

Village Along LoC Hopes Broken Link Will Bridge The Divide

Press Trust Of India

Teetwal: A neat white line drawn in the middle of a suspension bridge that sits right on the Line of Control separates the border village of India's Tithwal and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK). The bridge has seen wars and tumultuous phases of history in the heavily militarised region.

With a ceasefire understanding reached between India and Pakistan since February last year, resulting in peace and tranquillity here, many

residents of this Jammu and Kashmir village are now appealing that the crossing point over the Kishanganga river be reopened to allow passage and "connect hearts" of people on both sides.

The bridge, constructed in 1931 by the then princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, has seen the bloody Partition in 1947 and the tragic human migrations that accompanied it, witnessed wars between India and Pakistan and see-sawing relationship between the two countries over the last 75 years.



The 160-ft-long wooden suspension bridge over Kishanganga -- called Neelum in Pakistan -- is one of the four crossing

6 NOW, WITH THE CEASEFIRE SINCE EARLY last year, resulting in peace in the area, the crossing point at Tithwal should be reopened for people on both sides with proper permit."

points on the LoC.

Some of the locals also recalled the poignant fictional story 'Titwal ka Kutta' by noted author Saadat Hasan Manto describing the "pains of Partition".

The bridge, officially called the Chilehana Teetwal Crossing Point (CTCP), is heavily guarded

on both sides.

Since the ceasefire understanding last year, "curiosity of people has grown" from both sides to know about each other, Indian Army officials said.

Zameer Ahmad, 55, the Numberdar of Tithwal village, located 175 kms **| More on P10**

Mercury Falls After Fresh Snowfall In Kashmir

Srinagar- Leh Highway Closed, MeT Predicts More Rain; Snow

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The ski-resort of Gulmarg and other higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley received fresh snowfall on Tuesday, while rains lashed the plains, leading to the closure of the strategic Srinagar- Ladakh highway.

The fresh snowfall in the upper reaches started on Monday night, wrapping many hill stations like Gulmarg and Sonamarg under a thick white blanket of snow,

officials said. In the plains, heavy rainfall plunged down the mercury by a few notches.

While light snowfall was reported on higher reaches, Srinagar received 1.8mm of rainfall overnight till 0830 hours today. Qazigund had traces of it while Pahalgam received 0.5mm, Kupwara 0.2mm and Gulmarg 0.8 mm, a meteorological department official said. He said rains eluded Jammu region as well as Kokernag. **| More on P10**



Advisory Asks Farmers To Harvest Fruits, Prune Trees

Observer News Service

The Horticulture Department Tuesday issued an advisory asking the orchardists to speed up harvest and packaging of fruits besides carrying out pruning of trees immediately in wake of snowfall prediction by the weather department. The advisory has been issued for the orchardists in order to prevent any damage to the fruit trees due to heavy **| More on P10**

Srinagar-Leh Road Closed

The Srinagar-Leh road was on Tuesday closed for vehicular movement after fresh snowfall at Zoji La Pass, officials said. An official said that the highway has been closed keeping in view the slippery condition of the road. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir police traffic on its official twitter handle also confirmed that SSG road has been closed for vehicular movement. **| More on P10**

6 TRAFFIC PLYING ON JAMMU-SRINAGAR NHW, Mughal road through. However SSG Road closed for vehicular movement in view of fresh snowfall in Zoji La axis."



A girl plays with a swing in a vast saffron field in Pampore area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Twin Encounters Rattle South Kashmir's Pulwama, Anantnag

Foreigner Among 4 Terrorists Killed: Police

Agencies

Srinagar: Four terrorists were killed in two encounters with security forces in Pulwama and Anantnag districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said.

While three terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama's Khandipora, one was gunned down in Anantnag's Semthan, they said.

Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar termed the killings in the Pulwama encounter a "big success" for the security forces.

In a tweet, he said, "03 terrorists killed in Awantipora



encounter."

He said the identities of the slain terrorists are being ascertained.

"As per our source, 1 is FT (foreign terrorist) & 1 local terrorist of LeT namely

Mukhtiyar Bhat, involved in several terror crimes including killing of 01 ASI of CRPF & 2 RPF personnel. A big success for us," the DGP said.

Kumar said two AK rifles and a pistol were **| More on P10**

Anti-Peace Elements Fear SIA: DGP

Says 450 Cases Of Special Nature Probed, 65% Case Disposal Rate In 1st Year

Observer News Service

Jammu: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir Police in the last one year has investigated 450 cases of special nature with the overall disposal rate of 65 percent, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said on Tuesday.

He made these remarks during the celebration of the first Raising Day of SIA at Miran Sahib, here, a police spokesperson said. The DGP, he said, congratulated Special DGP CID and all the officers and personnel of SIA on completion of an eventful first year.

"Normally somebody celebrating its first birthday would be walking with difficulties but this wing is rather running that shows the energy and enthusiasm of the officers and the

leader of the SIA," Singh said. "A year ago we were having NIA as National Investigation agency to supplement the investigation process in terror related cases in Jammu and Kashmir but today it is a pleasure to say that we have SIA," he added.

The DGP, the spokesperson said, termed creation of SIA an achievement and said that this wing has been able to earn its name in a very short period of time.

"During its first year of working, the SIA has investigated 450 cases of special nature with the overall disposal rate of 65% for which he complimented all the officers of the unit," the DGP said.

Singh, as per the spokesperson said that in addition to SIA, police has created new investigation units at district level called SIUs (Special Investigation Units) **| More on P10**

S H O R T T A K E S

'PIA' Marked Balloon Seized In Samba



A balloon in the shape of an aircraft with PIA' mark was found in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, reports said Tuesday.

The balloon was spotted in an agricultural field by the people in Rakh Abtal village of Ramgarh sector in the district, reports said. The locals informed the police, who rushed to the spot and confiscated it. Such balloons have been found floating frequently along the International Border and the Line of Control.

Student Gets 5-Yr Jail For Pulwama Post

A special court here has sentenced a 22-year-old to five years simple imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 for making derogatory comments on Facebook posts after the suicide attack on CRPF jawans in Pulwama in 2019..

The order was passed by Judge Gangadhara C M of the Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (Special Judge for trial of NIA Cases). The accused, Faiz Rasheed, was 19 and a college student at the time of the crime and has been in custody for three-and-a-half years. The court found him guilty under Section 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion,) and Section 201 (causing disappearance of evidence). **| More on P10**

4 New Corona Cases In J&K

Jammu and Kashmir reported four fresh covid-19 cases even as there was no death due to the virus during the last 24 hours also, officials said on Tuesday. They said that one case was reported from Jammu and three others from Kashmir—all from Srinagar. 479295 people have been infected so far, they said. Among the cases, they said, 174036 are from Jammu division and 305259 from Kashmir Valley. There was no death due to the virus during the time. So far 4785 people have succumbed to the virus and among them include 2352 from Jammu division and 2433 from the Valley. Besides, they said, one Covid-19 patient recovered during the last 24 hours—from Kashmir. There are now 29 active **| More on P10**

Engaged Couple Found Dead In Ramban



A newly-engaged couple was found hanging near their houses in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said. The man, Amresh Singh (26), was a resident of Jarnal Panchal while the woman Sapna Devi (20) hails from Barthyal Panchal in the district. They were found hanging under suspicious circumstances, they said. To ascertain the cause of death, inquest proceedings have been started, they said.

3 'Hybrid' Terrorists Held In Srinagar: Police

Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested three 'hybrid' terrorists of Lashker-e-Toiba (TRF) and recovery of 10 kg IED and two grenades from them here. "Today at a Naka in Harnambal, Srinagar Police arrested two hybrid terrorists namely Aamir Mushtaq Dar son of Mushtaq Ahmad Dar of Iqbalabad Sozaith Budgam and Kabil Rashid son of Abdul Rashid Dar of Sicop Mohalla HMT Srinagar," police said in a statement. Two grenades were recovered from their possession, police said. "They disclosed the name of their another associate Aqib Jamal Bhat son of Mohammad Jamal Bhat of Sozaith Budgam **| More on P10**

Man Loses Both Feet In Train Accident



A 32-year-old "mentally unsound" man was seriously injured after being hit by a train around Mazhoom Pattan section in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday. Official sources told a local news agency GNS that the man identified as Nazeer Ahmad Dar of Aarampora village of the area lost both of his feet in the incident. He was later shifted to local hospital where from he has been referred to SKIMS Soura , they said. **| More on P10**



'Lower Perceived Personal Control Favours Growth Of Collective Control'

Press Trust Of India

People who feel that they lack personal control are more likely to prefer a culture that imposes order, a new study has found.

Further, according to the study published by the American Psychological Association, these "tighter" cultures, in turn, perpetuate their existence by reducing people's sense of personal control and increasing their sense of collective control.

"Strong social norms — a core feature of tight cultures — help people view the world as simple and coherent. As strong norms guide their behaviour and allow them to predict others', they can provide significant order and predictability in everyday social life," said lead author Anyi Ma from Tulane University, Louisiana, US.

"So, when people lack control and desire structure, they may come to prefer tighter cultures," she said.

Researchers analysed survey data and conducted a series of experiments to better understand how a sense of personal control can affect preference for cultural tightness and vice versa. The findings are published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.



First, the researchers looked at data from more than 5,700 participants from the Midlife in United States (MIDUS) survey, a nationally representative, longitudinal study of health and well-being. The data was collected in two waves: 2004-2006 and 2013-2014.

As part of the survey, participants were asked a series of questions de-

signed to assess their perceived level of personal control.

Researchers used scores for tightness and looseness of individual states calculated by experts from the University of Maryland in 2014. Scores for each state were derived using an established measure such as strength of punishment, latitude / permissiveness, diversity and prev-

alence and strength of institutions (e.g., how religious the population is).

Individuals who reported lower levels of perceived personal control were significantly more likely to express a preference for states that scored higher in societal tightness. These findings remained true, and even strengthened, after controlling for participants' gender, age, income and education.

The researchers also conducted a survey of 225 employees from a large apparel retailer in southern China.

Similar to the findings from the MIDUS survey, participants who expressed lower levels of personal control were more likely to express a preference for a tighter organisational structure.

Additionally, employees who reported lower levels of personal control were more likely to express a higher need for structure and those with a higher need for structure were more likely to prefer a tighter organisational culture.

Researchers also tested whether being in a tight culture reduced people's perceptions of personal control. Ninety eight participants, recruited online, were randomly assigned to read description of a company that either had a tight or a loose

organisational culture and asked to imagine they had accepted a job there.

Participants who imagined working for a company with a tight culture perceived significantly lower personal control.

A separate but similar experiment, comprising 96 online participants, also asked individuals to imagine working for a company with tight or loose organisational cultures, but instead of asking about personal control, they were asked to respond to a series of statements designed to measure their sense of collective control (e.g., "I would feel that employees in the company can work together to control the fate of the company").

Results from these experiments provide evidence for the idea that tight cultures lower people's feelings of personal control but increase their sense of collective control, according to Ma.

"Scholars have argued that tight cultures evolved as a way for people to collectively mitigate societal threats. We support this idea by showing that being in a tight culture increases people's perceptions of collective control, which makes them feel more confident in overcoming external threats as a group," she said.

Covid In Endemic Phase, Feel Experts As Hospitalisation, Deaths Remain Miniscule

Press Trust Of India

With hospitalisation and number of deaths due to Covid-19 remaining miniscule for the past few months despite people largely not adhering to behavioural norms, experts feel the prevalence of the viral disease has reached its endemic stage.

According to some experts, there is not much difference in the number of seasonal flu cases and that of Covid-19, even though they stressed that surveillance for newer variants should continue in the off chance of a new lineage of coronavirus catching the country off guard.

Currently, the symptoms of Covid and influenza are very similar and can said to be a flu-like syndrome and the treatment essentially remains supportive, former AIIMS director and a professor of pulmonology at the hospital, Dr Randeep Guleria said.

Though cases especially in the high risk group may have relatively been more severe, currently the mortality is negligible and similar to what was being seen in this group before Covid, Dr Guleria told PTI.

"Looking at the current number of cases we can say Covid has almost reached the endemic phase. The number of cases coming to the hospital are almost equal or less than seasonal flu cases. Having got familiar with the aspects of the disease, people also have become complacent with the realisation that this particular Covid condition will now remain mild and not really lead to serious ICU care, etc," Dr Neeraj Gupta, a senior pulmonologist and additional medical superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital, told PTI.

Dr Gupta, however, stressed that vulnerable people such as the elderly and those having co-morbidities will still require similar precautions as is needed for other infections such as influenza and pneumonia.

Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, a physician and an epidemiologist said, "What we need to remember is that every new variant does not automatically becomes a concern. There would be regular emergence of SARS CoV2 variants for long. These should be tracked and genomic sequencing should be done but there is no logic in starting the discussion on new wave with report of every new variant".

"India is well past the major threat of severe impact of Covid. Disease has become endemic in the country and we should start handling and responding to SARS-CoV2 like any other viral disease," Dr Lahariya said.

According to NTAGI chief, Dr N K Arora it has been one year since Omicron was first described as a variant of concern and since then there has been over 70 sub lineages.

In the last nine to ten months, hospitalisation and deaths have not increased in India despite dynamic changes in the proportion of Omicron sub lineages across the country. Almost every sub lineage described anywhere in the world is also circulating in India without an increase in severe Covid cases.

"Due to widespread Covid vaccination coverage and natural infection, we are in a relatively safe and comfortable situation as far as the pandemic is concerned. However, Covid is very much around us and we need to be careful lest the community is surprised with a severe disease causing Covid variant," Dr Arora said.

Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Srinagar Smart City Limited
 (A J&K Government Undertaking)
 1st Floor, Budshah Building, Lal Chowk, Srinagar, Kashmir, J&K
 Email: - srinagarscl@gmail.com (CIN: U70200JK2017SGC010107)

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Selection list of candidates for the post of Junior Engineer (Civil) on contractual basis.

Whereas, Srinagar Smart City Limited invited applications for the post of Junior Engineer (civil) on contractual basis for a period of one year vide its Advertisement Notice No. 02 SSCL of 2022, dated: 11/04/2022.

Whereas, 40 candidates were shortlisted for interview, and interview for the said post was conducted on 23rd July 2022 notified vide Interview Notice No: SSCL/CEO/10812, dated: 18/07/2022 in the Tourist Reception Centre Hall, Srinagar, Kashmir, J&K.

Whereas, 8 Candidates were selected for the post of junior Engineers out of which the following 02 JEs did not join.

- Muneeb Hilal.
- Musawir Quadir.

Whereas, the Competent authority has approved to offer the two vacancies resulting out of non joining of the above two candidates figuring next in the merit list.

S.No	Name of Candidate	Parentage	Address
1.	Asif Farooq	Farooq Ahmad	Gund ahlimar Nai Sadak, srinagar
2.	Mohammad Furqaan	Showkat Ahmad Monga	Kanli Bagh Sangri road Baramulla

It is therefore notified for the information of all concerned that the above two candidates are being considered for the two vacancy of JEs resulting out of non joining of the two JEs as mentioned above.

This notification is neither an appointment letter nor an agreement between the selected candidates and SSCL. This is for the purpose of informing the candidates who participated in the selection process conducting by Srinagar Smart City Limited.

DIPK-NB-4697/22

Sd/
Chief Engineer
Srinagar Smart City Limited

No: SSCL/CEO/ 13404-05 Dated:01-11-2022

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 108009240 Session: Annual / Reg. Year 2021 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent, my Mother's Name has been recorded with the Board as Hafeeza Bugum while as the actual Mother's Name is Hafeeza Begum

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Junaid Ul Islam
F/N: Muhammad Yousuf Bhat
M/N: Hafeeza Begum
DOB: 25-06-2007
Residence: Bomai

tlc

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 13219208 Session: Annual / Reg. Year 2020 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent, my Mother's Name has been recorded with the Board as Naseema Bugum while as the actual Mother's Name is Mubeena Begum

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Anjum Nazir
F/N: Nazir Ahmad Gojri
M/N: Mubeena Begum
DOB: 05/10/2005
Residence: Model Town (D) Sopore

tlc

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class 10th) under Roll No.: 13219240 Session: Annual / Reg. Year 2020 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent, my Mother's Name has been recorded with the Board as Haseena Bugum while as the actual Mother's Name is Posha Begum

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Mohsin Reyaz Shah
F/N: Reyaz Ahmad Shah
M/N: Posha Begum
DOB: 09/05/2005
Residence: Sidiq Colony Bypass Sopore

tlc

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

GIST OF SHORT TERM ENIT
NO: 04 OF 2022
DATED: 31/10/2022

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-Tenders are invited from Registered Dealers of various Petroleum Companies for supply of 1100 No's of Commercial Gas Cylinders (which may increase or decrease as per our requirement) for heating purpose during ensuring winter season, commencing from 15th November 2022 to 15th March 2023. The interested parties shall quote the rate of rebate, to be offered by them, on the rates being fixed by the Ministry of Petroleum from time to time:-

1. Cost of Tender document To be deposited in the J&K Bank Branch Balgarden under Account No: CD-021601010000931 through pay in slip receipt, in favour of FA/Chief Account Officer, SMC, non refundable.	Rs.100/=
2 Earnest Money	As per the declaration form given as Annexure "A"
3 Uploading of Bids	31/10/2022 at 02:00PM to 09/11/2022 at 04:00 PM
4 Date & time of opening of Bid	10/11/2022 at 12:00 PM

Detailed e-NIT with terms and conditions can be downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in

Sd-
Purchase & Procurement Officer,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

DIPK-NB-4680/22
No: SMC/PPS/982-991
Dated:01/11/2022

WADIA INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN GEOLOGY
 (An Autonomous Institution under Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)
33, General Mahadeo Singh Road _
DEHRA DUN -248001 (U.K.)

Advertisement No.: 3001/01/General Recruitment/2022-23/Estt. ADVERTISEMENT

Online applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for appointment for the following regular posts in the Institute:-

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	No. of vacancies	Pay Level (As per 7th Central Pay Commission)
		EWS UR ST SC OBC Total Posts	
A	Scientist 'C'	- 02 - - - 02	Pay Level - 11
B	Scientist 'B'	- 01 - - - 01	Pay Level - 10
C	Technical Assistant	- 01 - - - 01	Pay Level - 05
D	Field cum Laboratory Attendant	- 02 01 - - 01	Pay Level - 01
E	Multi Tasking Staff (MTS)	- 01 01 - - 01	Pay Level - 01
	TOTAL POSTS	- 07 02 01 03 13	

The detailed Notice for the above posts, including educational qualifications, age limits, commencement of online registration, last date for online registration, last date for submission of application, application fee, etc. is available on our website www.wihg.res.in. Interested Candidates can download the details and apply through the link <http://wihg.co.in> given on the website of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun (www.wihg.res.in). No other means/mode of application will be accepted.

Director, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology reserves the right to reject any or all the applications without assigning any reason or not to fill any post, if suitable candidates are not available or because of any other reason.

The closing date will be 30 days from the date of publishing of this advertisement in Employment News.

S/d-
REGISTRAR

CBC 36122/12/0001/2223



Patients Demand More Ticket Counters At Super Speciality Hospital

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Patients at Super Specialty Hospital, Shireen Bagh have complained that the presence of few ticket counters at the hospital is taking a heavy toll on patients.

Patients say there are only three ticket counters and since the day hospital switched to online ticketing, it is getting hard for patients to get prescription tickets as they have to wait in long queues.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Abdul Hameed Bhat, 75 a patient, said he suffers from multiple ailments and he had to wait for hours together to get a prescription.

"There are only three counters and the number of patients is a lot more. Some patients cannot wait because of health compli-

cations" Hameed said.

He urged the authorities to ensure more counters should be put in place so that patients suffering from ailments do not suffer.

Patients also complained that every second time a patient comes to seek appointment, he or she has to once again seek a new prescription online, which is time consuming and takes a toll on the health of patients who suffer from severe health complications. Patients urged the hospital administration to do away with the system.

In a bid to seek answers to the requests of patients Kashmir Observer made multiple attempts to speak to Medical Superintendent of Super Speciality Hospital, Dr Jahangir Bakshi. He, however, did not respond to repeated phone calls.

Korean Ambassador Visits KU

Vows partnerships in 'areas of mutual interest'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Korean Ambassador to India Jae-bok Chang Tuesday visited the University of Kashmir with top officials of the Korean Embassy in an effort to develop future coopera-

culture, among others.

"We want an increased people-to-people contact between India and South Korea. Under our global education programme, we have taken 24 Indian students in 2021 and this figure is expected to rise in the current year," the Ambassa-



tion and partnership in the 'mutual areas' of academics, research and culture.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan warmly received the delegation at the Vice-Chancellor's Secretariat where she enlightened the visiting delegates about the academic and research progression of the University over the years, including its current status of being one of the foremost academic institutions in the country assessed as 'A+' by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council.

According to a statement, the visiting delegation thereafter interacted with top academic administrators and officers of the University at a session chaired by the Vice-Chancellor.

Speaking on the occasion, Jae-bok Chang said the delegation aims to develop cooperation and future partnerships in the domains of mutual interest related to academics, research and

dor said, assuring that the Korean Embassy will make "more efforts" to develop more partnerships.

He said this visit is the "beginning of our relationship with the University of Kashmir and we look forward to working closely with you to develop future cooperation." At the meeting, top University officers including Dean Academics, Dean Colleges, Dean Research, Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Director Admissions, Director DIQA, Dean Students Welfare and Chief Proctor put forth their valuable suggestions about areas which could be explored to develop such tie-ups.

Terming the Korean delegation's visit as "very important", the Vice-Chancellor hoped that such interactions will create opportunities for collaborative research, cultural exchange programmes and scholarships avenues for our students and research scholars.

SKUAST To Hold Conference On Impact Of Viral Infections

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir is going to hold a two-day international conference on the impact of viral infections at the Shalimar campus on November 5&6 (Saturday and Sunday), 2022.

The international conference 'Emerging and Re-emerging Viral Infections Impacting Humans, Animals, Plants, Fish and Environment' will be part of Annual Convention of the Indian Virological Society to be held at SKUAST-K this year.

Renowned virologists and scientists including, Dr RK Ratho, PGI Chandigarh; Prof Parvaiz A

Koul, SKIMS, Soura; Dr Pragma Yadav, NIV, Pune; Prof NN Barman; AAU, Assam; Dr Anirban Roy, IARI, New Delhi; Dr Amit Pandey, Bhimtal; and Dr Manoj Kumar, Hester Biosciences Limited will be keynote speakers at the conference.

The conference is being held against the backdrop of the emergence and re-emergence of viral outbreaks like Covid-19, severe liver inflammation in kids, monkeypox, polio, and "tomato flu" etc.

The recent outbreak of the LSD virus has killed over 1 lakh cattle and is still unabated. Each viral disease appears to be the result of unusual manifestations and proliferation of viruses previously known.



A group of female tourists pose for a photograph at the Botanical garden on Tuesday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Principal Green Land School M Ashraf Jan Passes Away

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Principal Green Land Higher Secondary School Muhammad Mohammad Ashraf Jan passed away on Tuesday at Medanta Hospital, family sources said. He passed away after prolonged illness in New Delhi, his son Suhail Jan informed in a social media post.

"His death has ended an era of hard work and selfless service towards society" Suhail Jan said.

His demise is being widely mourned as he is credited for shaping the career of thousands of students in downtown Srinagar.

It is pertinent to mention, few decades back Muhammad Ashraf established Green Land School from "few small" rooms in Zadibal. In contemporary times it has transformed into an Education movement in downtown Srinagar.

Syed Shakeel Qalandar, prominent businessman described his demise as a great loss to the society.

Paying tribute to the late Principal, Journalist Peerzada Ashiq who has been an alumni of Green Land School penned down a lengthy note on his Facebook account.

"Mr Ashraf was always meticulously dressed with a quintessentially well-oiled hair style, he



was an imposing but motivating personality all his life. His husky voice, well-paused sentences and sophisticated demeanor always left an imprint on the students" Ashiq wrote.

"The last I remember of him is this young and agile principal, in white dress, leaning against the white colored Fiat car and

stopping the late-comers in the 1990s. He would quiz students. Leave the polite students and punish the repeat offenders. Despite the huge rolls, he would segregate the best and the worst ones in a jiffy"

Hundreds of other students also paid their tributes to the educationist who has played a pivotal role in the upliftment of education in the Hawal locality of Old City.

"I am personally indebted to him for grooming and honing us. He indeed molded us from born as a man to a well-aware and responsible human being. Thanks for being there." Ashiq mourned his mentor's demise.

Mayor Reviews Progress On Projects Under SSCL

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Junaid Azim Mattu, the Mayor of Srinagar on Tuesday took a detailed review of various ongoing projects carried out by Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) at SMC headquarters.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairman Lakes and Con-

servation Management Authority, Secretary LCMA, General Manager P&UD, SSCL, Joint Commissioner (Works) SMC, Superintendent Engineer LCMA, Executive Engineer Right River Wing Division SMC, concerned design and engineering team and other officials from SMC.

During the meeting, the Mayor directed

concerned officers to put a workable action plan in place for the repair and retro-fitting of three existing bridges at Karam Shah (RA), Saida Kadal. He emphasized that being a motor-able road the repairing of these three bridges can save a distance of two kilometers for the vehicles.

In the meeting, the

proposal put forward by SSCL to LCMA regarding the transformation of Mir Behri Dal into a tourist village was threadbare discussed.

On the occasion, VC LCMA gave a detailed report to the Mayor. It was proposed that about 30,000 households residing in the interiors of Dal Lake should be rehabilitated.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS



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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 06 Rabi ul Sani 1444	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5:26
	ZUHR	12:14
	ASR	4:00
	Magrib	5:41
	ISHA	7:02

This Day In History

- 676 - Donus begins his reign as Catholic Pope replacing Pope Adeodatus II
- 1327 - King Alfonso IV of Aragon crowned
- 1355 - English invasion army under King Edward lands at Calais
- 1642 - Second Battle of Breitenfeld, aka First Battle of Leipzig; victory for the Swedish army under Field Marshal Lennart Torstenson over Holy Roman Empire army under Archduke Leopold Wilhelm of Austria
- 1675 - A combined attack by the Plymouth, Rhode Island, Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut colonies attacks the Great Swamp Fort, owned by the Narragansetts during King Philip's War
- 1698 - Scottish settlers make landfall in Panama, establishing the ill-fated 'Darien Venture' colony
- 1772 - Boston: anti-English Committee of Correspondence forms
- 1783 - General George Washington, later 1st US President, bids farewell to his army after the American Revolutionary War
- 1835 - 2nd Seminole War begins in Osceola
- 1841 - Akbar Khan successfully revolts against Shah Shuja in Afghanistan
- 1861 - Afghan Civil War: Western Department Union General John C. Fremont is relieved of command and replaced by David Hunter.
- 1868 - Time zone: New Zealand officially adopts a standard time to be observed nationally.
- 1880 - James A. Garfield (R) elected 20th US President
- 1898 - Theodor Herzl arrives in Jerusalem
- 1914 - Russia declares war on the Ottoman Empire
- 1914 - Great Britain declares the entire North Sea a military area: neutral ships will transit it at their own risk
- 1917 - Balfour Declaration proclaims support for a Jewish state in Palestine
- 1917 - Lansing-Ishii Agreement; US recognizes Japan's privileges in China
- 1920 - Warren G. Harding elected 29th US President
- 1942 - 11th day of battle at El Alamein: British assault on Tel el Aqqaqir
- 1948 - US President Harry Truman re-elected in an upset over Republican Thomas E. Dewey
- 1954 - Taiwan & US sign military pact
- 1956 - Hungary appeals for UN assistance against Soviet invasion
- 1956 - Israel captures Gaza & Sheham

From KO Archives

'1500 Militants Active In North Kashmir'

Observer News Service

S RINAGAR: Around 1500 militants, mostly foreign mercenaries are operating in North Kashmir districts of Kupwara and Baramulla, a BSF official said.

There are 1500 active militants, mostly foreigners, in North Kashmir and the largest group belong to Pakistan based Lashker-e-Toiba, the local component is much less. Inspector General of BSF, B N Chattervedi told reporters at Baramulla, here yesterday.

He said though infiltration has declined in Kashmir region in view of stringent security measures adopted on the borders, militant activities have increased in Jammu region.

Chattervedi, who was briefing reporters about the seizure of big cache of arms and ammunition from a militant hideout at Mangdon forest, near line of Control (LoC), said the hideout here served as a transit camp for the militants.

The arms and ammunition which were being smuggled from Pakistan used to be dumped in the hideout and later distributed to other areas of the Kashmir valley, he said.

He said BSF troops raided the militant hideout on October 29 in which two militants including an Afghan mercenary was killed.

The search of the hideout led to the recovery of huge cache of arms and ammunition including eight kgs of RDX, three AK assault rifles besides, food materials.

(Kashmir Observer, November 02, 2000)

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Gujarat Morbi Bridge Collapse: What Led To Tragedy? Here Are Some Reasons

Agenceis

New Delhi: What is a suspension bridge? How does it transfer the load to the ground? Those were questions on the minds of many on Monday, a day after a century-old suspension bridge in Gujarat's Morbi over the Machchu river collapsed, leaving 134 people dead.

Just before the bridge collapsed, CCTV footage showed, some men were trying to rock the suspension bridge from one side to another. Saptadip Sarkar, a structural engineer working with Delhi-based Engineers India Limited answers these questions.

"The deck of the suspension bridge, which bears the weight of the people walking on it in addition to its own weight, is held in place by the means of vertical suspenders which are made from ductile material and subjected to tension," he said.

"These suspenders are then

people, is transferred to the ground through the vertical piers, which are in compression, explained Mr Sarkar.

So, at what points is such a type of bridge the most vulnerable? Quite a few, it turns out.

"To begin with, the main cable, suspenders and the points at which the suspenders connect to the bridge deck are all vulnerable to failure," Mr Sarkar said.

"In fact, the main cable requires the most attention in terms of regular checks and maintenance over the service period of the bridge. The reason for this being the fatigue load that it is continuously subjected to during its service," he said.

Fatigue load refers to continuously subjecting a material to some force until it develops a crack.

Referring to the suspension bridge in Morbi, Sarkar said its cables are of a highly ductile material and should have stayed in place much longer, despite the



connected to the main cable which is also ductile and subjected to tension.

"The main cable, which spans between the points connected by the bridge and is intermediately supported by vertical main column piers, has two functions. The first is to support the vertical suspenders and the second is to maintain the verticality of the piers," he said.

Overall, the weight of the deck, including the traffic of

kind of deflection being deliberately created by the people seen in the video (CCTV footage).

"Also, the bridge that failed was recently renovated, so fatigue failure can be safely ruled out as a possible cause," observed Mr Sarkar.

So then what was it that gave way? The connection points where the vertical suspenders meet the deck of the bridge are next in line to warrant attention, the structural engineer said.

Pro-Palestinian, Pro-Iran Lula Retakes Brazil's Presidency

Agenceis

Brasilia- Israel lost an ally in South America this week, when President Jair Bolsonaro, an enthusiastic Zionist supporter, lost to former president Lula da Silva, who is vocally pro-Palestinian and nurtured ties between Brazil and Iran.

Da Silva became the first Brazilian president to visit Israel in 2010, but the trip was marked with controversy as he refused to follow Israeli protocol of honouring Zionist visionary Theodor Herzl by visiting his grave during the trip, a norm for foreign dignitaries. Israel's foreign minister at the time, Avigdor Liberman, refused to meet the visiting President due to the breach of protocol.

Da Silva further angered Israelis when he donned a keffiyeh on his shoulders and laid a wreath at the tomb of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Ramallah.

Later in 2010, Brazil recognised a Palestinian state, setting off a wave of such recognitions in South America.

Da Silva continues to support unilateral Palestinian statehood, including Ramallah's bid to become a UN member. In June of this year, he again wore a keffiyeh at an event and said that



"Palestinians deserve our full attention and solidarity."

Meanwhile, Palestinians welcomed the victory of Da Silva against Bolsonaro, with hopes that Lula's success will "boost the global support for Palestinians".

Meanwhile, Dr Mustafa Barghouti, leader of the 'Palestinian National Initiative,' said that the election victory of Da Silva would boost the global support for Palestinians and pave the way for a "multi-polar world."

Iranian Foreign Ministry also congratulated the victory of Lula da Silva and expressed hope that the relationship between Iran and Brazil which has always been based on "goodwill" and "mutual respect" will expand more under the leadership of the president-elect.

"Ready For Action": Army Commander On Rajnath Singh's Gilgit-Baltistan Comment



Agenceis

Srinagar: Chinar Corps Commander Lieutenant General ADS Aujla on Tuesday said that the Indian army was "fully prepared for action" after Defence minister Rajnath Singh hinted at retrieving Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on Monday.

"Indian army is fully prepared and we are ready for any action on orders from the government," lieutenant general ADS Aujla said.

Speaking at a 'Shaurya Divas' program in Srinagar, Mr Singh had said, "We have just begun walking north, our journey will be complete when we implement the resolution passed unanimously by the Indian Parliament on Feb-

ruary 22, 1994, by reaching the Gilgit-Baltistan."

The commanding officer was interacting with journalists in Srinagar on the defence minister's comments. "Whenever the central government takes such a decision, orders will come to us and in such a situation, we are fully prepared. Apart from our conventional strength, we are also strengthening ourselves modernly, so that we do not have to look back in such a situation."

He also said that in the last 75 years, the capacities and the capabilities of the Indian Army have been upgraded. Our preparedness is at a very good level and whenever it is needed to be displayed, you will see a very different im-

pact, he added.

While talking about the current situation, General Aujla said, "Right now the situation is completely under control, but whenever there is an opportunity, there are attempts to infiltrate, but the Indian Army is ready with full force to protect our border."

In response to the question asked about the situation after the ceasefire declaration and the abrogation of Article 370, General Aujla said, "It has been a very good year in view of the restoration of peace in the valley, showing the lowest infiltration in 32 years, in this whole year till the month of October, only eight terrorists tried to infiltrate, out of which three were eliminated."



WE HAVE JUST BEGUN WALKING NORTH, our journey will be complete when we implement the resolution passed unanimously by the Indian Parliament on February 22, 1994, by reaching the Gilgit-Baltistan."

Covid Was "More Likely Than Not" A Result Of Lab-Related Incident: Report

Agenceis

Washington: The COVID-19 pandemic was "more likely than not, the result of a research-related incident," according to an interim report, released by the minority oversight staff of the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP).

"Based on the analysis of the publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that the COVID-19 pandemic was, more likely than not, the result of a research-related incident. New information, made publicly available and independently verifiable, could change this assessment," the report concluded.

Three years after its emergence in China's Wuhan, exactly how SARS-CoV-2 first emerged as a respiratory pathogen capable of sustained human-to-human transmission remains the subject of active debate.

Experts have put forward two dominant theories on the origins of the virus. The first theory is that SARS-CoV-2 is the result of a natural zoonotic spillover. The second theory is that the virus infected humans as a consequence of a research-related incident.

The report underlines that understanding the virus's origin is essential to understanding how this outbreak happened, why detection and reporting systems did not work as anticipated, and to better



prepare for future health threats.

Last week, HELP Committee Minority oversight staff released an interim report titled, "An Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic." The interim staff report summarizes a review to date of publicly available, open-source information related to the potential origin of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

"Over one million Americans have died from COVID-19 and tens of millions have died from this virus worldwide. In addition to the tragic loss of life, over the past three years we have experienced the social, educational, and economic costs of a global pandemic," Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), Ranking Member of the Senate HELP Committee, stated in the forward to the interim report.

"With COVID-19 still in our midst, it is critical that we continue international efforts to uncover additional information regarding the origins of this deadly

virus," Senator Burr continues.

"My ultimate goal with this report is to provide a clearer picture of what we know, so far, about the origins of SARS-CoV-2 so that we can continue to work together to be better prepared to respond to future public health threats. I believe this interim report does just that," he added.

Experts have proposed two dominant theories on the origins of the virus: (1) the virus is the result of a natural zoonotic spillover or (2) the virus infected humans as a consequence of a research-related incident. This report has reviewed open-source, publicly available information relevant to the origins of the virus.

While it remains possible that SARS-CoV-2 emerged as a result of a natural zoonotic spillover, facts and evidence found in previous documented zoonotic spillover events have not, to date, been identified in relation to this pandemic.

"When They Needed Us, They Exploited Us": Indian Students In Canada

Some foreign students are accusing the Canadian government of using them as a cheap source of labor and discarding them once they're no longer needed.

Last year, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government allowed about 50,000 foreign students to stay for 18 months after graduation to seek employment, during a time when the economy was reopening from Covid shutdowns and companies needed to hire.

The government sold the permit extension as a way to "help more graduates fill pressing needs" in key sectors and allow them to gain the work experience needed to immigrate permanently. But a year and half later, some of these permanent-resident hopefuls were left without status to work or remain in the country.

"I'm basically sitting at home and living off of my savings and not knowing how long I'd have to do that," Daniel D'Souza, an accountant and former student at Seneca College near Toronto, said in an interview. "I regret choosing Canada as a country to immigrate to, to study and to live in. Canada should appreciate foreign students more, not just use them as a form of cheap labor."

Immigration Minister Sean Fraser's department said it's considering ways to better support those who want to settle in the country permanently. The government "recognizes the tremendous social, cultural and economic benefits" that foreign students bring, spokesperson Jeffrey MacDonald said in an emailed statement.

Like many graduates who were part of the 2021 program, Mr D'Souza's career is now paused and his future uncertain. These former students -- many



from India and the Philippines -- had to leave their jobs when their work permits expired with no guarantee they'll gain permanent residency. Even if their applications are eventually successful, they face months in limbo with no job, income, or health and social benefits.

"When they needed us, they exploited us. But when we need their help or support, nobody shows up," said Anshdeep Bindra, a former consultant at Ernst & Young in Toronto. "We pay fees and taxes and aren't getting anything in return. You don't recognize that we're the people who helped you solved the labor shortage."

New Targets

Prime Minister Trudeau's government, which is planning to welcome a record number of new immigrants over the next three years to offset an aging workforce, is scheduled to announce updated targets Tuesday morning in Toronto.

"Those benefiting from these public policies are being afforded a similar or, in many cases, greater opportunity to acquire skilled work experience as graduates had prior to the pandemic," Mr MacDonald said.

The foreign graduates were hoping the permit extension would give them more time to gain Canadian work experience and boost their scores under the country's immigration ranking system for skilled workers.

UP Officials' Leaves Cancelled To Get Pothole-Free Roads By November 15

Agenceis

Lucknow: The Public Works Department (PWD) of Uttar Pradesh has cancelled the leaves of all the department officers for November as chief minister Yogi Adityanath had given an ultimatum to make the state pothole free by November 15.

The Chief Minister's order had come after he chaired a high-level meeting on October 6, following which he ordered a statewide campaign to improve the roads of the state.

The order of PWD minister Jitin Prasada for cancelling the leaves and speeding up the campaign of making roads pothole-free came days after the tragic incident of Morbi bridge collapse which claimed 135 lives took place.

The department has now sought details regarding the status of bridges and ropeways in the state from all the chief engineers and MDs. On October 31, nine persons, including officials of Orewa, the company that renovated the bridge, ticket sellers and security men, were arrested for the Morbi bridge collapse in Gujarat.

On Sunday, the suspension bridge above the Machchu River in the Morbi district collapsed. The visuals showed people falling into the river below.

Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Singhvi said that a criminal case has been registered in con-

nection with the incident.

A First Information Report (FIR) has been filed by the Gujarat Police in the bridge collapse incident in Gujarat's Morbi district against private agencies for the attempt to commit culpable homicide and culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

The Gujarat Police has filed a First Information Report under IPC sections 304 and 308 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) in the bridge collapse tragedy.

The Gujarat government has constituted a five-member committee headed to probe the bridge collapse incident. The police also informed that the management person agency did not take due care and quality check of the bridge and kept it open for the people on October 26, displaying severe carelessness.

As per the reports, the bridge was closed for about 8 months for maintenance and the repair work was being completed by a private agency.

State-wide mourning in Gujarat will take place on November 2, for the people who died in the Morbi tragedy. The decision was taken at a high-level meeting held at Gandhinagar Raj Bhavan chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The national flag will be flown at half-mast on government buildings in the state on November 2 and no government public functions, receptions, or entertainment programs will be held.

SHORT TAKES

Supreme Court To Hear Gyanvapi Case On November 10

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a plea on a dispute involving the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi on November 10.

A bench of justices D Y Chandrachud and Hima Kohli was told by advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain that the matter requires an urgent hearing as the court's order to preserve the area of the mosque where a "Shivling" is said to be found during a survey expires on November 12.

"Our difficulty is that the court's interim order is coming to end on November 12," Jain submitted.

The bench then agreed to hear the matter on November 10. On May 20, the top court had transferred a civil suit filed by Hindu devotees on the Gyanvapi mosque from the civil judge (senior division) to the district judge, Varanasi, saying looking at the "complexities" and the "sensitivity" of the issue, it is better if a senior judicial officer with more than 25-30 years of experience handles the case.

Son Irked By Nitish's Remark On Paswan's 'Second Marriage'

Agenceis

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's reference to Ram Vilas Paswan's "second marriage in Delhi" evoked an angry outburst from the late leader's son and political heir Chirag Paswan on Tuesday.

Nitish Kumar had muttered "biyahwa to dusra Dilli mein jaakar kiye the na" (married for the second time in Delhi) on the previous day in a sort of reflection on the Bihari roots of the father-son duo. He had also called Chirag Paswan a "bachcha" (kid).

"It ill behoves the chief minister to make personal remarks about my father after his death," the young Jamui MP, born to his late father's second wife, said.

"I have never stooped to this level. I have never spoken anything of the kind about Nitish Kumar who has not been transparent about his own personal life. My late father was like an open book," said Chirag Paswan

Woman Kills Boyfriend For Refusing To Break Up

Agenceis

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala police on Tuesday arrested two relatives of the woman accused of poisoning to death her 23-year-old male friend after he refused to break up with her.

A senior officer of the Crime Branch wing said the woman's mother and uncle were arrested for the offence of destruction of evidence in the case.

"We are presently taking them for evidence collection," the officer told PTI.

Greeshma (22), was arrested on Monday afternoon, a day after she confessed to having poisoned the victim -- Sharon Raj (23) -- at her residence on October 14.

Hours prior to her arrest, she had attempted to die by suicide at the Nedumangad police station when she was taken to the washroom.

She was immediately rushed to the hospital and her stomach washed. After her condition stabilised, she was arrested.

Heroin Worth ₹70Cr Seized From Foreign National At Delhi Airport

Agenceis

New Delhi: Heroin worth nearly ₹70 crore was seized from the possession of a Belize national at the international airport in New Delhi, the Customs department said on Monday.

The accused was intercepted after his arrival from Doha on Sunday, it said.

Subsequently, on thorough checking of the baggage of the accused, certain material was found in the false bottom and top of his trolley bag, the department said in a statement. This led to the recovery of 9.95 kilograms of heroin worth ₹69.95 crore in the international market, it said.

The Customs department said the passenger has been arrested and the narcotic seized.



Village Head, Wife, Mother Shot Dead In Sleep In UP's Budaun

Agenceis

Budaun: In a suspected case of political rivalry, a village head and two members of his family were shot dead by unidentified assailants at their residence here on Monday, police said.

The victims have been identified as Rakesh Gupta (58), the village head of Sathra, his wife Sharda Devi (54) and his mother Shanti Devi (80). Earlier, Gupta was also a block pramukh and a member of the zila panchayat, they said.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) O P Singh said he received information at around 6 pm about the triple murder in Sathra village under the Ushait police station area.

According to initial findings, four unidentified attackers came on two motorcycles and entered Gupta's house from the rear door, he said.

Gupta, his wife and his mother were asleep at the time of the incident, the police said. Family members of the victims suspect political rivalry to be the motive behind the killings, they said.

Administrator, Associated Hospitals, GMC Srinagar Visits Shopian

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Administrator, Associated Hospitals, GMC Srinagar, Hashmat Ali Yatoo on Tuesday visited Panchayat Halqa Keegam Shopian to assess the developmental issues of the area under the ambitious Back to Village Programme.

On the occasion, the Administrator met DDC Members, PRLs, and locals, interacted with them and listened to them patiently to take stock of their genuine issues pertaining to their respective areas.

During interactions, Yatoo said that the 'Back to Village' programme is an ambitious programme of the Govt to reach out to the people at their doorsteps and to ensure public ownership and public participation in local governance.

He sought feedback from the general public on the effectiveness of welfare schemes as well as other developmental activities being executed in their respective areas.

On this occasion, the Officers of various departments briefed about the benefits of various welfare schemes and other developmental activities of their departments for the awareness of the general public.

Earlier, the Visiting Officer made an inspection of stalls displayed by various departments which include, Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Handicrafts, and others so that locals can avail of the benefits of

various centrally Sponsored and other welfare schemes.

DDC Members projected various issues and grievances of public importance during the programmes which were heard patiently by the Visiting Officer.

On the occasion, Rs.15.87 lakhs scholarships were also distributed as educational assistance to labour cardholders through the Labour Department besides Land Passbooks by the Revenue Department were also distributed along with Golden Cards.

He also inspected the Anganwadi centre Keegam Shopian and checked the nutrition supply provided to the children.

Visiting Officer also checked PHC Centre Tukroo, interacted with Health Functionaries, enquired about basic amenities being provided to the patients and emphasised for providing better healthcare facilities to the patients. He also inspected the Drug store, Allopathic Dispensary, ECG Room, Gynaec Section, Wards and other sections of PHC.

DDC, Member, Raja Waheed, Additional District Development Commissioner Shopian, Manzoor Hussain, Chief Medical Officer, Shopian, Arshad Hussain Tak, Chief Education Officer, ExEn R&B, Tehsildar, Keegam, BMO Shopian, BMO Keller and other officers were present on the occasion.

Students of Ranjoor Memorial Government Higher Secondary School Kegam presented a cultural programme.

Tourism Players Expect Bumper Winter Season At Sonamarg



Agencies

GANDERBAL: The hoteliers and traders at the world famous tourist destination, Sonamarg, are expecting a good tourist season this winter as the government has decided to keep the resort accessible during winters.

Pertinently, the tourist spot remained closed during the winters in the past as the heavy snowfall and avalanches from Gagangar area to Sonamarg road forced the closure of the road for vehicular movement.

"Now, since the Z-Morh

Tunnel which bypass the avalanche prone area is near completion, the administration for the first time is gearing up to keep the popular health resort Sonamarg in Ganderbal accessible for tourists during winters," officials said.

The efforts are on to make Sonamarg another winter tourist destination in Kashmir, they said, adding that all the concerned departments have pressed man and machinery to provide basic infrastructure needed during winters, which include electricity and water supply.

This initiative of adminis-

tration has brought cheers to all those including hoteliers and traders, who are associated with the tourist business. The scenic beauty at Sonamarg is attracting the tourists from all across the globe and thus the flow of tourists has increased at the spot, which is also known as meadow of Gold.

"Once the destination will be thrown open during winters, it will not only boost the economy but also provide relief to local populace living in various villages that used to migrate for long period during winters," an official said—(KNO)

They Can't Stop China From Entering Ladakh, But Won't Let Me In Kargil: Omar

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah has claimed that authorities in Union Territory of Ladakh tried to dissuade him from visiting Kargil.

"They told me not come here. There (Eastern Ladakh) China has come in, you could not stop them, you could not send them back. We are only going from Srinagar to Kargil via Drass. We were not here to occupy the town," Omar told a gathering of his supporters in Drass on Monday.

The National Conference leader alleged he was denied

the permission to use a public address system and the Day Bungalow facility in Drass.

"I have been a chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir for six years, but I fail to understand certain decisions made by them. At best, I would have only used the Dak Bungalow to freshen up," he added.

Abdullah said the government had no confidence in its own decisions.

"In August 2019, they separated you (Ladakh) from Jam-



mu and Kashmir. If that was your heartfelt demand, why are they scared of allowing us in?" he asked.

Hitting out at the BJP-led government at the Centre, he said they cannot sever the centuries-old ties between people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh by drawing imaginary lines.

"Our relations are very strong, and these fake lines cannot weaken that. We can feel your pain, we know you are being ignored," he said.

Lt Gen Dwivedi Felicitates Winners Of 1st Inter-Services X-Country Paragliding Competition



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Northern Command's General Officer Commanding-in-chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday felicitated the winners of the first Inter-services X-Country Championship in Bir Billing and expressed confidence that the pilots would perform equally well in other national and international events.

Lt Gen Dwivedi witnessed wing control and skills of accuracy, coupled with X-country navigation by paragliding pilots in Bir Billing, Himachal Pradesh -- the world's second-highest paragliding site at 8,000 ft.

An Indian Army official said the inter-services competition would not only achieve synergy among the services but also

create a pool of trained pilots for operational tasks behind enemy lines.

Lt Gen Dwivedi congratulated the winners for showcasing their skills in a X-country terrain and expressed confidence that the paragliding pilots would bring laurels to the country and their respective services from other national and international events.

"The first such championship was held at Bir Billing by Dah Division, under the aegis of Army Adventure Wing from October 29 till Tuesday. Teams comprising paragliding pilots from the Indian Army and the Indian Navy participated in the competition," Defence spokesperson Lt Col Devender Anand said.

The three-day competition culminated with a cultural

programme followed by the awards presentation.

The competition saw the participation of paragliding pilots who demonstrated awe-inspiring wing control and accuracy, coupled with X-country navigation, he said.

The first-of-its-kind competition provided an excellent opportunity to the paragliding pilots to showcase their skills in front of some of India's best paragliding coaches and umpires, Lt Col Anand added.

The ability of paragliding flights to last several hours and cover large distances are of great importance to the Armed Forces, he said. The competition has strengthened the bonhomie between the services and reinforced commonality and cohesiveness, he added.

Mandeep Kaur Reviews Implementation Of RDD Schemes In Rajouri

Observer News Service

RAJOURI: Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur on Tuesday visited Rajouri and had a comprehensive review meeting on implementation of RDD schemes in the district.

Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kunda; Director RDD, Jammu, Mohammad Mumtaz Ali; ADDC, Pawan Kumar; ACD, Vijay Kumar and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Taking stock of progress under District Capex budget, Commissioner Secretary was informed that 3789 works were approved under the Budget for the Financial Year 2022-23, of which, tenders for have been allotted 2059 works and work on maximum projects have been started.

Commissioner Secretary, while reviewing progress under PMAY-G, was informed that against the target of 30601 houses, work on about 19529 houses has been completed in all respects, so far.

Under Awas Plus, it was apprised that against the target of constructing 10850 houses, work on 371 has been completed.

Commissioner Secretary asked the DDC and ACD to prepare a permanent waiting list including all eligible beneficiaries in it with removal of the ineligible candidates so that the benefits can be provided to the genuine beneficiaries.

Seeking progress regarding person days generation, it was apprised that 298782 man-days

have been generated as on date.

Commissioner Secretary also had a detailed review of works done under B2V3 and was informed that out of 1018 works, about 760 works have been completed. She directed the ACD to update the list of works completed by different departments under all phases of Back to Village programme.

Discussing progress under SBM-G, she was informed that against the target of constructing 1047 IHHL units, the work on 3220 IHHL units has been completed.

Regarding Amrit Sarovars, she was informed that against the target of constructing 154 Amrit Sarovars, the work on 101 has been completed. She asked the officers for according special focus on beautification of the completed Amrit Sarovars.

While reviewing progress under Soakage pits, Commissioner Secretary asked the concerned officers to complete the targets at the earliest. She also stressed upon effective management of grey and black water in rural areas.

Regarding construction of panchayat ghars in the panchayats where these have not been established yet, she asked the BDOs to identify suitable land and get it transferred in favour of the department at the earliest. She assured for release of adequate funds for construction of the panchayat ghars.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Commissioner Secretary stressed upon them to work in coordination for better implementation of the schemes on ground.

BACK TO VILLAGE-4

6000 Land Passbooks Issued During 2nd Phase At Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The second phase of Back to Village-4 programme culminated today in Anantnag during which 128 Panchayats were covered spanning 6 community development blocks.

A plethora of activities were conducted in all the Panchayats viz. Cultural events, sports activities by school children and youth club members etc.

The visiting officers conducted Gram Sabha for formulation of GPDP and reviewed the works completed under the previous back to village programs.

They also inspected the works completed in the Panchayat under various CSSs, public institutions and discussed implementation of public welfare measures in the Panchayat. Mahila Sabhas and Bal Sabhas were held to allow women and children to highlight specific issues and address them appropriately.

They Visiting Officers also inspected the rejuvenation of local ponds completed under the Amrit Sarovar project. They spread

awareness regarding various welfare schemes including PM SEHAT, e-Shram Cards, Soil Health Cards and KCCs. They appealed to people to register themselves so that they can enjoy the benefits under different schemes.

The Revenue Department focused on distribution of land pass books among beneficiaries. More than 6000 land pass books were issued in the second phase of the B2V4 program.

Representatives of various line departments were also present on the occasion to address the queries raised by the public. Pani Samiti members gave demonstrations of Field Testing kits in various Panchayats.

In every panchayat, youth were identified for assistance under self-employment schemes and for upgradation of skills under the Himayat programme. The youth actively participated in GPDP formulation, in sports activities and gave their views regarding the works that need to be taken up in Panchayats for productive engagement of young minds.

Broadcaster, Theatre Director Upinder Khashu Passes Away

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Well-known broadcaster, actor and theatre director Upinder Khashu passed away on Tuesday at a Gurugram hospital after a brief illness.

Khashu, 70, is survived by his wife, Girija Khashu Watal, also a noted broadcaster of All India Radio (AIR), and two daughters.

Srinagar-born Khashu read news in Urdu and Kashmiri on the erstwhile Radio Kashmir until 1990 when threats from militants forced him to migrate to Delhi. He was provided police protection for a considerable time.

Khashu became a household name in Kashmir after playing a key role in tele-serial 'Chauraha' (crossroads) in the mid-1980s.

He gained national prominence with a powerful performance in hit serial 'Gul Gulshan Gulfaam', telecast in 1987 by Doordarshan. It was one of the first serials based in

Kashmir and portrayed camaraderie between Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims. In his later years, Khashu wrote and directed Kashmiri plays that were staged in Mumbai, Delhi and Jammu.

A celebrated stage, TV and film actor, he originally hailed from Zaindar Mohalla Srinagar and started his career as a stage artiste at Vasant theatre as a colleague of Ashok Jaikhan. He worked in hundreds of plays and serials and in some feature films as well. His last directorial venture, 'Wasa', was staged in Jammu two years ago.

Condoling his death, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said, "In the passing away of Shri Upinder Khashu Ji, the country has lost an eminent broadcaster and theatre director." "An accomplished actor, he was multi-talented and excelled in TV, radio and films. I convey my deepest condolences to his family, friends and admirers," Sinha said in his tweet.



Corruption Impacting Socio-Eco Fabric Of Society: CUK VC

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah Tuesday said the rampant corruption adversely impacts the socio-economic fabric of the society.

"The corruption breeds inequality and injustice in the society and further widens the gap between the haves and have-nots," Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah said while speaking during an awareness programme organized by the varsity's Department of Students Welfare (DSW) to observe the Vigilance Awareness Week. He said the corruption in public institutions shakes the peoples' confidence, adding the government agencies including the Anti-Corruption Bureau and Central Vigilance Origination should take strict and punitive action against those involved in corruption and malpractices. Prof. Shah said that there are various laws and regulations formulated by the government to check the menace of corruption, but what matters is the one's conscience. "The sensitization and awareness programmes like these are the need of the hour to educate the students and masses about their crucial role and responsibility to inform the anti-graft bodies about the malpractices," he further said.

In his presentation, SSP, ACB, SBG, Srinagar, Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Wani said, corruption erodes trust, weakens democ-

racy, hampers economic development and further exacerbates inequality, poverty, social division. He said our freedom and rule of law is directly impacted by corruption as it creates instability. "Corruption increases social evil with an increase in gaps between haves and have-nots. Our chance for a healthy environment and a sustainable future are directly impacted with brazen exploitation of resources for private gains. The economy of the country is greatly impacted which can result in grave negative consequences in the development of the country," he said. He appealed to the conscientious citizens to come forward with their complaint against the corrupt officials so that suitable action could be initiated against them.

CPO, ACB, Mr. Ghulam Jeelani Dar, in his presentation said the Vigilance awareness week is observed every year to encourage all stakeholders to collectively participate in the prevention of, and fight against corruption and to raise public awareness. He said the youth should come forward and encourage the whistle blowers to highlight the malpractices in the institutions.

Finance Officer and Dean DSW, Dr. Mehraj ud Din Shah, in his address, described corruption as the biggest malice and challenge faced by the nation and said, the corrupt officials misusing their official position for personal gains and vested interests should be identified and booked under the law.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Winter Is Coming

As winter nears in Kashmir, can power shortage be far behind? It can't be. In fact, the administration is set to announce one the early next month. The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has already said that a new power curtailment schedule will be out by November 10. The corporation added in no uncertain terms that the consumers might have to face longer cuts if the electricity is not used "judiciously". There is likely to be a 4-hour power curtailment in metered areas and a 6-hour curtailment in non-metered areas, according to the corporation. And the only way to avert it is by using electricity thriftily, a demand that makes no sense if people are paying for the consumption.

There are 1300 MWs of electricity available to the Power Development Department. However, during winters, the demand shoots up to 2000 MWs. More electricity should have been imported in response to this, which would then be compensated by consumers who are now willing to pay higher prices for their usage. But successive governments have chosen not to do this. This has invariably made winters in Kashmir darker and hence harsher for the people. It also affects tourism badly which has witnessed an unprecedented boom this year with over one crore people visiting the Valley. To ensure this momentum in tourist inflow is maintained, the government should at least provide 24x7 power supply to tourist spots like Gulmarg and Pahalgam.

However, the winter's problems are not limited just to shortage of power supply. Being a region with long, extended winters, the administration in Kashmir is expected to have a pool of knowledge, experience and expertise to deal with the situation. In the event of a snowfall, power and water supply are the first to be disrupted and snow clearance operations are lax. One expects that unlike in the past Power department will be better prepared to deal with the situation. The utility has usually been the target of the public ire, both on the street and online for its inability to immediately restore electricity once the Valley is snowed in. There is a widespread belief that the department does not plan ahead for a snowstorm. But here is hoping that the administration pleasantly surprises us with efficient handling of a bad turn in the weather. A good performance this time around will be a major boost for the image of the UT government.

OTHER OPINION

The Burden of Tragedy

At least 140 people were killed after a suspension bridge, a tourist attraction in Gujarat's Morbi town, collapsed, sending hundreds of revelers into the Machchhu river below. At least 47 of the dead were children, making it one of India's most horrendous tragedies. Inaugurated in 1879, the bridge was renovated and opened on October 26, four days before the tragedy. This raises several concerns. A company that seems to have had no apparent expertise or track record in the field was awarded the contract. There are questions about the fitness of the bridge; in any case, it was not intended to carry more than 150 people at a time, according to reports. Hundreds were on the bridge when it snapped as there was no crowd control. People were allowed to walk into a death trap. All these point to a major failure of governance at various levels. Gujarat is among the richer States of India, but it has often faced governance challenges — its poor management of the pandemic is a case in point. Human acts of omission and commission often cause tragedies, and significantly change the impact of natural disasters. The police have arrested nine people, including two officials of the company that is now under a cloud, and the government has announced compensation to the kin of the victims. A thorough inquiry and the fixing of accountability must follow quickly. The findings should be made public as soon as possible, and the guilty must face exemplary punishment.

Coming out of the long restrictions on travel necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, people all over the world appear to be binging on travel and outings. A stampede in Seoul in South Korea killed 154 people last week. In India also, record numbers of people are thronging tourism and pilgrimage spots. While tourism and travel are powerful engines of the economy, there must be more attention paid to ensure that they are safe and sustainable. Tourist and pilgrimage centres around the country should carry out safety and environmental audits to ensure that crowd management and safety protocols are in place to avoid tragedies such as this. Development of new centres where large numbers of people are expected should account for such contingencies. The rapid pace of road and infrastructure development in ecologically sensitive areas such as the Himalayas should be in accordance with topographic limitations. More must be done to regulate the flow of travellers according to the infrastructure capacity of particular destinations. Tourism promotion campaigns must include creating safety awareness among visitors and local officials.

The Hindu

Indo-US Ties & New Geo-Political Reality



The Biden administration unveiled the US National Defence Strategy 2022 on 27th October. It lists plans to boost its defence ties with India to deter Chinese aggression



Asad Mirza

in the region

The latest U.S. Defence Strategy states that China presents the most consequential and systemic challenge, while Russia poses acute threats to vital U.S. national interests abroad and to the homeland.

"The world is changing. We're at a significant inflection point in world history. And our country and the world - the United States of America has always been able to chart the future in times of great change. We've been able to constantly renew ourselves. And time and again, we've proven there's not a single thing we cannot do as a nation when we do it together - and I mean that - not a single solitary thing.", President Biden stated in the introductory note to the strategy.

U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin highlighted the different challenges posed by China and Russia as he unveiled the strategy. According to him, the dangers are both conventional — Moscow's aggression toward its neighbours, Beijing's efforts to gain control of Taiwan — and nuclear, with Russia possessing an extensive arsenal and China's stocks of atomic weapons growing fast. The strategy likewise places the primary emphasis on China.

It further asserts that Beijing is seeking to "refashion the Indo-Pacific region and the international system to suit its interests and authoritarian preferences," describing this dynamic as "the most comprehensive and serious challenge to US national security."

The strategy says Chinese rhetoric about and "coercive activity" toward Taiwan - which Beijing has vowed to take control of, by force if necessary - is a destabilising factor that risks miscalculation and threatens peace

in the area. As for Russia, it says the "acute threat" posed by Moscow has been most recently demonstrated by Moscow's February attacks on Ukraine.

Though the strategy tries to portray the U.S. ties in the Indo-Pacific as the most important one, yet India as a whole is mentioned in the strategy only five times and that too in the context of the Indo-Pacific, and there too it refers to China's campaigns to establish control over the East China Sea, Taiwan Strait, South China Sea, and disputed land borders such as with India.

It proclaims to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific, which could only be achieved if the U.S. builds collective capacity with other countries, like India. It further asserts that no region will be of more significance to the world and to everyday Americans than the Indo-Pacific, yet it fails to demonstrate India's importance to achieve this goal as a partner.

The document lists out the U.S. Vision, U.S.'s role in the global arena, and an overview of its strategic approach to different regional issues. Focussing on Middle East, the strategy talks about tweaking its policy in the Middle East and North Africa by eschewing grand designs in favour of more practical steps that can advance U.S. interests and help regional partners lay the foundation for greater stability, prosperity, and opportunity for the people of the Middle East and for the American people.

The strategy sets forth a new framework for U.S. policy in the region based on America's unparalleled comparative advantage in building partnerships, coalitions, and alliances to strengthen deterrence, while using diplomacy to de-escalate tensions, reduce risks of new conflicts, and set a long-term foundation for stability.

However, it clearly states that the United States will not allow foreign or regional powers to jeopardise freedom of navigation through the Middle East's waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al Mandab, nor tolerate efforts by any country to

dominate another - or the region - through military build-ups, incursions, or threats.

But if we scrutinise the strategy in a little more detail then we realise the emerging contradictions present in the strategy. When the strategy declares the U.S. commitment to support countries "that subscribe to the rules-based international order", will it include those OPEC countries which recently snubbed the U.S. demands for increased oil production?

When it talks about "military build-ups" then does it really mean that the U.S. will halt its longstanding efforts to advance its partners' "military build-ups" in the face of the threat from Iran? Further, how could the U.S. achieve the Israeli "dominance" of Hamas and Hezbollah?

Further the strategy lays stress on U.S. diplomacy to reduce tensions "wherever possible" - will it translate into normalising ties with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, or meeting with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah?

All this double talk on various regional and global issues and inherent contradictions of the strategy leads on to surmise that it is more of a document to placate the American public and not aimed at really achieving or changing substantially the U.S. policies on these issues. Overall the National Security Strategy 2022 comes out as a bit of disappointment though perhaps packaged coherently for the first time.

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

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai.

He writes on Indian Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. He can be contacted on www.asadmirza.in



OBSERVER
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All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Good Riddance to '2-finger' Sexual Assault Test

The Apex court of the country must be applauded for the decision to reinforce a ban on the "two-finger" sexual assault test and erase it from medical curriculum as well. Without an iota of doubt, the test

was insensitive and sexist. Assumption that a sexually active women can not be raped is absolutely wrong and its unfortunate that despite directions against this test, it was being conducted to make a mockery of justice. It is also good that Justice

Chandrachud has also asked all medical colleges to remove this test from their curriculum to put an end to the agony of girls and women across the country. Rape is not just physical exploitation of a women but its mental scar remains forever in the mind of

victim and her family. So, hopefully after this strict order, some sort of dignity would be maintained as far as rape victims are concerned rather than deepening their agony further.

Bal Govind
balgovind74@gmail.com

AT THE CREST OF SCIENCE

Rise of Kashmiris in Scientific World Shifts Focus on Research



Auqib Javeed

The growing presence of Kashmiris in the scientific world has vanquished detractors questioning the valley's verve for innovation. The Covid-time critique stemmed from the annual campus-churn producing countless academics—failing to leave their mark in the world of science and innovation. But now, the scenario is fast changing. The much-needed break came lately when over 20 scientists from Kashmir figured among the world's top 2 per cent scientist list compiled by Stanford University of USA. The venerated varsity lists scientists on the basis of some key indices, including publications and citations. Days after that global distinction, a bunch of young Kashmiri innovators patented their brainchild — a cooker that separates starch from rice. The innovation is seen as a major relief for Kashmiris having rice as staple but suffering from diabetes. But barring these coming of age instances, experts believe that Kashmiris need to pursue market-oriented academic-courses to stay relevant and create a larger impact at the global level.



DR. SULTAN KHUROO, LEADING GASTROENTEROLOGIST

There're only two Kashmiris from the Medical Science background in the Stanford University list. The reason for this rare representation is the lack of research culture in Kashmir. And then there're people who resort to duplicate research having zero significance in medical research. If somebody has done it in the US, you can't follow it in Kashmir. India tops the list of the countries in the world where fake researches are done and published in fake journals. You need passion for any research. If you're doing it for money or degree, then there's no fun in it. There should be an urge to find something new. Originality is important. If you do proper research and discover new diseases and interventions, people will come to your door for collaboration.



DR. PARVAIZ KOUL, DIRECTOR SHER-E-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (SKIMS)

The students should choose new courses like Nanotechnology, Artificial Intelligence and other sources to match the global scientific market. The educational institutions should take these courses as flagship programs and make them market-oriented. More youngsters should come to do research. I'm sure they'll outshine their seniors. If I've 500 publications, my students should've 600. I'll be very happy if my students do better than me. In near future, I'm sure more Kashmiris will figure in these coveted lists and will do better in research.



DR. ADIL GANI, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

I think we've to be more innovative and skill-oriented while providing education. The market is looking for people who're innovative and skillful. So, therefore, we need to catch them young and inculcate a scientific spirit at educational level. In this regard, the campus has to play an important role. The growth of researcher should be an academic spirit. I was very lucky in that sense. It was my parent department—Food Science and Technology—that helped me to get the Fulbright-Nehru Master's Fellowship.



PROF. TARIQ CHALKOO, HEAD OF PHYSICS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE (GDC), BARAMULLA

In South Asia, we lack research-based pedagogy, which means we don't expose our students to research methodologies at an early stage. We lack orientation. The present system is not very conducive and supportive for the researchers so somehow we've to change the paradigm. I can say that we must start a new beginning since the new education policy is there and must inculcate the habit of research at undergraduate level. The researchers need more grooming, only then we can see more people competing in the world.



PROF. FAROOQ MASOODI, DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, KASHMIR UNIVERSITY

The research and academic programs have to be need-based. But, yes, there was a time when the scholar would study any subject that suits his/her taste but the all over world scenario has changed. The institutions, probably, feel this need now. Unless or until the academic course doesn't create any sort of vibrancy in the economy of a country or corporate ecosystem, we need to re-consider such programs. The government also needs to come forward and provide a good environment for the researchers so that their work doesn't suffer.

A Single Blood Test To Screen Multiple Cancers - Are We Ready?

Colin Pritchard

Detecting cancer early before it spreads throughout the body can be lifesaving. This is why doctors recommend regular screening for several common cancer types, using a variety of methods. Colonoscopies, for example, screen for colon cancer, while mammograms screen for breast cancer. While important, getting all these tests done can be logistically challenging, expensive and sometimes uncomfortable for patients. But what if a single blood test could screen for most common cancer types all at once? This is the promise of multicancer early detection tests, or MCEDs. This year, President Joe Biden identified developing MCED tests as a priority for the Cancer Moonshot, a \$1.8 billion federal effort to reduce the cancer death rate and improve the quality of life of cancer survivors and those living with cancer. As a laboratory medicine physician and researcher who develops molecular tests for cancer, I believe MCED tests are likely to transform cancer screening in the near future, particularly if they receive strong federal support to enable rapid innovation.

How MCED tests work

All cells in the body, including tumor cells, shed DNA into the bloodstream when they die. MCED tests look for the trace amounts of tumor DNA in the bloodstream.

This circulating "cell-free" DNA contains information about what type of tissue it came from and whether it is normal or cancerous. Testing to look for circulating tumor DNA in the blood is not new. These liquid biopsies - a fancy way of saying blood tests - are already widely used for patients with advanced-stage cancer. Doctors use these blood tests to look for mutations in the tumor DNA that help guide treatment. Because patients with late-stage cancer tend to have a large amount of tumor DNA circulating in the blood, it's relatively easy to detect the presence of these genetic changes. MCED tests are different from existing liquid biopsies because they are trying to detect early-stage cancer, when there aren't that many tumor cells yet. Detecting these cancer cells can be challenging early on because noncancer cells also shed DNA into the bloodstream. Since most of the circulating DNA in the bloodstream comes from noncancer cells, detecting the presence of a few molecules of cancer DNA is like finding a needle in a haystack. Making things even more difficult, blood cells shed abnormal DNA naturally with aging, and these strands can be confused for circulating cancer DNA. This phenomenon, known as clonal hematopoiesis, confounded early attempts at developing MCED tests, with too many false positive results. Fortunately, newer tests are able to avoid blood cell interference by focusing on a



type of "molecular barcode" embedded in the cancer DNA that identifies the tissue it came from. These barcodes are a result of DNA methylation, naturally existing modifications to the surface of DNA that vary for each type of tissue in the body. For example, lung tissue has a different DNA methylation pattern than breast tissue. Furthermore, cancer cells have abnormal DNA methylation patterns that correlate with cancer type. By cataloging different DNA methylation patterns, MCED tests can focus on the sections of DNA that distinguish between cancerous and normal tissue and pinpoint the cancer's origin site.

Testing options

There are currently several MCED tests in development and in clinical trials. No

MCED test is currently FDA-approved or recommended by medical societies. In 2021, the biotech company GRAIL launched the first commercially available MCED test in the U.S. Its Galleri test claims to detect over 50 different types of cancers. At least two other U.S.-based companies, Exact Sciences and Freenome, and one Chinese company, Singlera Genomics, have tests in development. Some of these tests use different cancer detection methods in addition to circulating tumor DNA, such as looking for cancer-associated proteins in blood. MCED tests are not yet typically covered by insurance. GRAIL's Galleri test is currently priced at \$949, and the company offers a payment plan for people who have to pay out of pocket. Legislators have introduced a bill in Congress to provide Medi-

care coverage for MCED tests that obtain FDA approval. It is unusual for Congress to consider legislation devoted to a single lab test, and this highlights both the scale of the medical market for MCED and concerns about disparities in access without coverage for these expensive tests. **How should MCED tests be used?** Figuring out how MCED tests should be implemented in the clinic will take many years. Researchers and clinicians are just beginning to address questions on who should be tested, at what age, and how past medical and family history should be taken into account. Setting guidelines for how doctors will further evaluate positive MCED results is just as important. There is also concern that MCED tests may result in overdiagnoses of low-risk, asymptomatic cancers better left undetected. This happened with prostate cancer screening. Previously, guidelines recommended that all men ages 55 to 69 regularly get blood tests to determine their levels of PSA, a protein produced by cancerous and noncancerous prostate tissue. But now the recommendation is more nuanced, with screening suggested on an individual basis that takes into account personal preferences. Another concern is that further testing to confirm positive MCED results will be costly and a burden to the medical system, particularly if a full-body scan is required.

The out-of-pocket cost for an MRI, for example, can run up to thousands of dollars. And patients who get a positive MCED result but are unable to confirm the presence of cancer after extensive imaging and other follow-up tests may develop lifelong anxiety about a potentially missed diagnosis and continue to take expensive tests in fruitless search for a tumor. Despite these concerns, early clinical studies show promise. A 2020 study of over 10,000 previously undiagnosed women found 26 of 134 women with a positive MCED test were confirmed to have cancer. A 2021 study sponsored by GRAIL found that half of the over 2,800 patients with a known cancer diagnosis had a positive MCED test and only 0.5 per cent of people confirmed to not have cancer had a false positive test. The test performed best for patients with more advanced cancers but did detect about 17 per cent of the patients who had very-early-stage disease. MCED tests may soon revolutionise the way clinicians approach cancer screening. The question is whether the health care system is ready for them. (The Conversation) NSA *The author is a Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at University of Washington* *By arrangements with The Conversation*

How Humans And Robots Can Co-Exist In Cities

360info.org

Robots are taking on more tasks in the world's cities and making life easier for residents but by doing so create more challenges for policy-makers.

Humans are steadily handing over responsibility for the day-to-day running of cities to robots.

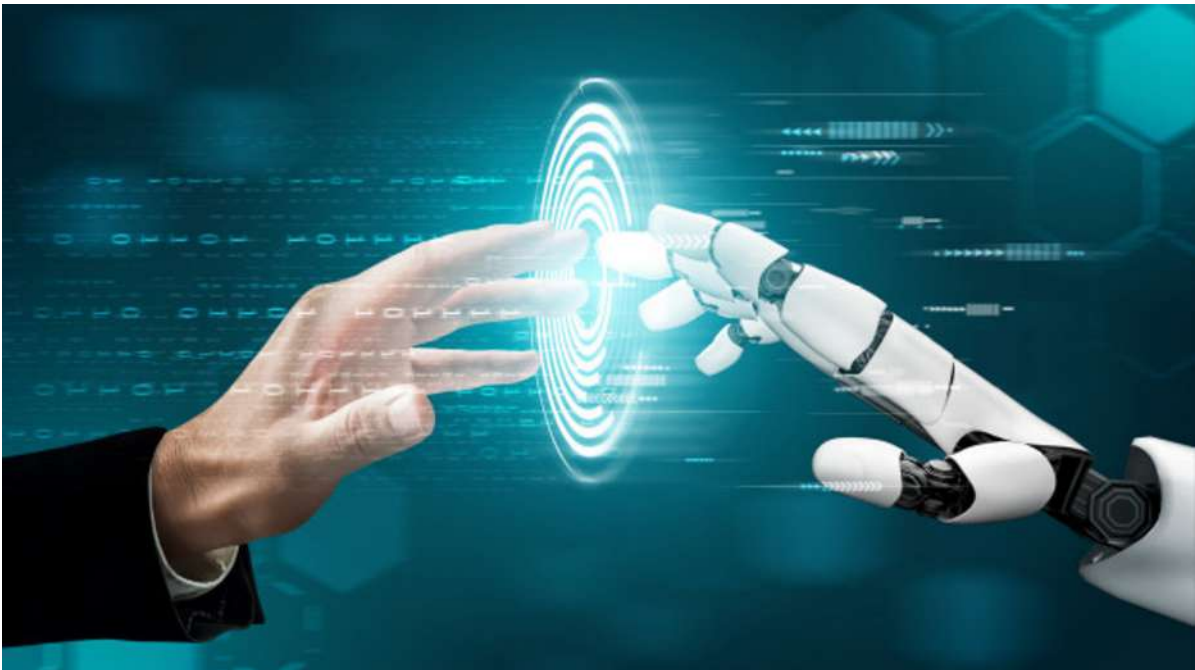
The masters of the mundane no longer have beating hearts.

Driverless cars and trains, service robots in shops, drones that deliver meals or purchases, automated pharmacists and 3D printing are just some of the more visible signs of a robot-driven metropolis.

And away from the public gaze, traffic systems, policing, waste management and healthcare are being given over to machines that can process data far more efficiently than any human.

Technological advances in robotics are driving the development of smart cities so much that it's inspired an entire field of research called Robot-City Interaction (RCI), where the integration of robots in urban ecosystems and how they can improve quality of life is a major field of study.

Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) is another rapidly evolving field of research. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) divides HRI into four areas: Robots that perform routine tasks under human supervision; Remote control vehicles for hazardous tasks or in inaccessible environments; Driverless passenger vehicles – including planes, trains and automobiles; Human-robot so-



Technological advances in robotics are driving the development of smart cities so much that it's inspired an entire field of research called Robot-City Interaction (RCI), where the integration of robots in urban ecosystems and how they can improve quality of life is a major field of study.

must support citizens' participation as a sustainable smart city is based on humans.

And in the disruptive era of IR 5.0, the extent to which stakeholders are likely to adopt HRI robots to improve cities' services remains a challenge.

In the era of disruptive technologies, business leaders and policymakers should look forward, identify the technologies that could affect them and determine how to shape markets and policies to serve their interests.

Business leaders should define when, how, and whether to take advantage of new technologies and be prepared to switch. And policymakers may need to update their approaches to ease the adoption of new technologies while managing the attendant risks.

It is important to have adaptive regulations that adjust to rapid change. Good policy should be technically correct, politically stable, and organisationally implementable.

Research relating to the value of humans is still one of the main challenges of HRI. The question is: If a robot can more efficiently do a job, should that job always be automated? The big question and challenge for policymakers is how they consider the potential consequences of increasing the gap between skilled and unskilled workers, whose jobs are most likely to be affected by automation.

Policymakers also need to consider what jobs will emerge and whether the workforce will be able to transition.

Reducing Carbohydrates In Diet Can Decrease Risk Of Diabetes: Study

ANI

According to new research from Tulane University, a low-carb diet can assist people with uncontrolled diabetes and decrease the blood sugar levels of those who are at risk of developing it.

The study, published in the journal JAMA Network Open, compared two groups: one assigned to a low-carb diet and


Approximately 37 million Americans have diabetes, a condition that occurs when the body doesn't use insulin properly and can't regulate blood sugar levels. Type 2 diabetes comprises more than 90 per cent of those cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Type 2 diabetes can severely impact quality of life with symptoms such as blurred vision,

sugar levels, making a healthy diet more crucial.

The study involved participants whose blood sugar ranged from pre-diabetic to diabetic levels and who were not on diabetes medication. Those in the low-carb group saw A1c levels drop 0.23 per cent more than the usual diet group, an amount Dorans called "modest but clinically relevant".

Importantly, fats made up



another that continued with their usual diet. After six months, the low-carb diet group had greater drops in hemoglobin A1c, a marker for blood sugar levels, when compared with the group who ate their usual diet. The low-carbohydrate diet group also lost weight and had lower fasting glucose levels.

"The key message is that a low-carbohydrate diet, if maintained, might be a useful approach for preventing and treating Type 2 diabetes, though more research is needed," said lead author Kirsten Dorans, assistant professor of epidemiology at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

numb hands and feet, and overall tiredness and can cause other serious health problems like heart disease, vision loss and kidney disease.

The study's findings are especially important for those with pre-diabetes whose A1c levels are higher than normal but below levels that would be classified as diabetes.

Approximately 96 million Americans have pre-diabetes and more than 80 per cent of those with pre-diabetes are unaware, according to the CDC. Those with pre-diabetes are at increased risk for Type 2 diabetes, heart attacks or strokes and are usually not taking medications to lower blood

around half of the calories eaten by those in the low-carb group, but the fats were mostly healthy monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats found in foods like olive oil and nuts.

Dorans said the study doesn't prove that a low-carb diet prevents diabetes. But it does open the door to further research about how to mitigate health risks of those with pre-diabetes and diabetes not treated by medication.

"We already know that a low-carbohydrate diet is one dietary approach used among people who have Type 2 diabetes, but there is not as much evidence on effects of this diet on blood sugar in people with pre-diabetes," Dorans said.

Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir (U.T)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

PWD(R&B) DIVISION VAILLOO

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No. 150/ 7224-33 of RnB/Vailloo /2022-2023/e-tendering/ DATED:31/10/2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.in form of Treasury challan / Receipt (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (2% of Adv. Cost) (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Project Intending Department	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	C/O PCC Drain at Various spots of Sunbrari Magam road at Magam	5.00	200	10000	15 days	R&B Department	DEE Class	M&R
2	Restoration of road edge by way of construction of Bwall Kacha Pacca/ PCC on Mohripora Kandiwara Road Km 8 th	10.00	600	20000	15 days	R&B Department	CEE/DEE Class	M&R
3	Development of Mini Stadium at Hardtoru by way of C/O Crate Wall/Fencing and other allied works(Balance portion)	45.09	1100	90180	20 days	Youth service & Sports	AAY/BEE Class	UT Capex
4	C/O 1x4 M Span Box Culvert at Syed Mohallah Masjid Shareef Badasgam	10.00	600	20000	15 days	R&B Department	CEE/DEE Class	M&R

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31.10.2022
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents.	From 31.10.2022 To 4.00 pm
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From 31.10.2022 To 4.00 pm
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To 10.11.2022 To 4.00 pm
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	11.11.2022 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division vailloo

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/ challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division vailloo (Head-0059) (tender inviting authority) and Earnest Money for 2% of Advertised Cost in shape of CDR/ FDR only. Pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division vailloo (tender receiving authority) (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury receipt/ challan) (Refer Govt. order No. A/ 24 (2017)-65 DT: 07.06.2018 & Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ang/Kul's No. 3867-70 dated: 04.08.2018 (The date of Treasury receipt / Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Vailloo (Tendering Inviting Authority) . 3% Performance Security of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/ FDR by the Successful bidder. Minimum of Two bids are necessary to decide L-1 bidder in case of Contractors.

2. The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of allotted cost as performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 07 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of defective liability period of the work

3. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance Security.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division vailloo (tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

6. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

7.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

7.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

7.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest Money and tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid

The Earnest money in favour of unsuccessful / Non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of Tender document Fee in original, Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/ Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailloo and Earnest Money for 2% of Advertised Cost in shape of CDR/ FDR only. Pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division vailloo (tender receiving authority) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid.

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

11. Price escalation and Taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.

14. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

14.1. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-

a) All bidders shall upload copies of original Documents defining constitution / legal status , place of registration and principal place of business with cell No. ad correspondence address.

b) All Bidders shall upload Treasury Receipt /Challan .

c) All Bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN No. and PAN No

14.2. Registration Card with current Renewal side. The Registration card issued by the PWD (R&B) department shall only be renewed by the issuing department.

14.3. Valid PAN card & GST Registration Certificate with latest return (FORM GSTR-3B)

14.4. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

14.5. Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.

14.6. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language

15. If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the rate list/quantity schedule, cost of such item/ items shall be deemed to be part of the overall/total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item / items in the allotment of contract.

DIPK-12668/22

No:- 7224-33 of RnB/Vailloo/2022-23
Dated:- 01/11/2022

-Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD(R&B) Division Vailloo

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-T-25/ 2022-23	Electrical work in connection with allied works for Augmentation of Emergency power supply by enhancing the capacity of DG set at Major station over FZR division.	53,76,633.53	1,07,500.00	06 Months	25.11.2022 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 251-Elect/T.Notice No. 16-Elect/2022-23 Dated: 03.11.2022 2904/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

JK Bank Launches 'RBI Kehta Hai: Jaankar Baniye, Satark Rahiye' Campaign



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: MD & CEO J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash Tuesday e-launched the Reserve Bank of India's National Awareness Campaign (2022) – RBI Kehta Hai: Jaankar Baniye, Satark Rahiye – in Jammu and Kashmir here at the Bank's corporate Headquarters. The Bank's General Managers, Deputy General Managers and other senior officers attended the inaugural event besides all Zonal Heads, who joined the function through VC mode.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO directed all the concerned to ensure that the RBI's massive month-long campaign -- RBI Kehta Hai: Jaankar Baniye, Satark Rahiye -- is executed in letter and spirit across the UT.

"Every campaign seeking an aware and educated consumer is beneficial for the banks as well as the society because to serve an informed customer makes transactions hassle-free and secure on both ends. Besides making the common people aware about the consumer rights, the campaign assumes great importance in the backdrop of growing incidences

of cyber-frauds in banking across the country."

He expressed hope that the Banks operating in the UT will use all the mediums and channels available to make people aware of their consumer rights besides educating them about the solutions Banks and the regulator offer in case of violation of their rights. "However, I would like that all my colleagues at J&K Bank should use this campaign as an opportunity to reach out to maximum number of customers and get feedback about the Bank's services and products besides educating them about their rights and legal recourse", he said.

Earlier, General Manager Customer Service, Narjay Gupta briefed the participants about the objectives of the campaign. "The purpose of the high-powered nationwide campaign is to enhance public awareness on financial customer rights, Internal Grievance Redress (IGR) as well as the Alternate Grievance Redress (AGR) mechanism of RBI, particularly targeting the un-reached and isolated segments of population and regions, including the farthest and remotest locations of the country", he said.

India's Manufacturing Activities Remain Strong In October: Survey



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Manufacturing activities in India remained robust and price pressures were contained in October as new orders and production rose at a slower but stronger pace, according to a monthly survey released on Tuesday.

The seasonally-adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was up from 55.1 in September to 55.3 in October.

The October PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for the 16th straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 indicates contraction.

"The Indian manufacturing industry again showed signs of resilience in October, with factory orders and production rising strongly despite losing growth momentum," Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate

Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said.

Firms were able to secure additional work in October, taking the current sequence of growth to 16 months, the survey said, adding that overall, factory orders increased at an above-trend pace that was nonetheless the weakest since June.

Looking ahead, Indian manufacturers remained confident of a rise in production volumes by October 2023. Predictions of better sales and marketing efforts were among the reasons cited for upbeat projections.

"Manufacturers continued to loosen the purse strings as they expect demand buoyancy to be sustained in coming months.

"There was a marked rise in input purchasing, with firms adding to their inventories to better align with client purchasing. Capacities were again expanded to accommodate for improving sales," Lima said.

GST Collection At Rs 1.52 Lakh Crore In October, Second Highest Ever

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: GST revenues registered the second highest collection ever at Rs 1.52 lakh crore in October, reflecting pick up in economic activity in the festive season.

The collections in October this year recorded a 16.6 per cent rise over Rs 1.30 lakh crore collected in the same month last year.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection had touched a record high of nearly Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April. In September, it was Rs 1.48 lakh crore.

"The gross GST collected in the month of October 2022 is Rs 1,51,718 crore, of which central GST is Rs 26,039 crore, state GST is Rs 33,396 crore, integrated GST is Rs 81,778 crore (including Rs 37,297 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 10,505 crore (including Rs 825 crore collected on import of goods), which is second highest till date," an official statement said.

The total revenue of the Centre and the states after regular as well as adhoc settlements in the month of October 2022 is Rs 74,665 crore for CGST and Rs 77,279 crore for the SGST.

GST mop-up has been over Rs 1.40 lakh crore for eight months



in a row, while for two months it has crossed the Rs 1.50 lakh crore-mark.

During the month of September 2022, 8.3 crore e-way bills were generated, which was significantly higher than 7.7 crore e-way bills generated in August 2022.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said the sharp sequential pickup in the headline GST collections in October 2022 reflects a combination of quarter-end flows relating to the transactions in the previous month, as well as the surge in GST e-way bills ahead of a robust festive season.

"With the festive season in October 2022, the generation of GST e-way bills is expected to have remained high, which should bolster the GST collections in the month of November 2022," Nayar said.

ICRA expects the CGST collections to exceed the FY23 Budget Estimates by Rs 1.3-1.4 lakh crore.

N. A. Shah Associates Partner Indirect Tax Parag Mehta said October was also a month of festivals and holidays wherein people have splurged on real estate, vehicles, holidays and other necessities.

"It now looks that GST collections will surely cross Rs 1.50 lakh crore on monthly basis from November 2022," Mehta said.

Deloitte India Partner M S Mani said major states have reported impressive increase in collections indicating that it is a broad based phenomenon across the country.

EY LLP Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said that with both the revenue wings -- CBDT and CBIC -- charged up with increasing the tax collection, healthy col-

India's Gold Demand Hits Pre-Pandemic Levels; Q3 Gold Demand Up 14%: WGC

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: India's gold demand has reached pre-pandemic levels and has witnessed an annual growth of 14 per cent during the July-September quarter at 191.7 tonnes mainly driven by strong consumer interest, according to a World Gold Council (WGC) report.

According to the 'Gold Demand Trends Q3 2022' report by WGC, the total demand stood at 168 tonnes during the July-September quarter of 2021.

In value terms, gold demand grew by 19 per cent to Rs 85,010 crores during the third quarter of 2022, compared to Rs 71,630 crores in the corresponding period of 2021.

India's total gold demand in the third quarter of 2022 at 191.7 tonnes is a 14 per cent increase over last year, which reflects better-than-expected performance and strong consumer interest, helping year-to-date demand return to pre-COVID levels, Somasundaram PR, Regional CEO, India, World Gold Council told PTI.

Meanwhile, total jewellery demand in India during the third quarter increased by 17 per cent at 146.2 tonnes, compared to 125.1 tonnes in the same period last year.



Value-wise jewellery demand was up by 22 per cent at Rs 64,860 crore during the quarter under review, from Rs 53,330 crore in July-September 2021.

"Credit expansion added impetus to this demand, with bank loan growth touching a nine-year high by quarter-end. Recovery in gold jewellery demand was primarily driven by urban India, more specifically southern parts, underpinned by robust economic activities with a 17 per cent y-o-y increase in tonnage terms," Somasundaram noted.

However, he said, rural demand was impacted by seasonal effects (monsoons) and inflation and on the other hand, Indian bar and coin demand also saw a 6 per cent y-o-y improvement to 45.4 tonnes as retail investors responded to gold price drop and weaker equity markets,

and festivities around Ganpati and Puja festivals after 2 years of COVID, saw a huge uplift in consumer sentiment.

"Looking ahead, Indian retail investment is likely to continue to benefit from safe-haven demand amid rising interest rates and a weakening rupee. There's optimism in the overall outlook for the rest of the year with weddings and Diwali demand in the fourth quarter, but it is unlikely to match last year's record-breaking performance. Our gold demand estimate for the full year is around 750-800 tonnes similar to last year," he added.

Talking about imports, he said in 2021 the imports stood at 1,003 tonnes and this year, keeping all the ongoing market sentiments in mind, WGC doesn't expect to exceed last year's level.

This year, the country has imported 559 tonnes of gold in the first three quarters, Somasundaram added.

Meanwhile, gold prices in the country have witnessed a decline of 4 per cent during the second and third quarter, Somasundaram said, adding that the average price of the yellow metal during the April-June period was Rs 46,430 per 10 grams (without Customs duty and GST).

Dulloo Reviews Status Of Lumpy Skin Disease In J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a meeting to review measures being put in place towards containment of spread of lumpy skin disease in Jammu and Kashmir.

The concerned officers highlighted district wise present status of the disease besides elaborating on controlling measures being taken up like vaccination, use of medicines, procurement of vaccines, sample collection for testing through a power point presentation.

While taking district wise details of LSD, ACS directed the concerned officers to follow proper protocols of treatment as per recommendation of government of India besides accelerating the animal vaccination process so that further spread of the disease is prevented speedily.

ACS stressed upon the officers to conduct more awareness camps on the disease at different places in both the divisions especially in highly affected areas to spread awareness on the disease among the people so that precautionary measures

could be taken in time.

Dulloo exhorted upon the officers to involve adequate field



staff to ensure proper vaccination and launch door to door awareness campaign and inspections in more affected areas. He also asked for ensuring regular visits by field staff to make farmers aware about the Lumpy Skin Disease.

ACS also enquired about the availability of medicines while directing both the Directors to ensure sufficient medicines in all the affected areas so that the spread can be tackled timely and effectively.

Earlier, it was informed that till date 64479 animals have been affected with Lumpy Skin Disease.

Director, Animal Husbandry Kashmir, Purnima Mittal, Chairmen and members of Task Force, Kashmir/Jammu, Chief Husbandry Officers besides other senior officers attended the meeting in person and through VC.

Tourism Dept Organises Saffron Festival At Pampore



Observer News Service

PAMPORE: Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir Tuesday organised a saffron festival in the karewa of Pampore.

The festival was organised in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, SKUAST Kashmir, Cooperative Societies and local saffron growers.

Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir Pandurang K Pole who was Chief Guest on the occasion said Kashmiri saffron is popular all over the world and we all need to work together to maintain its reputation. He said the government has introduced several measures to boost saffron production through technological interventions, technological support and irrigation facilities.

The Div Com said that farmers need to take benefit of the technological interventions and make use of the better irrigation facilities and GI certification for better returns. He also exhorted the farmers that they should not use the karewa land for any other purpose as this land produces the world's best saffron. He said that the tourists have added to the economy of the locals as the tourists are experiencing the landscape of the saffron fields.

He further said that GI tagging has opened new windows for

Kashmir saffron and the government is endeavoring to ensure that all the globally accepted quality parameters are met during the cultivation and post harvest management of the saffron.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary while speaking on the occasion said that the government is committed to bring the saffron on the tourism map of Kashmir and said that wetlands and saffron are an interconnected economy to the local populace of Pampore. He appreciated the Tourism Department for organising the festival thereby creating an interface between tourists and the local Saffron growers.

He thanked all the stakeholders for their support and cooperation and said that more such festivals will be organised on a larger scale. He said that the participation of locals is a sign of better things to come.

Director Tourism Kashmir Faz Lul Haseeb also spoke on the occasion and said that more festivals will be organised to involve more and more locals for the promotion of saffron so that the concerned growers' economic interests are secured at all levels. He said the aim of holding a festival at Pampore was to celebrate the uniqueness of the place and the pride saffron cultivation has brought to Kashmir.

SHORT TAKES

UPI Transactions Rise 7.7% To 730 Cr In Oct

NEW DELHI: Transactions through UPI rose 7.7 per cent to 730 crore and the total value stood at more than Rs 12.11 lakh crore in October.

In September, there were 678 crore UPI-led digital transactions worth Rs 11.16 lakh crore.

The number of instant interbank fund transfer through IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) in October stood at 48.25 crore and the value was at Rs 4.66 lakh crore.

In terms of transactions, it was higher by 4.3 per cent compared to September, according to the monthly data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) released on Tuesday.

The NETC FASTag, which facilitates automatic toll collection at NHAI's toll booths across the country, registered a 9.3 per cent growth in the number of transactions compared to 28.3 crore in September.

The corresponding value of transactions stood at Rs 4,451.87 crore in October as against Rs 4,244.76 crore in September.

While the Aadhaar card-enabled AePS, which facilitates easy, quick and safe banking transactions, increased to 11.77 crore in October compared to 10.27 crore in previous month.

The value of AePS transactions rose to Rs 31,112.63 crore from Rs 26,665.58 crore. -PTI

J&Ks First Trout Fisheries FPO Registered At Anantnag

ANANTNAG: Anantnag district has got the first trout fish farmers FPO registered under a project funded by NABARD.

The said FPO has been incorporated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India as farmer Producer Company under the name 'Glacial Trout FPO' and is being implemented by an NGO, Human Welfare Foundation under the guidance of Department of Fisheries, Govt of J&K.

DDM NABARD, Rouf Zargar stated that this was the first FPO in J&K to have been registered in the fisheries sector under the Companies Act. This is a pilot project to promote trout fish in the Dachnipora cluster of Anantnag and the registration of FPO was a major achievement, he added.

With more than 100 fish farmers as members of FPO, there are 10 farmers enrolled as board of directors in the FPO, DDM NABARD said adding that one more FPO is being proposed to be formed in Anantnag district to cover the fish farmers of Khoveripora Cluster.

Deputy Director Fisheries, Siddiq Wani said that Govt of India has been laying more focus on formation of FPOs in all allied sectors of agriculture and special focus has been given to the fisheries sector. -ONS

Petrol, Diesel Sales Jump To Four-Month High In Oct

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel sales in India jumped to a four-month high in October, as the festive season brought back to demand that had been quelled by extended monsoon rains, preliminary industry data showed on Tuesday.

Petrol sales soared 12.1 per cent to 2.78 million tonnes in October, as compared to 2.48 million tonnes of consumption in the same month last year.

Sales were 16.6 per cent higher than in COVID-marred October 2020 and 21.4 per cent more than in pre-pandemic October 2019.

Demand, which had dipped 1.9 per cent month-on-month in September, was up 4.8 per cent higher.

Diesel, the most used fuel in the country, posted a 12 per cent rise in sales in October to 6.57 million tonnes, when compared to the same month last year. Consumption was up 6.5 per cent over October 2020 and 13.6 per cent higher than pre-COVID 2019.

The fuel, which had seen a near 5 per cent drop in sales in August, when compared to the previous month of July, saw demand rise 9.7 per cent month-on-month.

Petrol and diesel sales were highest since June. -PTI

Google Pauses Play Billing System After CCI Order

NEW DELHI: Google is "pausing" enforcement of the requirement for developers to use Play's billing system for the purchase of digital goods and services for transactions by users in India while it reviews legal options, in the aftermath of the recent ruling by the CCI.

Last month, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had slapped a penalty of Rs 936.44 crore on the internet major for abusing its dominant position with respect to its Play Store policies.

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

"Following the CCI's recent ruling, we are pausing enforcement of the requirement for developers to use Google Play's billing system for the purchase of digital goods and services for transactions by users in India while we review our legal options and ensure we can continue to invest in Android and Play," Google said in an update on help centre page.

Developers in India were given an extension until October 31, 2022 to comply due to unique circumstances with the payments landscape in the country. -PTI

Musk's Twitter Investors Include Saudi Prince, Dorsey, Qatar

NEW YORK: Elon Musk bought Twitter Inc. last week for \$44 billion with the help of Wall Street bank loans and shareholders who agreed to roll over their interest in the social media service in exchange for a stake of the new private company.

That means Twitter, whose shares were delisted last week after almost a decade as a public company, has a new lineup of top investors.

Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Regulatory filings show the Saudi prince moved almost 35 million Twitter shares through the Kingdom Holding Co., worth about \$1.9 billion at the \$54.20 per share sale price. That made him the "second-largest investor" in the new parent company.

Alwaleed was quick to endorse Musk's plan to acquire Twitter, saying in May that Musk would be "an excellent leader" for the social media company.

Jack Dorsey Twitter's co-founder and former chief executive officer rolled over just more than 18 million shares, or about 2.4% of the public company, worth about \$978 million at the merger price. That gave him shares of Musk's X Holdings I Inc., which controls Twitter. -Bloomberg

Media associations condemn police searches at The Wire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Media associations on Tuesday condemned searches carried out by the Delhi Police at the offices of news portal The Wire and the houses of its editors on the basis of a complaint filed by BJP leader Amit Malviya.

In a joint statement, seven media bodies including Press Association, Press Club of India and Digipub News India Foundation said the manner in which the Delhi Police has acted on the complaint of a BJP spokesperson "smacks of sheer vendetta".

"It is surprising that even after the news portal issued a detailed retraction for its editorial lapses, putting out the same in the public domain, the Delhi Police, based on the complaint of the BJP leader which includes a bevy of charges including criminal clauses under the IPC, registered an FIR and chose to proceed (with) investigating the matter with uncharacteristic promptness," the statement said.

Delhi Union of Journalists, Working News Cameraman Association, Indian Journalists Union and Kerala Union of Working Journalists are also signatories to the statement.

Earlier, in a separate statement, Digipub News India Foundation claimed that

the searches "mainly serve the purpose of criminalising and creating a chilling effect against the profession of journalism in India".

"A journalist or a media organisation that publishes a false report ought to be held accountable by its peers and civil society," the statement said.

"But for the police to carry out an immediate and arbitrary search of the media house's office and its editors' homes, based entirely on a private complaint of defamation filed by a spokesperson of the ruling party, smacks of malafide intentions," it added.

It noted that Malviya's complaint was regarding a series of stories published by The Wire about social media company Meta, claiming that he had special censorship privileges through an Instagram programme called "X-Check".

The Wire had retracted the said articles last month, claiming that it was deceived by a member of its investigative team.

The Delhi Police carried out searches at the houses of the portal's founding editor Siddharth Varadarajan and deputy editor M K Venu on Monday.

A senior police officer said searches were conducted at The Wire's office as well and all electronic devices relevant to the probe were seized.



Contractors Who Repaired Morbi Bridge Were Not Qualified: Prosecution Tells Court



Agenceis

New Delhi: The contractors who carried out repairs of the ill-fated suspension bridge at Morbi in Gujarat were not qualified to carry out such jobs, the prosecution told a court here on Tuesday.

The collapse of the bridge on Sunday evening claimed 135 lives.

While the flooring of the bridge was replaced, its cable was not replaced and it could not take the weight of the changed flooring, said the prosecution, citing a forensic report.

The magistrate's court remanded four of the arrested accused — two managers of OREVA Group and two sub-contractors who had repaired the bridge — in police custody till Saturday. Chief Judicial Magistrate M

J Khan remanded five other arrested men, including security guards and ticket booking clerks, in judicial custody as police did not seek their custody, said prosecutor H S Panchal.

Police had on Monday booked nine persons under Indian Penal Code section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder).

The four who were remanded in police custody were OREVA managers Dipak Parekh and Dinesh Dave, and repairing contractors Prakash Parmar and Devang Parmar, hired by the OREVA Group.

Citing Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report, Panchal told the court that forensic experts believed that the main cable of the bridge snapped because of the weight of the new flooring.

"Though the FSL report was presented in a sealed cover, it was mentioned during the remand plea that cables of the bridge were not replaced during the renovation and only flooring was changed.... weight of the bridge increased due to the four-layered aluminium sheets for the flooring and the cable snapped due to that weight," Panchal told reporters.

The court was also informed that both the repairing contractors were "not qualified" to carry out such a work.

"Despite that, these contractors were given repair work of the bridge in 2007 and then in 2022. So the accused's custody was needed to find out what was the reason for choosing them and at whose instance they were chosen," the prosecutor said.

NMDC observes Vigilance Awareness Week-2022 and Ekta Diwas



Hyderabad: Commemorating the birth anniversary of Iron Man of India Shri Vallabhbhai Patel and as per the directives of Central Vigilance Commission, observance of Ekta Diwas and inaugural of Vigilance Awareness Week – 2022(VAW-2022) was observed in NMDC on 31st October 2022. The VAW-2022 would be observed from 31.10.2022 to 06.11.2022 on the theme "Corruption Free India for a Developed Nation".

On the Inaugural day of VAW-2022, Integrity Pledge was administered by Shri B Vishwanath, CVO, NMDC Ltd. to the employees at its Head Office, Hyderabad. He also read out the message of Hon'ble President on observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2022. Whereas, Shri B Sahoo, Executive Director(PC) read out the message of Hon'ble Vice President, Shri AK Padhi, Executive Director(Commercial) read out the message of Hon'ble Prime Minister & Shri M. Jaypal Reddy, Executive Director (RP) read out the messages of Hon'ble Central Vigilance Commission, respectively, on observance of VAW-2022. The pledge administering ceremony was also held across all the Projects/R&D & Regional Offices (ROs) of NMDC Ltd. located in the states of Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand & New Delhi which enabled another five thousand employees posted over there to take the Integrity Pledge

simultaneously, duly following health precautions suggested due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Various activities including individual & inter-departmental competitions and sensitization programmes have been planned for the employees, school children, security & other outsourced personnel, vendors, suppliers & other stakeholders during the Vigilance Awareness Week-2022 at NMDC which will culminate on 05.11.2022 with Valedictory Function & distribution of Prizes to the winners of various competitions.

On the inaugural day of VAW 2022 a marathon/ Run for Unity was organized at CK Naidu, Cricket Stadium for NMDC employees & school children. Chief Guest, NMDC's Chief Vigilance Officer Shri B. Vishwanath, IRSS flagged off the Unity Run. In the afternoon, a lecture on the theme of VAW 2022 was arranged at NMDC H.O building wherein the eminent personality & Keynote speaker Shri AS Rajan, IPS Director SVP, National Police Academy Hyderabad delivered his lecture. Shri S. Rajan shared his experiences on combating corruption.

On this occasion, Shri Sumit Deb, CMD, NMDC said, "Our Vigilance Department has been proactive in bringing out various measures to improve consistency in decision-making and facilitating transparency. NMDC is institutionalizing integrity in its system and as public servants, we must continue to ensure intolerance towards corruption."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Village Along LoC

from Srinagar, told PTI that "the village on the PCK side across the river has become a tourist point and people come there from Muzaffarabad, Lahore and Rawalpindi to see the LoC and life in India".

He pointed to a restaurant perched on the edge of a hill with a Pakistani flag on it and a group of people curiously looking towards Tithwal from a street built on a higher elevation in the hills which face the Indian village.

India and Pakistan are "brothers, separated at birth". Now, the two sides should try to achieve lasting peace "through talks and without any fight", Ahmad said.

"After the Partition, the land got divided overnight but families were living on both sides of Kishanganga. Many children got separated from their parents, others lost their relatives in wars between the two sides. But they yearn to go back to their ancestral place to at least see it or reunite with separated family members," he said.

"Now, with the ceasefire since early last year, resulting in peace in the area, the crossing point at Tithwal should be reopened for people on both sides with proper permit," Ahmad said.

Army sources said that ceasefire violations had impacted regular life in Tithwal "enormously". The locals couldn't move freely during any time of the day and schools weren't regular, they said.

Since the ceasefire understanding, there has been a "marked improvement in the routine activities", a source said.

The old bridge was destroyed by Kabaili raiders from the Pakistan side in 1948. It was rebuilt jointly by India and Pakistan in 1988, official sources said.

"Citizens from both sides were allowed to move across the bridge on every second and fourth Thursdays on a special permit. This move has been stopped post August 5, 2019. The special permit was valid for a fortnight," an Army source told PTI.

Civilians who have since then inadvertently wandered on to the other side have been repatriated as humanitarian gestures.

A young boy from the other side had been repatriated on September 25, the last such repatriation from the Indian side, the source said.

Tithwal village with a population is 1,270 is the second last village along the LoC, Simari being the last, and is located between the LoC and the AIOS (anti-infiltration obstacle system), a fencing layer of concertina wires.

The village is located 82 km from Kupwara town. Tourists require permission from the civil administration to visit the village.

Ajaz Ahmad, member of a

committee that is working to rebuild an old temple dedicated to goddess Sharada in Tithwal village, appealed to both the Indian and Pakistani governments to allow opening of the Tithwal crossing point so that pilgrims can easily go to the ancient Sharada Peeth located in PCK after reaching the Tithwal temple.

Signs of patriotism are obvious around the bridge with a huge tricolour hoisted on a towering flagpole and a small wooden gate near the river, which leads to the bridge, painted in a tricolour theme with 'Mera Desh Mahan' inscribed on both sides of it, but signs of hope for achieving lasting peace are also there.

Near the bridge there is also a 'Sarva Dharm Sthal' and an open gate — barely a few metres from the iron gate that leads to the Tithwal bridge — carries an inscription on top that reads "Bridging the Divide for Peace and Prosperity Tithwal".

Also, sweets are exchanged between the two sides on Independence Day, Republic Day and New Year's Day, as also on Eid and Diwali festivals.

Ahmad calls the Tithwal crossing point a "bridge of hope (aman ki ummed)" and, said though the bridge itself is divided, it may help bridge the divide between the two neighbours.

Govt Shifts

Kewal Krishan, JKAS, Additional Secretary to Government, Industries & Commerce Department has been transferred and posted as General Manager, DIC, Doda.

Mamta Devi, JKAS, Personnel Officer, Associated Hospitals Jammu has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Industries & Commerce Department, reads the order issued by Dr Piyush Singha, Secretary to the government.

Commercial LPG

cylinder to Rs 1,744 from Rs 1,859.50 in the national capital.

This is the seventh reduction in the price of commercial LPG since June, in step with softening of international energy prices.

In all, rates have come down by Rs 610 per 19-kg cylinder.

However, rates of LPG used in household kitchens for cooking purposes remained unchanged at Rs 1,053 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

This is because the rates of domestic cooking gas were way lower than cost and now with a drop in international prices, they are at breakeven, industry sources said.

Mercury Falls

Meanwhile, the official said, Srinagar recorded a low of 7.6°C against 3.9°C on the previous night. The temperature was 4.8°C above

normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 8.0°C against 2.2°C on the previous night.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 6.0°C against minus 1.1°C on the previous night and it was 6.3°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of 7.6°C against 5.1°C on the previous night and it was 3.3°C above normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 0.0°C against 2.5°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 6.4°C against 3.8°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 4.0°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

The Met department official said that on November 2-4, partly to generally cloudy weather is expected. "Light rain/snow may occur at isolated places, although chances are less."

From November 5-8, he said weather is expected to be cloudy with scattered light to moderate rain/snowfall over middle and higher reaches. "There is no forecast of heavy snowfall. (forecast confidence upto 75%)," he said.

He said snowfall and low temperature during the day may lead to temporary disruption of surface transportation, mainly over Zojila, Sinthan Top, Mughal road etc. during November 5-7.

Meanwhile, the Srinagar-Leh road was on Tuesday closed for vehicular movement after fresh snowfall at Zoji La Pass, officials said.

"Traffic plying on Jammu-Srinagar NHW, Mughal road through. However SSG Road closed for vehicular movement in view of fresh snowfall in Zoji La axis," Traffic police said in a tweet.

Advisory Asks

rains and snowfall predicted by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Srinagar for the first week of this month.

Citing the previous advisory issued on October 16, the Horticulture Department asked the orchardists to immediately harvest and store fruits properly for packaging and subsequent sale.

"Start and expedite the pruning of fruit trees in order to lower the load of fruit trees and reduce the size of out-spreading branches which are more prone to snow damage," the advisory reads.

It also asks farmers to immediately remove the snow by shaking the trees to prevent their bending and subsequent damage.

"If the fruit trees are tilted, reduce

the canopy load by pruning, and provide proper support. If the trees get partially uprooted, slowly pull back the trees to the original position after support/staking to the main trunk to prevent further fall/ movement," the advisory says.

In case, if the top portion of tree breaks, the advisory suggests orchardists to give the damaged branches an oblique cut 2-3 inches below the broken point and apply Bordeaux mixture/Chaubatia paste on the cut surface.

If any scaffold branch breaks and bark is still intact, the advisory says, after heavy pruning, bring the branch to the original position by tying with a rope and/or bolting or using nails. Ensure that the union remains tight and apply Bordeaux/Chaubatia paste on the cut surface.

"If the main trunk splits into two or three parts, it can be treated the same way as has been illustrated above in point no.7. If roots get exposed, cover the roots back with soil to avoid desiccation and damage," it adds.

Srinagar-Leh Road

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kargil, Anayat Ali Choudhary said that the road is being cleared, and as of now, no vehicles will be allowed to move forward.

Meanwhile, a traffic official said that if weather improves tomorrow, vehicular movement on Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road shall be allowed from each side.

Twin Encounters

among the recoveries made from the scene of the encounter.

Earlier, the officer said, security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the Semthan area of Bijbehara in Anantnag following information about the presence of terrorists there.

The search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists opened fire at the security forces, who retaliated, he said.

"One terrorist has been killed while the operation is still in progress," he added.

Anti-Peace Elements

that would complement and supplement the investigation process of UAPA cases.

He said that SIA, a newly established investigation wing has brought a lot of value addition to the CID wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"SIA has emerged as a strong investigation arm of Jammu and Kashmir Police and the kind of fear SIA has been able to generate among the anti-peace elements is tremendous," the DGP said, adding that PHQ is providing all possible support to strengthen this wing.

In his address, the spokesperson

said, Special DG CID R.R Swain complemented the enthusiasm and energy of the SIA teams who he said are doing excellent job with extreme dedication & professionalism.

Swain also said that militancy in Jammu and Kashmir is at record low at this time.

"Some people are more dangerous than the man holding the gun as they are providing logistic, financial, ideological support to terrorism as an ecosystem is much more dangerous," he said.

Swain, the spokesperson said, also called for a need to address the ideology which is actually working as the operating software to the entire campaign of terrorism.

The task, he said, is hard not impossible

Student Gets 5-Yr

However, the trial was not conducted on Section 124A (Sedition) and it was kept in abeyance as per the Supreme Court directions keeping it in suspension.

He was sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of three years and pay a fine of Rs 10,000 for the offence under Section 153-A of the IPC. He was sentenced to simple imprisonment for a period of three years and fine of Rs 5,000 for the offence under Section 201 of the IPC.

He was sentenced to five years and imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 for the offence under Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The sentences will run concurrently.

Rasheed had made 23 comments on the posts of various media outlets celebrating the suicide attack and mocking the Army.

The court in its recent judgement said the prosecution has produced the evidence to show that the accused made the derogatory posts on his Facebook account by supporting the suicide attack made on CRPF Jawans at Pulwama with an intention to promote enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, which is prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony between different religions which was likely to disturb the public tranquility.

It also noted that the prosecution has "adduced evidence to show that the accused made the posts and comments with an intention to disrupt the sovereignty and integrity of India and the comments made by the accused clearly go to show that he was felt happy with the incident attack on CRPF Jawans at Pulwama by militants which caused disaffection against India." Since he was 19 years of age at the time of committing the offence, Rasheed was eligible for probation.

His advocate argued that he was below 21 years and had not committed any other offence and should be released on probation.

The court, however, cited reasons to deny him probation and sentenced him to imprisonment.

It reasoned that it was a deliberate act by Rasheed.

"The accused has not made derogatory comments one or two times. He made the comments to all the posts made by all the news channels on Facebook. Moreover, he was not an illiterate or ordinary man. He was an engineering student at the time of commission of the offence and he made the posts and comments intentionally on his facebook account," the court observed.

The court pointed out that the accused "felt happy about killing of the great souls and celebrated the death of the great souls as (if) he was not an Indian. Therefore, the offence committed by the accused is against this great nation and heinous in nature."

"He commented for more than 24 times and he celebrated the death of the great souls as (if) he is not an Indian. Therefore, in the opinion of the court, if three years imprisonment is imposed for the offence punishable under section 153A and 201 of IPC respectively and five years imprisonment is imposed for the offence punishable under section 13 of UA (P) Act, it is proportionate to the crime committed by the accused," it said deciding the quantum of punishment.

Forty CRPF personnel were killed in the suicide attack carried out by Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad in 2019.

4 New Corona

cases— nine in Jammu and 20 in Kashmir.

3 'Hybrid' Terrorists

who was also arrested and during initial examination disclosed about an IED in his possession," police said, adding, "The IED of approximately 10kg has been recovered in Rangreth on his instance, by a joint team of Srinagar Police and 62 RR."

Police said a case (FIR no 69/2022) has been registered under the relevant sections of UAPA, Explosives Act and Arms Act in Police Station Chanpora. "All three persons are affiliated with LeT/TRF," police said, adding, "Further investigation is on to unearth more facts."

It is pertinent to mention that Rangreth area has high security establishment.

Accordingly, police said, a case (FIR No. 69/2022) under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Chanpora. "Further investigation is going on to unearth more facts," he said.

Man Loses Both

A case has been registered under relevant sections of the law, they added.

Rising Stars To Watch At Qatar World Cup

Agencies

ROME: Spain's Pedri González will highlight the list of teenagers who could make an impact at the World Cup. Others include England's Jude Bellingham, Germany's Jamal Musiala and American teammates Gio Reyna and Yunus Musah.

All five players are 19, although Reyna turns 20 on Nov. 13 and Pedri and Musah will both turn 20 during the tournament in Qatar.

The World Cup opens on Nov. 20 and the final is set for Dec. 18.

PEDRI GONZÁLEZ (Spain)

Like his childhood idol Andrés Iniesta, Pedri is becoming a fixture in midfield for both Barcelona and Spain. While he does score goals occasionally, it's Pedri's passing and footwork with the ball that set him apart — just like Iniesta. "I always loved Iniesta and his way of playing soccer, because of how he was both on and off the field," Pedri told The Associated Press in an interview last year.

JUDE BELLINGHAM (England)

While playing for Borussia Dortmund in October, Bellingham became the third teenager to score in four consecutive Champions League appearances after Erling Haaland (five appearances ending in November 2019) and Kylian Mbappé (four appearances ending in April 2017) — with one significant difference: Bellingham is a midfielder, not a striker like Haaland and Mbappé.

JAMAL MUSIALA (Germany)

Able to play any position in midfield, Mu-



siala could be the key to Germany's revival following a group-stage exit four years ago in Russia as defending champion. Born in Germany to a Nigerian father and a German mother but raised mostly in England — the team he played for at the under-21

level — Musiala said he "just listened to my feelings" when he decided to represent Germany at the senior level.

GIO REYNA (United States)

The son of former United States captain

Claudio Reyna never saw his dad play for the national team. That's because Gio was too young when Claudio made his last national team appearance in a 2006 World Cup loss to Ghana. His mother, Danielle Egan Reyna, also played for the United States briefly in

2003. An attacking midfielder or winger, the younger Reyna is back in form following an injury-plagued 2021-22 season.

YUNUS MUSAH (United States)

Born in the United States to Ghanaian parents, Musah grew up mostly in Britain and played for England's youth teams before ultimately deciding to represent his birth nation. A midfielder, Musah helped Spanish club Valencia to last season's Copa del Rey final but was the only player to miss his spot kick in a penalty shootout, which led to Real Betis winning the trophy.

ALSO WORTH WATCHING

Slightly older players who appear ready for breakout performances include Alphonso Davies of Canada, Rafael Leão of Portugal, Boulaye Dia of Senegal, Kim Min-jae of South Korea and Mohammed Kudus of Ghana.

Born in a Ghana refugee camp to Liberian parents, Davies, who turns 22 on Nov. 2, is a regular at left back or on the wing for Bayern Munich. He made a big impact in helping Canada qualify for the World Cup for the first time since 1986.

The 23-year-old Leão was instrumental in helping AC Milan win the Serie A title last season and has been even better in the Italian league this campaign.

Kim has been a big part of Napoli's sensational start to the Italian league and was named Serie A player of the month for September.

An attacking midfielder, the 22-year-old Kudus had scored nine goals in 16 appearances for Ajax in all competitions by the end of October.

Positive Kashmir Tournament Enters Semi Final Stage

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 2nd Positive Kashmir Invitational Football Tournament has entered its semi final stages after the final round of quarter final matches were played on Tuesday at Synthetic Turf TRC.

In the evening game, FC ONE defeated Kashmir Maharaja FC by 5 goals to 1.

Shafkat of FC ONE was awarded the man of the match for his outstanding performance. Javid Ahmed senior coach Sports Council was the chief guest on the occasion.

Earlier, Ali Jana FC defeated

Syed Taj-ud-Din FC.

With these wins both FC ONE and Ali Jana FC reached the semi finals of the competition.

According to the fixtures list provided by the organisers, the semi final clashes will take place on Thursday, November 3.

Hot favourites J&K Bank will face off against Ali Jana FC at 2 pm while FC ONE will lock horns with Downtown Heroes FC at 5 pm. Both matches will be played at Synthetic Turf TRC.

The tournament is organised by valley-based NGO, The Positive Kashmir, in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council.



JKCA Announces Team For Vijay Hazare Trophy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) on Tuesday announced a 16-member squad for the upcoming Vijay Hazare Trophy 2022.

The team was selected by JKCA's Senior Selectors headed by Chairman Vidya Bhaskar, Vijay Sharma, Dhruv Mahajan and Arshid Bhat. The selectors reportedly decided on the squad during a meeting on Monday evening.

The 16-member squad is led by Shubham Pundir, while Abdul Samad has been named Vice Captain. Veteran Kashmiri cricketer Parvaiz Rasool misses out after he reportedly did not attend the trial camp due to personal reasons. Speedster Sharukh Dar has earned his maiden call up to the J&K squad.

J&K Team for Vijay Hazare Trophy 2022:

Shubham Pundir (C), Abdul Samad (VC), Shubham Khajuria, Henan Malik, Jatin Wadha-



The selected cricketers will leave for Delhi to compete in a few preparatory matches, before flying off to Mumbai which is the venue for the Elite Group 'A' matches of the tournament.

wan, Vivrant Sharma, Shivansh Sharma (WK), Fazil Rashid (WK), Auqib Nabi, Sahil Lotra, Yudhvir Singh, Sharukh Dar, Musaif Ajaz, Abid Mushtaq, Mujtaba Yousuf and Umran Malik.

England Down NZ To Keep Semi-Final Hopes Alive



Press Trust of India

BRISBANE: Captain Jos Buttler led by example with a scintillating knock before his bowlers held their nerves and powered England to a crucial 20-run win against New Zealand in the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

As far as New Zealand were concerned, Glenn Phillips continued his red-hot form to smash a fiery half-century, but that was not enough as England kept their semi-final hopes alive in the competition.

England rode on a solid start by Alex Hales (52; 40 balls) and Buttler (73; 47 balls) to post 179 for six. The openers added 81 runs in 62 balls after England opted to bat. In reply, New Zealand ended at 159 for six.

The win took England past defending champions Australia to second spot.

On a surface that aided a bit of spin, Phillips (62; 36b; 4x4, 3x6) took on England leg-spinner Adil Rashid, smashing him for two successive sixes as New Zealand needed 54 runs from

the last four overs.

But the English pace attack made a strong comeback. Mark Wood (3-0-25-1) was superb at the back-end before Sam Curran (2/34) and Chris Woakes (2/34) restricted New Zealand.

It was the first defeat for the Group 1 leaders after four matches, and they will face Ireland in their final Super 12 league fixture on Friday.

England now have to go past Sri Lanka in their concluding group match on Saturday to make the last-four.

Sri Lanka Knock Afghanistan Out Of T20 WC With 6-Wicket Win



Agencies

BRISBANE: Sri Lanka knocked Afghanistan out of the semi-final race at the T20 World Cup with a six-wicket victory in Brisbane on Tuesday, boosting their own chances of making the last four in the tournament.

Spinner Wanindu Hasaranga (3-13) led Sri Lanka's disciplined bowling as the Asia champions restricted Afghanistan to a modest 144-8 in the Group 1 contest at Gabba.

Openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Usman Ghani made 28 and 27 respectively.

Sri Lanka chased down the target in 18.3 overs with Dhananjaya de Silva scoring 66 not out off 42 balls. For Sri Lanka, mystery spinner Wanindu Hasaranga was the stand out bowler with three wickets for 13 runs in four overs. Pacer Lahiru Kumara took two wickets for 30 runs in four overs.

Dhananjaya de Silva's innings helped the 2014 champions

prevail with nine balls to spare and revive their campaign after back-to-back defeats by Australia and New Zealand. Sri Lanka now have four points from as many matches, while Afghanistan stay rooted at the bottom with two.

Brief scores:

Afghanistan 144/8 in 20 overs (Gurbaz 28, Ghani 27; Kumara 2/30, Hasaranga 3/13). Sri Lanka 148/4 in 18.3 overs (Dhananjaya de Silva 66 not out; Mujeeb 2/24).

IND vs BAN

Rain Could Play Spoilsport In Adelaide

Agencies

ADELAIDE: Team India will be hoping to get back on the winning track in the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup 2022, as they take on Bangladesh on Wednesday in Adelaide. However, the match could get washed out as Adelaide experienced heavy rain on the eve of the match, the

Super 12 game is at risk of being abandoned due to rain, with the Bureau of Meteorology forecasting a 60 per cent chance of rain. "Cloudy. Medium (60%) chance of showers, most likely in the evening. Winds southwesterly 20 to 30 km/h," reads the forecast for Wednesday as per Australia's Bureau of Meteorology.

The current T20 World Cup



cricket lovers would be keeping their fingers crossed. So far, India have played three matches, winning two and losing one against South Africa. On the other hand, Bangladesh have also registered victories in the two and lost one from their first three matches.

The winner of this match will have one foot in the semi-finals and both India and Bangladesh will be aware of that as they go head-to-head in Adelaide. The

has been adversely affected by the weather, particularly in Melbourne, where four games have been abandoned or washed out due to rain, including three that were called off without a ball being bowled.

India is in the second position with four points and two wins in three matches. Bangladesh is in the third position with four points and two wins in three matches. (ANI)

India Have Come To Win Cup, We Haven't: Shakib

Press Trust of India

ADELAIDE: Shakib Al Hasan has no qualms in admitting that Bangladesh are not title contenders in the T20 World Cup and a win against India will be considered an upset.

Both Bangladesh and India are on four points from three games. "We haven't come here to win the World Cup, but India have. If we win tomorrow, it will be an

It is difficult to adjust to this cold but most players have at some point played here. You can't change the weather but we have to manage it," he said.

While Shakib had no hesitation in calling Suryakumar Yadav India's No. 1 batter in T20Is over the past year but he believed Bangladesh will need to concentrate on each and every Indian batter. Shakib didn't spell out his plans for the match.



upset victory. India are favourites tomorrow," Shakib told reporters on the eve of the game.

The cold conditions in Adelaide does create a problem but the key will be adaptability.

"It is a little difficult. Hobart was very cold and here it's cold.

"We will have our plans in place, but not necessarily, those solutions will work. All eleven players are capable and we have to do with resources that we have," said the skipper, whose team till date has lost 10 T20Is to the neighbouring nation.



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