before November 15.

"Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (1) of section 5 of The Jammu and Kashmir Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1988, I, hereby, order that Ms. Mehbooba Mufti, ex-chief minister and all persons who may be in occupation of scheduled premises or any part thereof to vacate the scheduled premises on or before 15.11.2022," reads the order.

"In the event of refusal or failure to comply with this order within the period specified, provisions of sub-section (2) of section 5 of The Jammu and Kashmir Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1988 shall be invoked against you and every such person occupying the scheduled premises," it further states.

In the order, the Estates Department has said that the grounds raised by her in reply to the eviction notice don't justify her retaining the scheduled accommodation, particularly against the backdrop of the fact that the Government has communicated in writing its willingness to provide her an alternate accommodation, on security or any other ground (s).

According to the order, the Government didn't give any extension to Mehbooba Mufti to retain the accommodation beyond December 31, 2018.

The order states that the legal provision under which ex-CMs were entitled to various facilities including "rent-free residential accommodation" was repealed by the Government of India in 2020.

"Section 3(C) of The Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Members' Pension Act, 1984 where under Ex-Chief Ministers were entitled to various facilities including "Rent free Residential Accommodation" stands omitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, (Department of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs) in "Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization (Adaptation of State Laws) Order, 2020" issued vide Notification S.O. No. 1229(E) dated 31, March 2020, which means you are no longer entitled to retain the government accommodation in the capacity of ex-chief minister," reads the order—(KNO)



8 People Injured In Auto-Truck Collision In Ramban

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A 13-year-old girl was among eight people were injured in an accident at Kelam-orch along the Jammu-Srinagar highway in Ramban district on Thursday.

Official sources said that there was a collision between a Passenger auto and a truck, resulting in injuries to at least eight people who were later shifted to hospital by rescuers including local volunteers and police.

All but three injured were shifted to district hospital Ramban. The injured include Fayaz Ahmed (36) son of Mohammad Ibrahim of Awantipora, a helper of truck, Imran (35), driver of truck, also of Awantipora, Tariq Ahmed (22) son of Abdul Gani Shah of Seri, Mubashir (19) son of Gulzar Ahmed Wani of Seri, Mangal Singh son of Hari Chand (40) of Shounda Maroog Gaam, Sonam Devi (13) daughter of Suraj Singh of Shounda Gaam, Suraj Singh (40) of Kelarh and Naseer Ahmed (30) son of Abdul Salam of Seri. Suraj Singh and Mubashir (driver of auto) have been shifted to GMC Jammu and Naser Ahmad to GMC Anantnag for advanced treatment, they added.

A police officer confirmed the accident to a local news agency GNS and said a case has been registered and investigations taken up.

Union MoS For Education Interacts With PRI Members



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The two-day visit of Union Minister of State for Education and External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh to district Ganderbal concluded on Wednesday.

On day two, the Minister visited Degree College Kangan where he interacted with DDC members, BDCs, sarpanchs and panchs of Kangan Sub-Division who apprised him about various demands and raised several developmental issues of the areas.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Shyambir, SSP Ganderbal Nikhil Borkar, Principal Degree College Kangan, SDM Kangan, faculty members, PRIs and other district officers.

While replying the issues of PRIs, the Minister said that Prime Minister has taken the initiative of public outreach under which Union Ministers are visiting J&K with the view to assess the execution of developmental projects and implementation of various welfare schemes in the UT of J&K besides getting feedback and suggestion from the locals which would be shared with concerned Ministry so that timely and quality solution of the demands is ensured.

He said that Prime Minister is focused to further augment the education system in the UT and New Education Policy has been introduced with the purpose

to provide universal education to the students with quality, affordability and flexibility to make India stronger.

Meanwhile, the Minister visited PTS Manigam where various departments had installed stalls to showcase their products and schemes offered. The Minister took a round of the stalls along with Deputy Commissioner, SSP and other officers who keenly observed the local products and enquired about the schemes especially that offer livelihood opportunities to the locals.

On the occasion, the Minister also distributed sports kits, prosthetics and orthotics and hearing aids among the beneficiaries.

Later, the Minister visited Government Boys Higher Secondary School Manigam where he witnessed the culture program presented by school children and also sports events in various categories.

Meanwhile, the Minister also visited Atal Tinkering Lab recently established at Higher Secondary School Manigam where students showcased models based on original innovative ideas which were appreciated by the Minister.

Appreciating the talent of the students, the Minister said that Atal Tinkering Labs provide a platform for the students to use their scientific knowledge and put it to practice and asked the students to put in best efforts to do wonders for the society.

Joining Electoral Politics? Bilal Lone Says 'No Comment'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid news reports of his participation in electoral politics, separatist leader and Chairman of Peoples Independent Movement Bilal Gani Lone on Wednesday said that "he won't comment on something which I have not done."

Talking to a local news agency Bilal said that he won't comment on something which he has not done.

"You should better talk to the news agency which published the news. I don't know where they got this news," Lone told a local news agency KNO.

A news agency on Tuesday reported that Bilal Lone is likely to join electoral politics.

Bilal joined politics in 2002 after assassination of his father Abdul Gani Lone at Eidgah Srinagar. Bilal's JKPIIM is part of Hurriyat led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

In 2018, Bilal had said in an interview that he will "permanently stay in pro-freedom politics" because that is "the right path" and "the true legacy of his late father Abdul Gani Lone"

Pak Infiltrator Killed Along LoC In Kupwara

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Army on Wednesday claimed to have foiled an infiltration bid by killing a Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist along the Line of Control in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The operation was launched in the Tangdhar sector on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday. The slain terrorist was identified as Mohammed Shakur (32) from Syedpura in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), a defence spokesperson said.

The joint operation was launched based on specific information received from the police regarding the infiltration of a group of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists through the Sudpura forward post in the Karnah area of Kupwara district. The inputs were corroborated by other intelligence agencies, the spokesperson said in a statement.

"Alert troops on the anti-infiltration grid intercepted two terrorists trying to infiltrate into own (Indian) side in the forward area close to the Line of Control (LoC)."

"Around 1:45 am on 26 October (20)22, the infiltrating terrorists were fired upon, leading to the elimination of one terrorist. However, taking advantage of the darkness, the other terrorist managed to flee to PoJK side," he added.

In a search operation launched at the site this morning, one AK series rifle, two pistols and a large quantity of ammunition and war-like stores were recovered, according to the statement.

Timely action and close coordination between the Indian Army, the Jammu and Kashmir Police and other intelligence agencies led to foiling of the infiltration attempt and potential threat to peace in the hinterland, the spokesperson said.

"Continued engagements along the Line of Control are uncanny reminders of efforts by Pakistan to infuse terrorism in Kashmir and disrupt peace and harmony while putting on the facade of ceasefire understanding," he said.

"The youth in PoK are being used as cannon fodder by Pakistan state policy from the last three decades with a fruitless aim to constantly disrupt progress towards collective peace," he said.

Soldier Injured In Baramulla Encounter

SRINAGAR: A soldier was injured during a gunfight with militants in Sheeri Chandooosa, a forest area in North Kashmir's Baramulla district, on Wednesday.

A senior police officer told a local news agency GNS that a contact was established with the militants during a cordon and search operation launched by police and army in the woods today.

In the initial exchange of fire, a soldier sustained bullet wound in leg and was shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. The operation is going on, he added.

Union Minister Reviews Developmental Scenario In Pulwama

Holds Interaction With Beneficiaries, SHG Members, Youth Icons, Sports Persons And Other Delegations



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Union Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation, Corporate Affairs and Planning Rao Inderjit Singh on Wednesday visited Pulwama district under Central Government's Public Outreach Programme.

He reviewed developmental scenario of the district besides reviewing implementation status of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

During his visit, the Minister chaired a meeting of officers at Circuit House and took detailed review of various schemes and programmes of the government.

The Minister reviewed implementation and progress recorded under MGNREGA, PMAY, NRLM, NHM, Ayushman Bharat JSY, JSSK PMGSY, JJM, ICDS, PMAY-U and various other schemes. He also took department-wise extensive review of Planning, Education and other departments and sectors.

The Minister was apprised about the overall developmental projects and the progress made on them by the executing agencies. Officers informed the Minister that all projects will get completed within the estimated time.

The Minister also interacted with beneficiaries of various flagship schemes like PMAY, MGNREGA, NRLM and also interacted with SHG members.

While addressing the various delegations and beneficiaries of various schemes, the Minister said that Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is consistently working for betterment and upliftment of downtrodden and poor people and people are now getting benefited directly from schemes of Government.

While meeting a delegation of Fruit Growers Association Pulwama, the Minister was apprised about the problems faced by the community. The growers demanded for a CA store in Pulwama, leaf analysis facility, soil testing lab and furthermore, smooth transportation of apple fruit to rest of the country. The Minister assured the delegation that he will take up the issues with the concerned. He further said that he will take a personal interest in redressal of all the grievances.

A delegation of youth also met the Minister that raised the demand of sports academy and modern sporting infrastructure in the district. Besides a delegation of SHGs also met the minister and raised various demands related to the empowerment of Self Help Groups.

Also, numerous youth icons also met the Minister and shared their stories of skill attainment and art with him.

The Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Baseer-ul-Haq Choudhary through a powerpoint presentation highlighted the achievements, special initiatives and best practices of the District Administration under different schemes.

He also informed the chair that more than 3.00 lakh youth are expected to participate in different games this year. He also apprised the Minister that the district has also completed process of digitization of land records and the district has developed nearly 270 Amrit Sarovars whereas more than 200 playgrounds have been developed in the district.

Berozgar se Swarozgar

Govt Launches Various Schemes, Policies To Meet Aspirations Of Youth

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Government has taken many steps to create infrastructure, schemes and policies to speed up economic development, and to meet the aspirations of youth so that they can contribute to society and achieve self-growth.

Under the Aegis of Mission Youth, Mumkin scheme has been launched by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, a customized livelihood generation scheme for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the scheme, unemployed youth are facilitated to procure small commercial vehicles on subsidized

basis to establish a sustainable livelihood in transport sector. The 'Mumkin' is a livelihood programme designed primarily for unemployed young people in the age group of 18 to 35. Through 'Mumkin' scheme, small commercial vehicles are being provided to the youth with the banking partner extending the loan facility to the extent of 100 percent for on-road price of the vehicle to be purchased.

Apart from this, Mission Youth, J&K provides an amount of Rs 80,000 or 10 percent for on-road price of the vehicle (whichever is lesser) as upfront subsidy and the vehicle manufacturers (scheme partner of government) provides an upfront special discount, not less than the amount of subsidy. To make the scheme implementation completely transparent and fast, a module has been developed on JK-e-Services portal for operating the scheme digitally.

Similarly, for young ambitious women, Tejaswani scheme' has been launched by Government which provides financial assistance for setting up gainful self-employment ventures, suited to their skills, training, aptitude and local conditions.

The UT administration is also facilitating soft finance for setting up new enterprises or for expansion and modernization of existing ventures for income generation. Tejaswini scheme provides financial assistance to the young women

of 18 to 35 years of age'.

Under the scheme, female entrepreneurs are facilitated to avail financial assistance under Mudra from J&K Bank to the extent of Rs 5 lakh. Mission Youth J&K is also providing an amount of Rs 50,000 or 10% of project cost as upfront subsidy. Besides, an interest subvention up to 60 thousand rupees is also being sponsored by the government as special incentive thus making repayment of loan technically interest free for the young female entrepreneurs who apply for assistance under the scheme.

The scheme intends to provide assistance to all eligible young women who are domiciles of J&K and have a qualification of matriculation and above. It also caters to enterprises where women entrepreneurs hold not less than 50% of financial holding, besides providing assistance to set up women centric businesses and micro start-ups.

Also, the 'Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative' programme is built on the idea of the Youth Enterprise with Innovation (YouWin) and Champion for Innovation initiative, which aims to inspire young people, especially young women, to start and grow innovative businesses.

Dentists are receiving tailored financial help for opening dental clinics under sector-specific programme for dental professionals. Under this programme, around eight lakh rupees is given as financial support for starting their business.

Under the Mission Youth scheme, the administration has announced to provide financial assistance of Rs 8 lakh to the unemployed dental surgeons to set up their clinics.

An amount of Rs 8 lakh shall be provided as financial assistance out of which Rs 2 lakh shall be provided as Grant-in-aid and rest of the amount Rs 6 lakh shall be financed by the bank as a start-up loan.

While as no margin money will be required, financial assistance can be availed individually as well as on group basis. The scheme is being launched to provide a source of employment to the hundreds of dental surgeons and dental technicians.

JKFA EC Invites Nominations From Various Districts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) Election Committee on Wednesday issued a notification inviting nominations for various posts of District Football Associations (DFAs) in Pulwama, Kulgam, Shopian and Anantnag. The notification was issued by Wasim Aslam, Chairman JKFA EC. "Nominations are invited from the Eligible Associate members for the Posts of President/Secretary/Treasurer respectively for the forthcoming elections in terms of (Article -22 (4) Constitution of JKFA)," the notification reads. "Each nomination should be proposed and seconded by the eligible Associate Members of

the concerned Districts. The Nomination Forms should reach the Office of the General Secretary JKFA on or before 2nd of Nov 2022 up to 6:00 PM in a sealed cover addressed to Hony. General Secretary JKFA," it added. The scheduled dates of the elections in the First Phase are as follows:
Pulwama: 5th Nov 2022, 11:00 AM, New Hilal Restaurant, Oppost. JKSC Ground, Pulwama
Kulgam: 5th Nov 2022, 2:00 PM, Raj Palace Near Patrol Pum, Khudwani Kaimoh
Shopian: 6th Nov 2022, 11:30 AM, Four Way Restaurant Shopian near Sumo Stand-1
Anantnag: 6th Nov 2022, 2:30 PM, Maharaza Hotel SMD Sumo Stand, Anantnag

Downtown Heroes Felicitate Footballer Arun Malhotra

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Prominent football club of J&K, Downtown Heroes FC on Wednesday felicitated former international footballer of J&K, Arun Malhotra for being appointed as All India Football Federation (AIFF) Technical Committee member. Downtown Heroes FC, founder Mushtaq Bashir and co-founder Hinan Bhat met Arun Malhotra in Srinagar to discuss the development of football in J&K. Arun who works in ONGC is currently on a private visit to Kashmir and has been interacting with budding footballers. While terming Arun as legend of J&K football, Downtown Heroes said that it is matter of pride to see a footballer from

J&K in the top committee of AIFF. Downtown Heroes FC officials, apprised Malhotra of the current football scenario in J&K also about the club activities. They also discussed with Arun the ways of improving club and to make it name in Indian football arena. "We met Arun to honour him for his appointment as AIFF Technical Committee Member. It is great to see our local hero in the development of the game in J&K," said Mushtaq Bashir.



T20 World Cup: India Take On The Dutch Today

Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: On a high after a breathtaking performance against Pakistan, the Indian team is unlikely to face much challenge from minnows Netherlands in their T20 World Cup match, here on Thursday. The formidable Indian batting line up is expected to bully the 'Orange' attack which is decent but not exactly menacing. For India, the primary aim will be to guard against complacency as there would always be a chance of going off the boil after winning an emotionally exhausting high-intensity game. The contest will be a chance for three of the top four batters -- skipper Rohit Sharma, inconsistent KL Rahul and dangerous Suryakumar Yadav -- to get some runs under their belt before the next big game against South Af-



rica, the result of which will determine the group standings. A favourable result in the spin of coin will give captain Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid a chance to bat first, put a total and defend it although it will be a different challenge against better sides. But batting first will provide adequate time for someone like KL Rahul to get back his rhythm and be ready for the Proteas test. In a tournament like the World Cup, no team likes to tinker with the playing eleven and the Indian team management is also following the same theory. The Netherlands is a decent side and some of their players were given central contracts after they started playing the ICC World ODI league. Match Starts: 12:30 pm IST.

Ireland Beat England, New Zealand-Afghanistan Match Abandoned

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Ireland stunned England by five runs via Duckworth-Lewis method in the T20 World Cup after rain interrupted the match for the umpteenth time, here on Wednesday. Chasing 158, England were 105 for 5 in 14.3 overs when the heavens opened up again in the Super 12 match, which witnessed a delayed start due to wet outfield followed by rain. According to the Duckworth-Lewis method, England were found to be five runs short when the umpires decided to

call off the game. David Malan made 35, while Moeen Ali was unbeaten on 24. For Ireland, Josh Little (2/16) picked up two wickets. Earlier, Ireland were bowled out for 157. Asked to bat, skipper Andy Balbirnie top-scored for with a 47-ball 62 while Lorcan Tucker made 34. Liam Livingstone (3/17) and Mark Wood (3/34) shared six wickets between them for England. **Brief Scores:** Ireland: 157 all out in 19.2 overs (Andy Balbirnie 62; Liam Livingstone 3/17, Mark Wood 3/34). England: 105 for 5 in 14.3

Spanish Man Trekking To World Cup Arrested In Iran

Agencies

MADRID: A Spanish man trekking from Madrid to Doha for the 2022 FIFA World Cup is believed to be under arrest in Iran where he went missing more than three weeks ago, his family said Wednesday. "We learned this morning from the (Spanish) foreign ministry that there's a 99% chance he (has been) arrested," Celia Cogedor, the mother of 41-year-old trekker Santiago Sanchez, told The Associated Press. "We are filled with hope," she said. Sanchez and his translator are believed to be in a prison in Tehran, the Spaniard's parents said. The foreign ministry said in a statement that the Spanish embassy in Tehran is in touch with Iranian authorities about Sanchez. It declined to provide further details. A Kurdish group called the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights reported that Sanchez was taken away by Iranian secu-



rity forces after visiting the grave of Mahsa Amini, the 22-year-old whose death in police custody sparked the current antigovernment protest movement. The group, citing anonymous sources, said that Iranian intelligence agents arrested him in Saqez, Amini's hometown. The Spanish adventurer planned to go to Tehran, the Iranian capital, where a television station wanted to interview him. His next step would have been Bandar Abbas, a port in southern Iran where he would hop on a boat to Qatar. But all traces of him vanished even before he reached Tehran, his parents said.

MATCHDAY: Man United, Arsenal In Europa League Action

Agencies

CRISTIANO RONALDO could return to action for Manchester United after being left out of the squad for the team's last game against Chelsea for refusing to come on as a substitute in United's 2-0 win over Tottenham last week. Ronaldo returned to training with the team on Tuesday. United will secure qualification from Group E if it avoids defeat at home to Moldovan club Sheriff Tiraspol. A win for United sets up a Nov. 3 decider with Real Sociedad for first place in the group. Group winners advance directly to the

last 16, while teams qualifying second go through an extra play-off round. Those in third place drop into the Europa Conference League. Arsenal will go through as Group A winner if Mikel Arteta's team avoids defeat against second-place PSV Eindhoven. Jose Mourinho's Roma is third in Group C and needs a win over HJK Helsinki of Finland to reignite its Europa League campaign. Monaco could miss out on qualification if it loses to Group H leader Ferencvaros and Trabzonspor beats Red Star Belgrade. Bundesliga leader Union Berlin hosts Braga in Group D.

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