

Medicos Bank On Organ Donation As Lifestyle Affects Vitals In Kashmir

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: As medical reports and researches are showing a stark spike in lifestyle disorders rendering vitals redundant, a demand for organ banking has gained momentum in the valley with medicos campaigning for the critical healthcare facility and awareness among people. "We still lack organ-retrieval units here. If someone donates an organ, it needs to be preserved," says Dr. Nisar ul Hassan, President Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK). "Even top hospitals like SKIMS and SMHS

lack that facility. And besides Kidney-transplantation, there's no other solid-organ transplantation that happens in Kashmir."

Kashmir's appetite for organs is not unknown. Back in the day when the 2016 crisis damaged eyes in the region, there was a massive surge in the demand for eye-banks. However, even after six years, J&K has no functional eye banks.

"People are not naive. If the Government shows an intent to establish such facilities, people will themselves join that initiative," Dr Nisar told Kashmir Observer.

6 WE'VE TO GENERATE AWARENESS AMONG PEOPLE. DESPITE A RELIGIOUS GO-AHEAD, there hasn't been much acceptance among people regarding organ-donation. People are reluctant not only in categoric donation but also in live donation. This can only be tackled with education and awareness among people. Not much effort has been put in by departments and hospitals. A push from religious bodies is also required.



Echoing similar views, Dr Khursheed Iqbal, a prominent cardiologist from the valley says that organ-retrieval units are an important pillar of health-infrastructure. "But, this cannot

be true for every organ. Not every organ can be preserved for a long time. Organ-retrieval units may be an essential requirement for cornea related issues but not for every organ." Dr. Khurshid

told Kashmir Observer.

However, a doctor from State Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) J&K says that the primary question should be the availability of specialists.

"Facilities are a secondary thing. Before that, we've to look at the availability of surgeons. If we've enough surgeons then the government should establish new centers. Lack of infrastructure is also pushing many locals to travel to other parts of India where the enormous cost of transplantation and post-surgery care continue to play spoilsport," the doctor wishing anonymity told Kashmir Observer.

Pertinently, many people that Kashmir Observer contacted have received information regarding organ donation from unreliable sources. | **More on PIO**

4% DA Hike For Govt Employees, Pensioners

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Lieutenant Governor administration on Monday ordered 4 percent hike in dearness allowance for all the government employees and the pensioners with effect from July 1 this year.

In an order issued here on Monday, the General Administration Department (GAD) said that the government employees working in regular pay levels under 7th pay commission recommendations, will be paid dearness allowance at a revised rate of 38% of basic pay from the existing 34 percent. The revised rates, according to the order, will be effective from July 1, this year.

Giving more clarity, the order said that the basic pay in the revised pay structure means the pay drawn in the prescribed level in the pay matrix as per 7th Pay Commission recommendations, but does not include any other type of pay like special pay etc.

"The arrears on account of additional installment of DA with effect from July, 2022 shall be paid in cash in two equal installments (one in the month of November, 2022 and other in the month of December, 2022) and shall form part of salary from November onwards," reads the order issued by Secretary, Finance department.

"The payment on account of Dearness Allowance involving fractions of 50 paise and above may be rounded to the next higher rupee and the fractions of less than 50 paise shall be ignored," it adds.

In a similar order issued by the Secretary Finance Department, the government said that the arrears on account of additional installment of DA with effect from July shall be paid in cash to Government | **More on PIO**

Heavy Snowfall Turns Kashmir's Hill Stations White

Rainfall Brings Down Mercury, Another Wet Spell From Nov 9



Heavy snowfall at the hill stations, especially Gulmarg and Pahalgam has brought cheers to the tourists who are currently in Kashmir Valley. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Leh Highway, Mughal Road Closed

The Srinagar-Leh highway was closed on Monday due to snowfall, while Mughal road remained closed for vehicular movement for the second consecutive day, officials said. A traffic official said that the traffic has been closed on Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road after snowfall in areas around Sonamarg. The thoroughfare was also closed on Sunday morning but was reopened later. Fresh snowfall however has forced its fresh closure. Meanwhile, the Mughal road, connecting twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri with Shopian was closed for traffic on early Sunday after snowfall at several places enroute including Pir Ki Gali (PKG), Mansar Mohre and Poshia, a police official said. Meanwhile, traffic authorities have urged people to confirm the status of Jammu-Srinagar highway before embarking on a journey on the thoroughfare. "People are advised to undertake journey on (the highway) only after confirming | **More on PIO**

other areas in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir as well, the officials added.

The plains of the Valley, including Srinagar, were lashed by rains.

The officials said rain/snow showers are likely to continue at many places till afternoon and a significant improvement in the weather in expected in the evening.

Another western disturbance may bring light to moderate rain/snow showers from November 9-11, they added.

snowfall, they said.

Another tourist destination, Sonamarg, in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, recorded about three inches of fresh snowfall.

Sadhna Pass, on Srinagar-Tangdhar road in Kupwara, received about two feet of snow, while Machil received about five inches of snow, they said.

Gurez, in north Kashmir's Bandipora, received three inches of fresh snow. There are reports of fresh snowfall in

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Heavy snowfall draped Gulmarg resort in Jammu and Kashmir in a white blanket on Monday much to the delight of tourists there, even as most places in the Union territory received snowfall and rains, bringing down the day temperature, officials said.

Gulmarg, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, recorded around 9 to 12 inches of fresh

JKSI RECRUITMENT SCAM

ASI, CRPF Constable Among 4 More Arrested

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The CBI has arrested four more persons including a police officer and a CRPF constable involved in Jammu and Kashmir Police sub-inspector recruitment scam.

In a statement, a spokesperson said that CBI has arrested then ASI of J&K Police, constable of CRPF posted at 160 Battalion in Jammu, Packing Incharge of Printing Press of a Private Company, and a private person belonging to Karnal.

The statement reads that CBI has so far arrested

13 accused including two constables of J&K Police, a CRPF official, an ex-Constable of CRPF, a government teacher, a Commandant of BSF & an ASI of J&K Police.

"It was found during investigation that the

Packing Incharge of Printing Press allegedly stole the question paper of JKPSI examination while the same was being packed & sold the leaked question paper to an accused of Rewari who was arrested earlier," it reads.

It added that it was further alleged that the accused based | **More on PIO**



Multi-Pronged Approach Helps Reduce Infiltration In J&K: MHA

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Multi-pronged approach has helped reduce terrorist infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir since 2017 with the number of such attempts dropping to 73 in the year 2021, according to a report by the Union Home Ministry.

The annual report for 2021-22 made public by the ministry said the Centre in tandem with Jammu and Kashmir administration adopted a multi-pronged



approach to contain cross-border infiltration.

This included strengthening

of the border infrastructure, multi-tiered deployment along International Border, | **More on PIO**

SHORT TAKES

LG Greets People On Guru Nanak Jayanti

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday greeted the people on the joyous and auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti. In a message, an official spokesperson said, the LG observed that Guru Nanak Devji's message of equality, universal brotherhood, oneness and compassion for all, continues to guide and inspire humanity. "May each one of us imbibe the revered Guru's noble teachings and strengthen the bonds of unity in our society. Let us resolve to rededicate ourselves for the upliftment of the weak and downtrodden and create a society devoid of all social distinctions," Sinha said.

'Al-Qaeda Operative' Held In Ramban

An operative of terrorist outfit Al-Qaeda was arrested with a hand grenade in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, police said on Monday. Amiruddin Khan, a resident of Mashita Haora in West Bengal, was arrested by a police party from Ramban along Jammu-Srinagar national highway, an official said. He said a Chinese hand grenade was recovered from the possession of the Al-Qaeda operative. A case under relevant sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Arms Act and Explosive Act has been registered against the arrested accused at Ramban police station and further investigation is going on, the official said. (PTI)

Youth Falls To Death

Ayouth died on Monday after falling from the top floor of his house in Mujgund area in the outskirts of Srinagar. David Ahmad Hajam was feeding pigeons at the top floor of his house in Mujgund area here when he lost his balance and slipped down on the ground, reports said. Hajam received critical injuries due to the fall and was shifted to the JVC hospital in Srinagar for treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries during the treatment, reports said.

विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग
भारत सरकार
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

Inauguration of

KASHMIR EXPO

StartUps for Livelihood

SRINAGAR

by

Dr. Jitendra Singh

Hon'ble Union Minister of State (I/C) for Science & Technology,
Minister of State (I/C) of Earth Sciences,
Minister of State in the PMO, Ministry of Personnel, Pensions,
Public Grievances & DoAE, Department of Space and Vice President, CSIR

Date : 9th - 11th November, 2022
Venue : Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar

In association with

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National Innovation Foundation-India
Autonomous Body of the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India



Long-Term Exposure To Air Pollution Ups Kidney Disease Risk

As air pollution worsens in Delhi-NCR, a new study has warned that long-term exposure to air pollution may increase kidney disease risk.

Among adults with normal kidney function, exposure to higher concentrations of components of air pollution was linked with higher risks of later developing chronic kidney disease.

Compared with individuals with high genetic risk of de-

veloping kidney disease, those with high air pollution exposure and low genetic risk faced a higher risk of developing chronic kidney disease, according to new research being presented at the 'ASN Kidney Week 2022' in Florida.

"Long-term exposure to air pollution may increase the risk of CKD, especially in those with low genetic risk," the authors wrote in the study, titled "Air pollution, genetic factors, and the risk of in-

cident chronic kidney disease". To reach this conclusion, the investigators analysed data from 350,994 participants without CKD at baseline in the UK Biobank.

Exposure to higher concentrations of components of air pollution was linked with higher risks of developing CKD, they found.

Earlier this year, researchers from King's College London found that ambient fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentra-

tion reduction led to significant improvement in laboratory test results used to assess a patient's kidney function.

"Long-term exposure to PM2.5 has been associated with declined kidney function. However, whether the association is causal remains unknown," said Co-author Yiqun Han, Research Associate in School of Public Health, Imperial College London.

In the study, published in the journal Health Data Science, the

team identified a strong linkage between the reduced PM2.5 with improved kidney function.

Air pollution is known to affect kidney function. Several studies have shown that exposure to bad air is associated with an increased chronic kidney disease-related morbidity and mortality.

Exposure to PM2.5, even at relatively low concentrations, is a risk factor for a lower kidney function and a faster decline in kidney function.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of son in birth certificate has been wrongly written as Syed Hasnain Rezvi S/o Syed Mustafa Mother's Name: Afshana while his correct name is Syed Hasnain Razvi Fater's name: Syed Mustafa Razvi Mother's name: Afshana Mustafa which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Police Station Khag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Syed Mustafa Razvi
 F/o: Syed Hasnain Razvi
 R/O: Iskander Pora bmg

PETITION UNDER ARTICLE 148 A OF CPC BEFORE THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF J&K & LADAKH AT SRINAGAR

IN THE CASE OF:
 Farooq Ahmad Lone (Aged: 45)
 S/O Mohammad Samander Lone
 R/O Mianpora Lolab District Kupwara. (Caveater)

VERSUS
 Public At Large (Non -Caveater)

IN THE MATTER OF: Caveat Petition u/s 148 -A CPC
 May it please your Honour:

The Caveator most humbly submit as under:-

1. That caveater is working in the army & is presently serving the nation with utmost dedication & Honesty . The petitioner is the owner & in possession of land measuring 10 Marals along with residential house & had constructed bathroom & cow shed therein falling under Khasha No 1002/1003 Min Situated at Mianpora Lolab Kupwara.

2. That some miscreants has been harassing the family members of caveater & had filed false & frivolous complaints before the revenue authorities & had managed eviction orders from revenue courts which were subsequently challenged by the Caveater before the Revisonal forum & revisonal court was pleased to pass status quo order & directed the tehsildar to submit report.

3. That caveaters apprehends, if any unknown person files any Writ proceedings Appeal/Revision/ or any other proceeding before this Hon'ble Court against the above caveaters seeking some interim direction /stay order against the supra Order, the caveaters may be heard before passing any interim order.

4. That in the event of filling of same, the caveator be put on notice before according any consideration to it as well as passing any interim order/directions.

In the premises it is therefore prayed that before passing any order In Ex party against the caveator, in any appeal/ revision / application or any other proceedings, the caveator may be summoned and provided an opportunity of being heard, through their counsel/ person so that no loss or injury is caused to the caveator in the interest of justice.

Caveater Through Counsel
 Shah Ashiq Hussain
 Advocate Chamber 42
 High court Srinagar
 Contact no 9906520092

ABBAS ADVT

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.
 E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER (RE TENDER)

NIT No: 200/Xen/Rew/Bla/2022-2023 Dated: 04/11/2022 (RE TENDER)

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	EMD AMOUNT	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS
1	Construction of Drain from Dispensary to Mohd. Akbar dar Shabir Ahmad malla at Mirgund B Under ADP (BDC) 2022-23 Block Singhpora	1.80	200	3600	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
2	Construction of Food store building at Rajpora Under ADP(PRI) 2022-23 Block Zaingeer	6.95	300	13900	30 days	CEE, DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded
3	Renovation of Veterinary Building and C/O one number bath room at Duroo A Under ADP(PRI) 2022-23 Block Zaingeer	3.91	200	7820	30days	DEE	ADP	AAA Accorded

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-11-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-11-2022 to 11-11-2022 up to 6:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start date	04-11-2022
4	Bid Submission End Date	11-11-2022 up to 6:00 PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	Technical Bids will be opened on 12-11-2022 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online.

- The G.O No.238-F OF 2021 DATED:07.09.2021 issued by the Govt.(Finance deptt) that the participation in the tendering process of works upto an amount of Rs 3.00 lacs is restricted to the resident of concerned panchayat. In the event of inadequate response to a tender, participation from adjoining panchayat shall be permitted.
- If the Bidder quotes his Bid exceeding the tendering Cost, his bid will be automatically rejected.
- In case of dilemma /confusion, the rate and the unit against any item shown in BOQ, the SOR rate along with its units will be applicable.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt under HEAD 0515 mentioning therein Name of work and NIT No. in favour of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender Inviting Authority).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.
- All the Bidders has to deposit Earnest Money (2% of Advertised cost) in shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of tendering as per the Circular of Finance Department.
- The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of allotted cost of Contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% performance security.

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

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

- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, if-
 a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 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.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- 10.1. 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 into acquaint bid submission process.
- 10.2. 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 vendors.
- 10.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- 10.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- 10.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as L1 immediately after opening of financial bid.
- 10.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- 10.7. DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED IN SOFT:
 Scanned copy of valid registration card along with Latest Renewal , EMD/TR as per NIT, GST, Latest clearance, PAN.
- 10.8. The earnest money in favour of un-successful/ non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee in original, irrespective of Hard copies, failure of submission of tender document fee by the bidder using site shall entail him for blacklisting.
 Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- 11. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- 12. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer REW Division Baramulla and Earnest Money/Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG if applicable pledged to Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender receiving Authority) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original treasury challan/receipt (cost of tender document), CDR/FDR/BG (earnest money/bid security) and relevant bid documents etc be submitted to the tender opening authority by the bidder who is declared as L1 immediately after opening of financial bid. The tender receiving authority reserves the right of opening of the tenders on due date or any other convenient available date or rejecting any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof
- 13. 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.
- 14. Price escalation & 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 up to completion of the work unless otherwise, specified deductions 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.
- 15. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- 16. In case of CRF & any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding documents shall be followed

No: 1769-76
 Dated: 07-11-2022 Executive Engineer,
 REW Baramulla

REQUIRED COMPUTER OPERATOR FEMALE

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LOCATION :- HYDERPORA

INTERESTED CANDIDATE CAN CALL OR WHATSAPP MESSAGE THEIR CV ON **7006430017**

NOTE :- CANDIDATES FROM NEAR BY AREAS WILL BE GIVEN PREFERENCE.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I, Masarat Jan am holding 2000 shares of J&K Bank under Folio No: JKB031212 where my name has been inadvertently recorded as Masarat Ali and my parentage has been recorded as Ali Mohd both of which are incorrect, whereas my actual Name is MASARAT JAN and my parentage is Ali Mohd. In this regard I am applying for correction of name under my Folio, if anybody has any objection my contract the J&K Bank Corporate Office within 7 days from the publication of this notice after which no objection shall be entertained.

Masarat Jan
 D/o Mr. Ali Mohd.
 R/o Gasiyar Chowk, Zadibal
 Srinagar, J&K 190011

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SKIMS To Hold Mega Academic Event Today

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Radiodiagnosis & Imaging SKIMS under the aegis of Indian Society of Radiographers & Technologists will conduct a mega academic event on 8th November i.e. Today at Gandhi Bhawan Kashmir University.

Director SKIMS/ Ex-officio Secretary to Govt. Prof. Parvaiz A Koul will be the chief guest on the occasion.

During the event scientific sessions on varied topics of academic importance will be conducted which will be chaired by prominent scientists & academicians.

Seminar On Total Quality Management Held At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Education Policy-2020 envisions reorienting and restructuring the higher education system to address the "emerging" challenges in providing quality education to the aspirants, Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan said on Monday.

The Vice-Chancellor was addressing a one-day national seminar on Total Quality Management (TQM) organized jointly by the varsity's Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA) and the Department of Management Studies.

Prof Nilofer, the chief guest at the inaugural session, said the NEP-2020 has "broken the traditional confines" of academics, thus necessitating the need for a clear focus on meeting the new quality parameters in teaching, learning and research.

Congratulating the organizers for holding the very important seminar, Prof Nilofer said the University is committed to meet the quality parameters in key areas of academics, research and extension education to make a more visible mark on the national academic landscape.

"We have already

started plugging a few grey areas, including our connection with the alumni, to fare better in the next NAAC re-accreditation and NIRF ranking with active cooperation of all our stakeholders," she said.

Vice-Chancellor Ahmedabad University and former director IIM-Bangalore Prof Pankaj Chandra delivered the keynote address, emphasizing on the importance of good governance of universities to create "high quality institutions".

"How best you govern an institution at all levels defines its 'culture' and this culture leads to learning, advantages and encourages students and faculty to do the best," he said, adding that "when an institution's culture is right, the compliance, accreditation and assurance will naturally follow".

Dean Academics Prof Farooq A Masoodi underlined how "intrinsic" and "extrinsic" factors influence quality management in institutions.

Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir gave a detailed account of quality concerns in the country's higher education institutions. He said the University of Kashmir is addressing all issues that impede its ranking and the present seminar is a step in that direction.



KO photo Abid Bhat

Urs Of Dastgeer Sahab (RA) Observed With Religious Fervor

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The Urs of 11th century Sufi saint, Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA), popularly known as Dastgeer Sahib (RA) was observed on Monday with devotion and reverence across Kashmir Valley.

In Srinagar, special congregational prayers were held at Dastgeer Sahib shrine in Khan-ayar and Sarai Bala.

Braving rains and cold weather, thousands of devotees thronged the shrine of Sufi saint Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA) at Khan-ayar to have a glimpse of the holy relic. Emotional scenes were witnessed on the occasion.

The Urs of Dastgeer Sahab (RA)

is being observed on the 11th day of Rabi Al Thani—the fourth month of the Islamic Hijri Calendar.

During the special prayers, the religious clerics threw light on the teachings of the revered saint. Besides, the shrines at both the places were decorated.

Outside the shrines, the local and non-local business establishments had installed their carts and were seen selling traditional snacks.

Earlier, Thousands of devotees including men and women participated in the night long prayers "Shah Khawani" at Dastgeer Sahib Shrine at Khan-ayar on Sunday.

Pertinently, the actual shrine of the revered saint is located at Baghdad in Iraq. Even though the saint has never visited Kashmir, he is highly revered Kashmiris.

Chairperson Waqf Board Jammu and Kashmir Darakshan Andrabi visited the holy shrine of Dastgeer Sahib at Khan-ayar and paid obeisance there. She also took stock of the arrangements in place by the authorities for the visiting devotees.

Speaking to media persons, Darakshan said that the Sufi saint has a special place in Kashmir and he had played a pivotal role in the spread of Islam.

"Dastgeer Sahab is revered by every Kashmiri, regardless of his or her religious affiliation. As I was coming here, some Kashmiri Pandits handed over money to donate to the shrine."

"This shows the significance and importance Dastgeer Sahab enjoys in Kashmir" Darakshan said.

'Cancer Hospital To Be Constructed On Waqf Land'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chairperson of Waqf Board, Darakshan Andrabi on Monday said that a cancer hospital will come up in the Kashmir Valley. She said that the Cancer hospital will be constructed on

Waqf land. "It will take time to construct the cancer hospital on Waqf land. Once the project is completed, the details will be shared accordingly," she said.

Darakshan further said that people are aware about the works being done by the Waqf Board. "However, to come up with the

white paper about 75 years will take almost 8-9 months. The white paper will be made public," she said, adding that the people have given enough support to help the Waqf Board and it is because of their support only that the things have started changing on the ground.

Measles-Rubella Elimination

DC Chairs Meeting Of DTF

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To give impetus to the progress towards Measles-Rubella Elimination in the district, a meeting of District Task Force (DTF) held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz



Asad on Monday.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held with regard to implementation of road map formulated by the Government for Measles, Rubella Elimination from the country by 2023.

On the occasion, the DC said that Srinagar District has an adequate healthcare infrastructure to manage the Universal Immunization programme and Surveillance activities to achieve the target.

The DC urged upon the Health functionaries of the district to take all possible measures and give focused attention towards the Measles, Rubella Elimination in

the District.

The DC stressed on active participation of educational institutions in spreading awareness and sensitizing students about the infection of Measles and Rubella. He urged the Officers to adopt the multipronged interventions to identify the target at the right time to arrest the disease at the right time.

The DC also highlighted the importance of acquiring complete knowledge about the preventive measures of Measles-Rubella disease, and asked the officers to identify the target groups, conduct surveys and prepare separate plans for vulnerable groups.

He further asked them to put in a committed effort in order to achieve the objective of the campaign i.e to rapidly build up immunity for both Measles and Rubella diseases and ensure that all the children should receive MR vaccine during the campaign.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Zahoor Ahmad Mir; Deputy CMO, Dr Nighat; District Health Officer, Dr Anjum; all Block and Zonal Medical Officers, District Asha Coordinator, District Monitoring & Evaluation officer, District Mass Education & Information Officer and other concerned were present in the meeting.

مہتمم مدینہ پبلک اسکول کمپلیکس بالی ہیرن

مرحوم ومغفور حجة الاسلام والمسلمين مولانا محمد عباس انصاری رضی اللہ عنہ کے انتقال پر ملال کے پندرویں پر عظیم شان خراج عقیدت پیش کیا جائے گا۔

تمام مومنین سے شرکت کی پر زور اپیل کی جاتی ہے

پروگرام :- (1) صبح 10 بجے سے 12 بجے تک طلباء و طالبات مدینہ پبلک اسکول تلاوت کلام پاک اور ہدیہ نعت و منقبت ادا کریں گے۔

پروگرام (2) نماز ظہر کے فوراً بعد یعنی 1 بجے سے 2 بجے تک ذاکرین کرام مرثیہ خوانی ادا کریں گے۔

بتاریخ 08 نومبر 2022 بروز منگلوار

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QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:31
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3:55
Magrib	5:35
ISHA	7:57

HIJRI CALENDAR
12 Rabi ul Sani
1444

This Day In History

- 1923 Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party stage "Beer Hall Putsch" in Munich.
- 1932 - Amidst the Great Depression, Democrat candidate Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected President of the United States, defeating Republican incumbent Herbert Hoover
- 1942 - Adolf Hitler proclaims fall of Stalingrad from Munich beer hall
- 1942 - Vichy-France drops diplomatic relations with US
- 1943 - France arrests government of Lebanon after they abolish the French mandate
- 1950 - A US aircraft shoots down a North Korean jet in the Korean War, the first jet-to-jet dogfight in history
- 1956 - UN demands USSR leave Hungary
- 1957 - Great Britain performs atmospheric nuclear test at Christmas Island
- 1960 - John F. Kennedy is elected President of the United States, defeating Republican candidate Richard Nixon who was the incumbent Vice President
- 1964 - IMF grants Great Britain credit of \$1 billion
- 1965 - British Indian Ocean Territory formed
- 1965 - Vietnam War: US, Australian and New Zealand forces launch Operation Hump, a search-and-destroy operation near Bien Hoa in South Vietnam
- 1980 - Voyager 1 space probe discovers 15th moon of Saturn
- 1983 - STS-9 vehicle again moves to launch pad
- 1984 - STS 51-A mission launches
- 1987 - Australia beat England by 7 runs to win cricket World Cup
- 1988 - 900 die as earthquake hits China
- 1988 - Vice President George H. W. Bush is elected President of the United States, defeating Democrat candidate Michael Dukakis
- 1990 - Saddam fires his army chief & threatens to destroy Arabian peninsula
- 1990 - Unconfirmed rumors emerge that Bush might announce an airlift of supplies to US embassy in Kuwait, which could ultimately trigger a military clash
- 2002 - Iraq disarmament crisis: UN Security Council under Resolution 1441 unanimously approves a resolution on Iraq, forcing Saddam Hussein to disarm or face "serious consequences"
- 2004 - War in Iraq: More than 10,000 U.S. troops and a small number of Iraqi army units participate in a siege on the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

From KO Archives

Activists Torch TV Sets In Pak

ISLAMABAD - The little-known Islami Jirga on Monday publicly burnt 11 television sets by describing them as a source of obscenity in the Pakistani city of Mardan. Over 2,000 curious onlookers had gathered in the Bagh sports ground following public announcements about the burning of television sets. It was a mixed group of people and not all of them supported what was put on display for them.

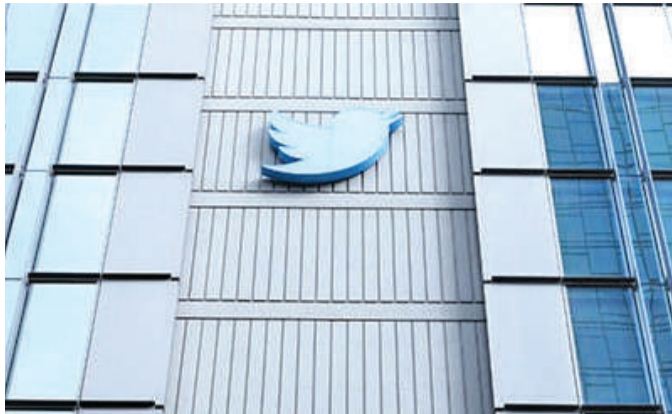
The television sets were brought in a pick-up covered with yellow curtains. The Islami Jirga activists piled up the sets, each inscribed with an Urdu slogan, before showing them the torch amid chants of Allah-o-Akbar.

Some of the slogans said the television was a devil's box, source of obscenity, a threat to faith, a danger for pious women. One of the slogans written on a television set vowed to foil the Jewish conspiracy against Islam.

Before burning the sets, an Islami Jirga activist, Mohammad Salim, described television as a source of obscenity and felt it was misleading the youth, particularly girls. He lashed out at the cable television and termed it as a threat to the culture, traditions and morals of the Muslims.

(Kashmir Observer, November 08, 2000)

'Humiliating': Reality Sinks In For Twitter India Staff As 90% Sacked



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Humiliation and uncertainty are the words to describe the situation, says one of the many Twitter India staff who was handed a pink slip on Friday.

That the laying off was perhaps on expected lines or that the microblogging platform itself erupted in support from 'Tweeple' or emphatic outsiders did not make things less painful, says another ex-employee.

For scores of Twitter India staff, the grim reality of large scale firings -- that also coincides with the dreaded layoff

winter -- is just about 'sinking in', days after popular platform was taken over by the world's richest man Elon Musk.

Last month, Musk famously walked into the Twitter headquarters holding a ceramic sink and posted a video on the social media with the caption 'Entering Twitter HQ--let that sink in!'.

A communication received by many employees on Friday said the affected staff will "remain employed by Twitter and will receive compensation and benefits through your separation date of January 4, 2023".

SC Frees 3 Rapist-Killers Called 'Predators' By High Court



Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court today acquitted three convicts who were awarded the death penalty by a Delhi court after being held guilty of raping and killing a 19-year-old woman in Delhi's Chhawala area in 2012.

The victim's mutilated body was found in a field, with multiple injuries due to assault with objects ranging from car tools to earthen pots.

A Delhi court in February 2014 convicted three men for raping and killing a 19-year-old woman in 2012 and awarded them the death penalty.

The capital punishment was confirmed by the Delhi High Court on August 26, 2014, saying they were "predators" moving

ing they were "predators" moving on the streets and "were looking for prey".

Three men, Ravi Kumar, Rahul and Vinod were convicted under various charges dealing with kidnapping, rape and murder.

The case dates back to February 2012, when a 19-year old girl's body was found in Haryana. The girl was brutally killed after being raped.

A case was registered regarding this at outer Delhi's Chhawala (Najafgarh) police station.

According to the prosecution, the offence was brutal in nature as they first kidnapped the woman, raped her, killed her and dumped her body in a field in Rodhai village in Haryana's Rewari district.

Supreme Court upholds reservation for economically weaker sections

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: In a majority 3:2 judgment, the Supreme Court on Monday upheld the 103rd Constitutional Amendment providing for a 10 per cent quota for the economically weaker sections from the unreserved category.

At the outset, Chief Justice U.U. Lalit said there are four different judgements on pleas challenging the EWS quota.

Three judges of the five-judge bench -- Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, Bela M Trivedi, and J.B. Pardiwala -- upheld the constitutional amendment for EWS quota, saying that it does not violate basic structure of Constitution.

The 103rd amendment



gives 10 per cent reservation to economically weaker sections in central government jobs and admissions in central government-run institutions.

Justice S Ravindra Bhat dissents, strikes down constitution amendment on EWS

quota in his minority view as he felt the 50 per cent ceiling on quota cannot be breached and EWS quota has to go. The Chief Justice concurred with the view of Justice Bhat favouring annulment of the EWS quota.

ATTACK ON IMRAN KHAN

Pak Supreme Court directs police to register FIR within 24 hours

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday ordered the Inspector General of the Punjab province to register a case on the gun attack on Imran Khan within 24 hours, a directive hailed by the former prime minister's party as a "first step towards justice".

On Sunday, Khan said that an FIR has not been registered on the botched "assassination attempt" on his life as authorities are refusing to file the case unless he removes an Army general's name from the complaint.

Khan, who suffered bullet injuries in the right leg on Thursday, was discharged from the hospital on Sunday after undergoing successful surgery. The 70-year-old former prime minister has now been moved to a private residence in Lahore.

The Supreme Court on Monday directed Punjab police chief Faisal Shahkar to register an FIR of the gun attack on Khan within 24 hours, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial said that the apex court would take suo motu notice if the FIR was not registered, the report added.

He also asked Shahkar, who joined the hearing from the SC's Lahore registry via video link, why the FIR was not registered.



"Tell us when the FIR will be registered," he said, adding that there should be a concrete reason for not registering the FIR.

"Working according to the law, the court is with you," the CJP said, directing the IG to get officials to probe into the matter. The CJP assured the provincial police chief that nobody would interfere in his work till the time he was posted at the IG.

"IG sahib, you do your job. If someone interferes, the court would interfere in their work," he said.

Meanwhile, PTT's Fawad Chaudhry has termed the Supreme Court's directives regarding the registration of a first information report on the attack against Imran as the "first step towards justice".

Shahkar -- who has decided to resign from the Punjab government and refused to work with the current political setup in the province led by Chief

Minister Parvez Elahi -- informed the court that "we have spoken to the Punjab Chief Minister regarding the registration of the FIR and he has expressed some reservations".

He further said an FIR should also be registered on the complaint of the heirs of the man who was killed in the incident.

Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, alleged that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Major General Faisal Naseer were part of a sinister plot to assassinate him in the same way former Punjab governor Salman Taseer was killed in 2011 by a religious extremist.

He also said that an FIR was not being registered as some people were afraid of (some names).

The deadlock stemmed from Khan's insistence on naming the Army officer in the FIR.

Pakistan Police Officer Gets Rs 100 Million In Bank Account, Becomes Overnight Millionaire; Bank Freezes His Atm Card

Press Trust of India

A police officer in Pakistan's Karachi city became a millionaire overnight after he received Rs 100 million in his bank account from an unknown source.

The investigating officer in Karachi's Bahadurabad police station was shocked to learn that 100 million rupees had been deposited into his bank account, including his salary.

"I was shocked because let alone having seen so much money, I have never had more than a few thousand rupees in my account," police officer Aamir Gopang said.

"I only came to know about it when the bank contacted me and informed me that 100 million rupees were transferred to my account," he said.

He said his bank account had been frozen and his ATM card was also blocked by the bank as they were carrying out investigations.

In similar incidents in Larkana and Sukkur, other police officials also received large sums of money in their bank accounts.



In Larkana, three police officers found out each of them had got 50 million rupees in their accounts while in Sukkur a police officer had the same amount in his account.

A spokesperson for Larkana police when contacted said the matter was under investigation by the police. "All three have denied any knowledge of how the large amounts of money came into their accounts," he said.

Child Deaths Linked Syrup Medicines Increase To 195 In Indonesia

Agencies

JAKARTA: Indonesia said Monday the number of child deaths from kidney failure or damage linked to harmful substances found in syrup medicines has risen to 195.

The Southeast Asian country has seen a spike in cases of acute kidney injury (AKI) since August, prompting a probe and subsequent ban on all liquid medicine sales.

More than 320 cases of AKI have been recorded in provinces across the country and 27 patients are still in hospital, health ministry spokesman Mohammad Syahril told a press conference.

Most of the children affected are under the age of five.

The new death count is up from 133 deaths confirmed on October 21.

Tests found most of the deaths were caused by syrups containing excessive amounts of ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol, two compounds used in industrial products such as antifreeze, Syahril said.

Authorities have since been importing an antidote for AKI, with 246 vials obtained so far, the majority donated by Singapore and Australia, and the drug has shown significant results, the health ministry said.

Indonesia's national food and drug agency last month named five syrups that contained dangerous levels of harmful substances and ordered the products be removed from the market and destroyed.



Police have launched an investigation into three local pharmaceutical companies and two of them have temporarily lost their licence to produce syrup medicines.

Before the recent spike, Indonesia typically recorded between two and five cases of AKI a month. In West Africa, The Gambia reported 70 child deaths last month suspected to have been caused by imported syrup medicines.

The World Health Organization has said it found an "unacceptable amount" of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol in four Indian-made cough syrups and warned they could be linked to the deaths in the small African nation.

NEWS MAKERS

3 Arrested For Sedating People With Sleeping Pills, Robbing Them In Delhi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Three members of 'Zehar Khurani' gang, known for robbing people after sedating them with sleeping pills, have been arrested, police said on Monday.

Kamal Singh, 34, Pawan, 32, and Gourav, 30, were based in Seelampur area of east Delhi, they said.

Police said the gang would make people eat sweets mixed with powdered sleeping pills and would rob them after they would get unconscious.

One such matter came to light on October 23, when a 43-year-old resident of Chandni Chowk approached Gulabi Bagh Police Station with a complaint of robbery, they said.

According to police, the victim in his complaint said that on October 21 around 7 am, he was travelling with 23 ceiling fans and some copper wires in his auto rickshaw. He had loaded the rickshaw at an electrical store in Bhagirath Palace and was on way to Najafgarh through Gulabi Bagh.

The accused at some point accosted him feigning that they were distributing sweets and offered him a 'laddoo' laced with the narcotic, which he ate.

He started feeling dizzy and became unconscious near the Shastrri Park Metro Station, a senior police officer said.

The accused all this while followed the auto rickshaw and robbed him when the victim lost his consciousness, he said.

"During investigation, CCTV footage of the route followed by the complainant were checked. More than 100 CCTV cameras were checked for leads and finally, all the three accused were nabbed," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said.

"... During police custody, the accused also named the chemist who used to provide them with the drugs without any prescription. Legal action is being initiated against him as well," he said.

The accused confessed that they robbed the man, and revealed that they sold the stolen goods to one Raju, a resident of Seelampur, for ₹45,000. They said that they spent the money on the Diwali celebration.

Later, police made raids to arrest Raju too, but he had already decamped, Kalsi said.

The vehicle used in the crime and seven tablets used to sedate the targets were recovered from them, he added.

Mumbai Designer Kidnapped For Not Paying Tailors, Rescued in Gujarat



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Mumbai Police rescued a 43-year-old designer from four persons who abducted him and took him to Gujarat after he failed to pay them ₹6 lakh for a stitching assignment done by them, an official said on Saturday. The designer was abducted from suburban Malad on November 3 and taken to Vapi in an SUV, police said.

Accordingly, the Gujarat Police was alerted. A crime branch team of Vapi Police intercepted the car and rescued the victim and took accused persons in custody on November 3, he said.

The accused persons were brought to Mumbai on Friday and arrested under sections 365 (Kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine a person), 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), he said.

"The interrogation of the accused revealed that the designer and his abductors knew each other. They abducted the designer as he had not paid them ₹6 lakh for the job of stitching stickers to dresses," he said. Identities were not disclosed.

UP Man Kills Sister, Her Lover, Goes To Police Station For Confession

Press Trust of India

FARRUKHABAD (UP): In a suspected case of dishonour killing, a woman and her lover were killed allegedly by her brother and their bodies dumped in a drain here, police said on Sunday.

The incident came to light after the accused, Neetu, a resident of Rajapur Saraimeda here, went to the city police station in the early hours of Sunday and confessed to having killed his sister (23) and her lover (25), they said.

The woman's family did not approve of her relationship with the man, the police said.

On the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, Neetu hacked both of them to death with a sharp-edged weapon. The bodies were later recovered from a drain, they said.

An FIR has been registered in the matter on a complaint lodged by Ramkaran's father Mahaveer Jatav, they added.

Superintendent of Police Ashok Kumar Meena said the matter is being probed.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Elusive Statehood

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday hinted about the imminent restoration of J&K statehood in her remarks on Centre-state relations. This has triggered speculation about the centre's near-term plans for the union territory which is likely to go to the polls early next year. The finance minister said that J&K gets 41 percent of the tax revenue as opposed to 42 percent since it was no longer a state. She, however, added that "it will soon become — may be some time." So, does the centre have a plan to restore J&K statehood before elections? It would be great if it did, but this looks very unlikely. No less than union home minister Amit Shah has made it clear that the statehood of J&K would be restored only after elections are held and a representative government is formed. There has so far been no signs that the centre is reviewing its policy. Restoration of statehood also makes eminent sense from the centre's point of view. It seems that the union government wants to first see how the future elected government would look like and what its political and governance priorities would be including its approach to the issue of the revocation of Article 370. Also, it is as yet unclear if the centre would be inclined to restore complete statehood or a truncated one on the pattern of Delhi.

One thing is clear, though: The J&K statehood seems subordinate to the circumstances thrown up by a future elected UT government. The centre, as appears obvious, doesn't want its decision to undo Article 370 to be in any way challenged by an Assembly dominated by the parties that have a contrary view on the issue.

J&K has not had an elected government since June 2018 when Governor's rule was imposed after the PDP-led coalition government lost its majority following the withdrawal of support by the BJP. The last four years have witnessed a drastic political makeover of the state-turned-union territory, so much so that in many aspects, the current J&K bears little resemblance to what it was pre-August 2019.

For now, we can only hope that the elections, whenever they are held, will lead to the restoration of statehood. It is expected that a government led or influenced by the BJP could pave the way for a faster return to statehood than a non-BJP government. But, for now, this is all in the future. All we can hope for now is that the elections are announced earlier than later.

OTHER OPINION

Democratic Deficit: On the Attempt on Imran Khan's Life

The habitual turbulence of Pakistani politics took a decidedly dangerous turn last week, with an assassination attempt on its former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was ousted seven months ago. Mr. Khan escaped with leg injuries after a gunman opened fire. In a press conference a day later, Mr. Khan blamed the government and the military for plotting to kill him. Mr. Khan, who had earlier invoked comparisons between himself and former PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, hanged in 1979 — of a popular leader whose mandate is being thwarted by the establishment — even brought in the example of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh. Both PM Sharif and the Army have denied Mr. Khan's allegations but it is harder to deny the growing problem that he now poses. Since April, when he was forced to step down following a confidence vote in parliament, and losing all court appeals, he has taken to the streets, demanding a general election immediately. He has grown vocal about the political role of the military, accusing "Dirty Harrys" of imprisoning and torturing his supporters in the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) Party, and mocking Army Chief General Bajwa, whose tenure ends this month, for suggesting that the military would maintain a "neutral" role. There have been repercussions. In September, he was indicted in a contempt of court case for impugning the High Court judiciary, and although terror charges were dropped against him, he faces criminal charges for threatening to sue government officials. In October, the Election Commission held him guilty in a case involving undeclared official gifts and disqualified him from holding public office; he could face a legal challenge to his seat in Parliament for defaming the judiciary and armed forces.

For the Sharif government that is already beleaguered by the devastating floods, a security crisis emanating from Afghanistan, the burgeoning economic crisis, and continued bad relations with India which has stopped much-needed trade revenues, Mr. Khan's challenge could not have come at a worse time. Mr. Sharif, who has been making many foreign visits, must focus on the domestic situation, and investigate the attack on Mr. Khan in a convincing way if he intends to shore up his credibility. Despite the many setbacks, Mr. Khan's popularity remains strong; he won six out of eight by-elections last month. In the aftermath of the assassination attempt, PTI protesters have held marches in Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Quetta, and Karachi. The biggest worry for the government is maintaining law and order if the impasse continues. In that case, elections at an early date may prove the only prudent way to move forward, in a country that has always suffered from a deficit in democracy.

The Hindu

Back to Village Strengthening People's Voice

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Gram Sabha also known as Deh Majlis under J&K Panchayati Raj Act 1989 is the Nerve Centre of Panchayati Raj system of governance. Majority of Govt officials, journalists and even the people living in rural areas have a misconception that Gram Sabha means a Sabha or Majlis of Panchayat members (Sarpach or Panches), the village elders or the influential people. However, the Back to Village Programme (B2V) which was launched by the Government around June 2019 changed the mindset of people who were otherwise reluctant to participate in the Gram Sabha or Panchayat meetings.

When the senior Govt officers were designated as Visiting Officers and were asked to stay in villages for 2 days, it not only brought the governance to the doorsteps of people but also made people understand what Panchayati Raj was all about especially strengthening the Gram Sabha which is like a Mini Parliament for every village.

My own experience

In 2019, Back to Village (B2V) programme did not look promising (at least to me). I took it casually in spite of the fact that I have been a great proponent of decentralization of governance through Panchayati Raj Institutions or Municipalities in urban areas. The local Panchayat members asked me to attend the meeting at the local Panchayat building next morning. I thought I must visit the place and on June 20th. Early morning that day, I went to the Panchayat Ghar. A Government Higher Secondary School Lecturer had been sent to our village as a Visiting Officer. I was of the opinion that the Lecturer's visit to our village would be a useless exercise as he was neither from any administrative background nor he had enough experience about issues related to rural development. As I participated in a session meant for prominent citizens in the local Panchayat Ghar, I started developing some interest. Infact, the lecturer (Visiting Officer) had good knowledge of the Panchayati Raj system and the developmental programmes of Govt. Many women including local Asha workers, Anganwadi workers, helpers also participated in that meeting and that was very much encouraging. The Back to Village programme had been nicely conceived when it was launched during summer of 2019. There was a complete agenda and activity chart prepared for Visiting Officers which included evening interaction programmes. The evening interaction on June 20th 2019 was held in my house. The meeting was energizing and people who hardly used to take part in Gram Sabha meetings or hated the local politics also started speaking out as they got a platform to express themselves. Many started yelling at Panchayat members or Panchayat Secretary as they got to vent their anger & highlighted the local misgovernance affecting their lives, like corruption in execution of local developmental



Going further, the Government must seek suggestions from experts to make the B2V programme more participatory. Additionally, open suggestions should be sought from people, research institutions, NGOs as well. The Govt must also reconsider the My Town My Pride programme that was launched by the Govt in October 2020 for people living in cities or towns

works etc.

Next day (June 21st 2019) the Gram Sabha was held at the local Panchayat Ghar. This meeting began at sharp 8 am and around 100 people had assembled in the premises of the building. I had hardly attended any meeting there in the past and the same was the case with other prominent citizens of my colony which is a semi urbanised habitation in view of being located mere 11 kms away from Srinagar city. Our village Gopalpora-Wathooria is located just 5 kms away from the Srinagar municipal limits, but falls under the jurisdiction of Rural Development department district Budgam.

Participation of 100 people in Gram Sabha (Deh Majlis) didn't even constitute 20% of the adult population of the area but this was for the first time that we had more than 100 people having assembled to take part in a Gram Sabha meeting. This was encouraging indeed. When the Panchayat Secretary read out the village plan prepared some days back, the participants raised their voice. They alleged that the plan was arbitrary and was not prepared in consultation with people (Gram Sabha). The officials of the rural development department argued against these allegations by stating that people didn't come to the Gram Sabha because of which it was obvious that their voice would go unregistered. This might have been true but I along with several locals didn't agree with the Panchayat Secretary or the members of Panchayat and Sarpanch. Why weren't people and other stakeholders invited over for the meeting?

The plan was changed as people demanded it. Therefore, participation in Gram Sabha meetings is most important to fight against corruption in the execution of ru-

ral development programmes.

Gram Sabha Meetings

There is a notion that people don't attend Gram Sabha meetings. It is true in the case of rural areas which are some way urbanized or developed but in many villages the Sarpaches, Panches, Panchayat Secretaries, JEs and a few affluent people work with each other. These people have created a coterie within the village and all the developmental works are executed by them. They don't want to call people to Deh Majlis/Gram Sabha meetings. They want to eat the cake themselves and organise closed door meetings which are later on called Gram Sabha meetings.

The village developmental plans, selection of beneficiaries under various Govt schemes and spending of PRI grants are decided by them but in villages where Back to Village (B2V) programmes during last 3 years had good participation of people, the illegal works and corruption by PRI members or the officials of Rural Development Department (RDD) have come down to a great extent. The reason is that people in these villages have become much aware about the Govt welfare schemes by attending the last four B2V programmes and participating in the Gram Sabha as well during B2V meetings. More awareness has to be created and we need to ensure people's participation in Gram Sabha at least once a month. The participation of women needs to be encouraged as well because very few women come and attend Gram Sabha meetings.

Visiting Officers as Mentors

Recently, the Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta while speaking to Visiting Officers and

PRI members when the B2V-4 was launched said that Visiting Officers would act as mentors for one year for their respective panchayats so that they act as a bridge between them and the government. This is a very good decision as the Visiting Officers will remain in touch with people of the panchayats they visited. Otherwise, after B2V meetings, people in villages would have to wait for another B2V meeting.

However, some Visiting Officers are not staying back in the villages. This needs to be taken seriously by the Government. The evening interactions should also be encouraged and future B2V meetings should be held in summer months so that there are activities until late night in the villages.

It must be noted that a grant of Rs 23.30 lakhs per annum to the Gram Panchayats (PRI Grants) with effect from B2V3 last year, has revolutionised the village development. In addition, the Govt provides Rs 71 lakhs annum to every District Development Council (DDC) Member & Rs 25 lakhs to Block Development Council Chairperson (BDC) and this amount is also helping execute the developmental works in rural areas. Around 54 IAS officers were designated as Visiting Officers during B2V 4. Senior IFS officers, senior Engineers, JKAS officers have also been Visiting Officers in all the B2V meetings. Dr Mohit Gera Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) was the Visiting Officer in Choon village of Budgam, Basharat Kawoosa Chief Engineer PHE Jal Shakti Kashmir was Visiting Officer for Wathooria and their presence had a great impact indeed as many decisions were taken on the ground.

Conclusion

The Back to Village programme (B2V) in Jammu & Kashmir is not only helping people address their village developmental demands but this activity is also strengthening our Panchayat Institutions and there is more participation of people in the Gram Sabha meetings now.

The Back to Village (B2V) programme is a very good platform to express resentment or even anger by the people in a democratic way. This is quite encouraging.

Going further, the Government must seek suggestions from experts to make the B2V programme more participatory. Additionally, open suggestions should be sought from people, research institutions, NGOs as well. The Govt must also reconsider the My Town My Pride programme that was launched by the Govt in October 2020 for people living in cities or towns.

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Chairman & Founder of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement

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



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Simple Pleasures

Despite living in the digital age, there are some habits which many of us simply cannot give up. Preferring to read a printed book over the online version is one such. There are multiple reasons why a large swathe of Indian readers always prefer hard copy of books to online reading. Psy-

chologically, the 'ownership' factor could be a key reason, besides the nice feeling you get while touching a new book, its fragrance, pleasure of turning the pages, easy portability, leisure reading — all make a physical book comfortably win over an e-book. However splendid the cover image of an e-book may look on screen, it is

still an image rather than a physical thing. Another major disadvantage with an e-book is that you cannot look at more than one page at once. In fact, a study from West Chester University of Pennsylvania reveals that students who read on iPads had lower reading comprehension than when they read traditional printed books. A good

physical book is like a full course of a sumptuous meal, whereas an e-book is just fast food. Said the noted American novelist Harper Lee: "The book to read is not the one that thinks for you, but the one which makes you think."

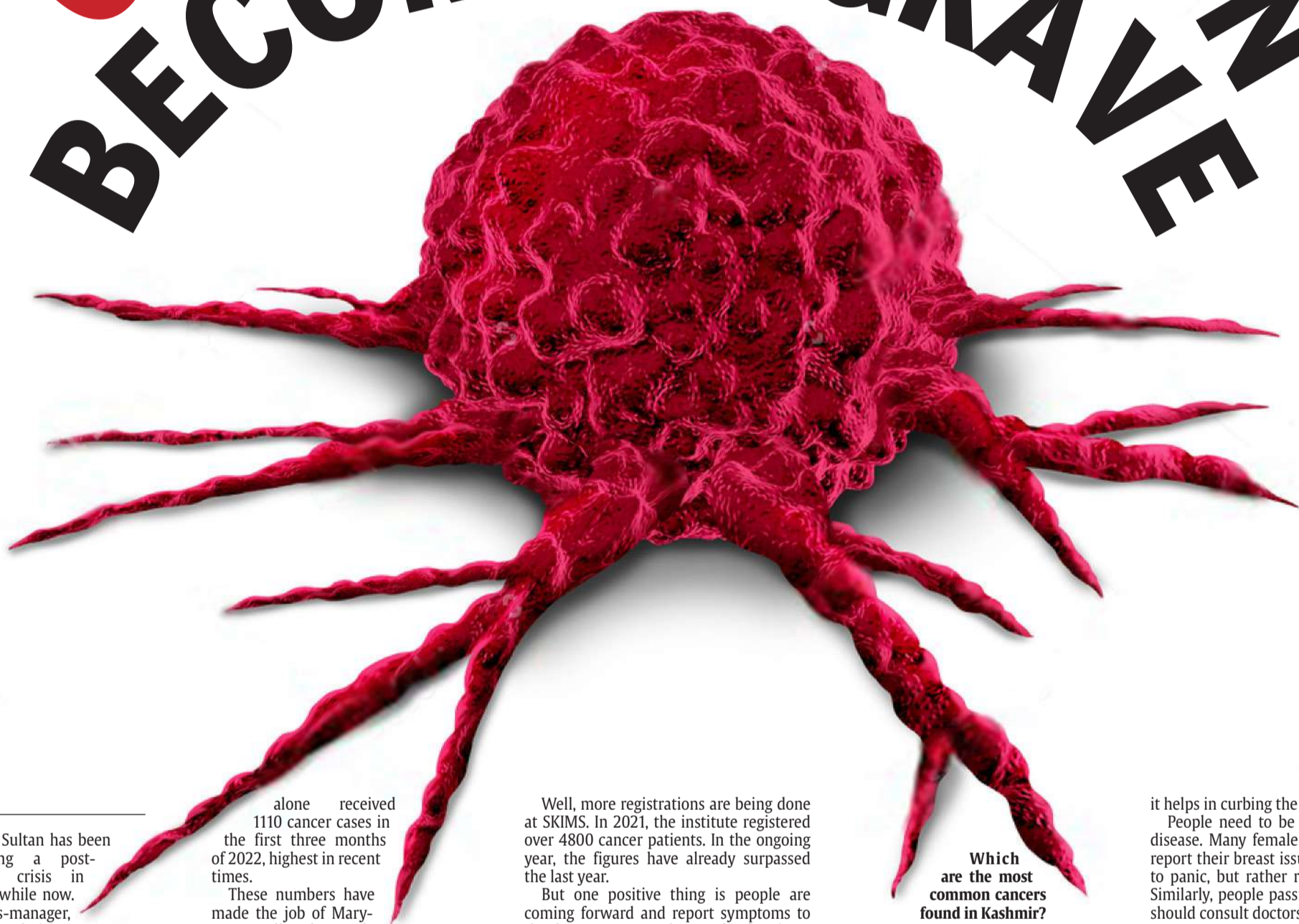
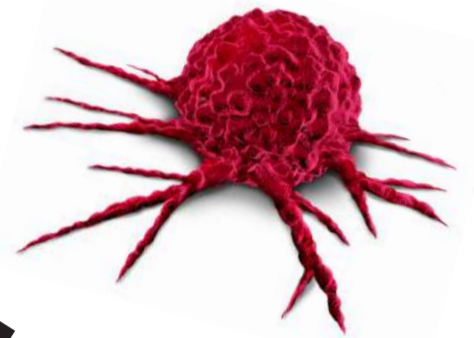
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NATIONAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY

7TH NOVEMBER

OF LIFESTYLE, LETHARGY

KASHMIR'S
CANCER SITUATION
BECOMING GRAVIER



Auqib Javeed

Maryam Sultan has been handling a post-cancer crisis in Kashmir for a while now. As a distress-manager, she's quietly fundraising for the tumour treatment of poor patients. The sprinted woman in her late thirties narrates some chilling cases torn asunder by malignancy and misery.

"Most of these patients sleep normally before suddenly waking up to the fatal crisis and lose their sleep forever," she says. "That's how one can explain this brutal and life-threatening transition."

As a welfare-worker, Maryam vindicates medical researches on cancer cases of Kashmir. "It's escalating," she says, based on the number of the critical cases she's handling these days. "The upsurge can be attributed to the unawareness and hesitancy to report the symptoms."

But while Maryam tackles the critical situation covertly, Dr. Fir Afroz is quite overt about it.

The medico blames people's reluctance to report primary signs for the surging graph.

"The only way to counter cancer cases," says Dr. Fir Afroz, who heads Radiation Oncology Department of SKIMS, "is to report the symptoms to doctor. If patients receive the treatment at an early stage, things will be better."

But despite this much-recommended medical take, the data is telling some other story.

As per the Union Health Ministry statistics, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a spike in cancer cases in the last three years.

From the year 2019 to 2021, the region has reported 39,041 cancer cases, of which 12675 were recorded in 2019, 13012 in 2020 and 13354 in 2021.

Figures reveal that against the last year's total patient load of 4800, Kashmir's leading tertiary care hospital, SKIMS Soura

alone received 1110 cancer cases in the first three months of 2022, highest in recent times.

These numbers have made the job of Maryam as well as the oncologist quite demanding.

But while the duo are handling the crisis in their own ways, experts say there's a need to "close the care gap" which is about understanding the inequities in cancer care and taking actions to make the necessary progress to address them.

On the eve of National Cancer Awareness Day, observed on November 7 every year, Dr. Fir Afroz talks to Kashmir Observer arguing that awareness is the most potent tool to fight the dreadful disease.

Is cancer rising in Kashmir?

Yes, cancer is on rise in the valley.

Please explain the buildup?

Well, more registrations are being done at SKIMS. In 2021, the institute registered over 4800 cancer patients. In the ongoing year, the figures have already surpassed the last year.

But one positive thing is people are coming forward and report symptoms to the doctors. We see thousands of patients every month now.

What's fuelling this upsurge?

So many factors, but the prominent ones are smoking, change in lifestyle.

What about awareness?

Well, cancer awareness is very complex due to different malignancies.

But to be specific, people should come forward in the initial stage of cancer where there're 100 percent chances of cure. If they don't share any unusual changes in their body with their family members or doctors, the cancer enters into an advanced stage where it's difficult for patient to recover.

Which are the most common cancers found in Kashmir?

Lung cancer in men and breast cancer in women.

But how is lifestyle responsible for this disease?

See, we've become sedentary workers. This wasn't a case with our elders. They were physically very active. We don't exercise now and just eat a lot of junk food. Organic food isn't available. The fat content is high in our meals. So, we need to change our lifestyle to avoid the dreadful disease.

Is early detection a sure shot to cancer cure?

See, cancer is curable at an early stage. So, early detected means early diagnosis, which in turn means early treatment. Yes,

it helps in curbing the disease.

People need to be educated about the disease. Many female are still hesitant to report their breast issues. They don't need to panic, but rather report to the doctor. Similarly, people passing blood with stool should consult doctors.

But the question remains, it cancer curable at all?

Well, it depends. As I said, if the cancer is detected at an early stage, there're chances that the patients might recover. But if it's in an advanced stage, then there're no chances.

The doctors evaluate the patients and start the treatment accordingly. The intention of doctors is to cure, rest it's up to God.

But why cancer patients can't be treated in Kashmir?

The problem is people panic when cancer is detected to any person. Their family members prefer to go outside for treatment when the same treatment can be done here only. They just waste their money and time. At the end, they realize that this treatment can be done in Kashmir and they come to SKIMS.

The people need to trust their doctors. The basic cancer treatment is available at SKIMS free of cost. The people should avail the benefits.

But yes, there're some loopholes and there're some patients who need advanced treatment outside, but their number is very minimal.

What's your National Cancer Awareness Day message to people of Kashmir?

My message is, if anyone finds any kind of symptom related to cancer, don't panic and report to the doctor. If they receive the treatment at an early stage, things will be better. Stop self-medication and take the symptoms seriously.



37% Of Delhi Women Drinking More Alcohol Since Pandemic: Survey

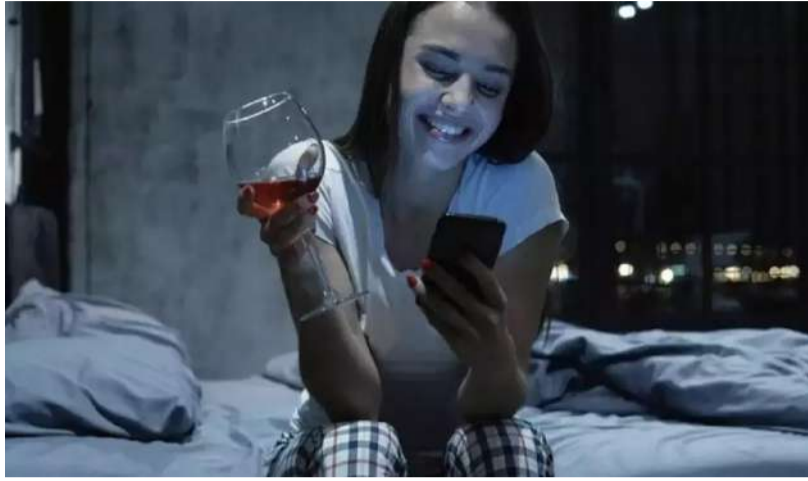
Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Over 37 per cent of women in Delhi believe that their alcohol consumption has increased in the last three years, indicating the impact of the pandemic on alcohol habits, a survey has claimed.

Over 45 per cent women said that the reason for their increased drinking frequency was "stress," the survey said.

The survey conducted by the Community against Drunken Driving (CADD), an NGO, cited the pandemic, the ensuing lockdown, increased availability of alcohol, and changed expenditure pattern, as factors that contributed to the increased drinking among women.

Out of the 5,000



women surveyed, 37.6 per cent of women agreed that their alcohol consumption has increased, the CADD said in a statement.

"42.3 per cent women considered their increase more sporadic

and occasion-based. Respondents also agreed that many were also trying to make up for lost time, since early 2022 when things started opening up and thus alcohol was being had on more occasions and

in more quantities," the statement read.

Increased availability of alcohol was cited as the reason for increased drinking among women in 34.4 per cent, and notably, boredom, in 30.1 per cent.

Road safety expert and activist Prince Singhal, also CADD founder, said a liberal view presented of alcohol drinking on TV and its putative ability to cure stress are two of the factors responsible for the phenomenon.

"Women's alcohol market is expected to grow by 25 per cent over the next five years as per the Centre for alcohol studies, the government of India.

"Pinking of the alcohol market, combined with sustained messaging in movies and on TV that alcohol is the best way for women to relax and reward themselves, comfortable retail experience besides the already prevalent reasons are all adding up to the rise in alcohol consumption among women," he said.

Jamia set to reopen hostels after over 2 yrs

Agenceis

New Delhi: After an over two-year-long gap, the Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) has begun the process of reopening its hostels by starting the renewal of hostel admission for the 2022-23 academic session.

However, no notification has been issued so far for the allotment of rooms to the first-year students. The hostels were closed after the nationwide pandemic-induced lockdown in March 2020.

Last week, provosts of several hostels issued notices informing students that applications are invited from eligible residents for renewal of hostel admission for the session 2022-23.

"The application completed in all respect should be submitted to their respective Provost's Office latest by 20 November 2022," the notices read.

The notifications come after hundreds of students staged a protest on the campus, demanding the reopening of the

hostel which has been lying shut for over two years.

On Thursday, students staged a protest to which the varsity officials assured them that hostels will be reopened soon.

"The officials came to the protest site and assured us that the process of reopening hostels has already been started. However, the allotment to the first-year students has not begun yet. We have told them we will wait till November 9 and if no notification is issued till then, we will resume the protest," said Swaleh Ansari - a third-year student.

On Thursday, the university issued a statement saying that vice-chancellor Najma Akhtar has given a go-ahead for the reopening of all the hostels.

"All Provosts of the Hall of Boys' and Girls' Residences are, therefore, requested to start the process of renewal/new allotment in a time-bound manner so that students may use the hostel facilities after winter vacation," it added.

Delhi air quality 'very poor' for 3rd day on trot; primary schools to reopen Nov 9

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Delhi recorded its air quality in the very poor category for the third consecutive day on Monday and it is likely to deteriorate further in the coming days due to unhelpful meteorological conditions, forecasting agencies said.

The capital's 24-hour average air quality index worsened from 339 on Sunday to 354 on Monday. It was 381 on Saturday.

Farm fires in Punjab rebounded -- 2,487 incidents were reported on Monday as compared to 599 a day ago.

However, their share in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution dipped from 18 per cent on Sunday to 14 per cent on Monday, according to data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and SAFAR, a forecasting agency under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Delhi government on Monday decided to reopen primary classes from November 9 and revoke the order asking 50 per cent of its staff to work from home in view of improvement in the city's air quality over the last two days.

However, plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers in Delhi will remain banned under stage 3 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai told a press conference.

With air pollution ameliorating in Delhi, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Sunday directed authorities to lift the ban on plying of non-BS VI diesel light motor vehicles in the region and the entry of trucks into the capital imposed under the final stage of the GRAP.

It had also banned construction work in public projects such as highways, flyovers, power transmission, and pipelines in Delhi-NCR.

The CAQM order recommending the restrictions was issued on Thursday.

Restrictions under stages 1 to 3 of the GRAP, will, however, remain in place. The plan is a set of anti-air pollution measures followed in the capital and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation.

NIA says D-company sent money via hawala for 'terror acts' in India, has unit to target politicians

Press Trust of India

Mumbai: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has alleged fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim had sent a "huge amount of money" through hawala channels to accused arrested in a case pertaining to aiding terrorist activities of 'D-Company' in India.

These activities related to carrying out terrorist attacks in Mumbai and other parts of India to strike fear among people. The D-Company has established a special unit to strike terror in people of India by attacking eminent personalities, including political leaders and businesspersons, the probe agency further claimed.

The NIA has made these claims in a charge-sheet filed last week before a special court here in the case related to a global terrorist network and a transnational organised criminal syndicate, namely D-Company, which it claimed is involved in various terrorist and criminal activities in India.

The D-Company refers to the network of the underworld don



and one of the most wanted terrorists in India, Dawood Ibrahim.

Ibrahim and his close aide Chhota Shakeel have been shown as wanted accused in the charge-sheet, in which the NIA has named five accused. The three others charge-sheeted in the case are Arif Abubakar Shaikh, Shabbir Abubakar Shaikh and Mohammad Salim Qureshi -- all Mumbai residents and arrested in the case.

The central probe agency claimed that evidence collected during investigation revealed the arrested as well as wanted accused were active members of an organized crime syndicate working as a terrorist gang.

"It is established that the arrested accused persons also received a huge amount of money through Hawala (an illegal method for transferring money) from the absconding accused,

based abroad. It is evident from the statement of witness and previous conduct of absconding wanted accused (Ibrahim and Shakeel) that the money is meant for planning and triggering some big/sensational incidents (terrorist acts) in Mumbai and other parts of India so as to create terror and panic in the minds of people," said the NIA.

Further, the investigation revealed Rs 25 lakh in cash was sent

to arrested accused Arif Shaikh and Shabbir Shaikh through hawala channel from Pakistan via Dubai to Mumbai, it said.

The probe agency claimed the arrested duo had received money from Shakeel at the instance of Ibrahim which was proceeds of terrorism.

It further alleged the D-Company under Ibrahim and his associates has established a special unit for striking terror in people by attacking eminent personalities in India, including political leaders and businesspersons, by using explosive/firearms and other lethal weapons.

The gang was planning to instigate and trigger incidents which may lead to onset of violence in various parts of India, including the National Capital Region, Mumbai and other major cities, the NIA said.

The anti-terror agency said its investigation has also revealed the nature of illegal activities performed by the arrested accused and other members of the organized crime syndicate

was not limited to gaining pecuniary benefits, but also to obtain undue economic or other advantage.

The NIA investigation revealed that in 2011 and thereafter, accused Salim Qureshi, on the directions of Shakeel and Ibrahim, had grabbed unnamed original allotment letters of two flats in Mumbai by threatening the victims. The flats, valued at around Rs 2.70 crore, were taken as a token of assurance from the victims against demand of extortion, the NIA said.

Similarly, Qureshi, also known as 'Salim Fruit', had extorted Rs 53.75 lakh from another victim by putting him in fear of death and grievous hurt. Qureshi was one of the main persons handling terrorism and criminal activities of the D-Company, it said.

The NIA claimed there were several instances, wherein the arrested and wanted accused were furthering the activities of D-Company by extorting money and thereby raising/collecting funds for terrorist activities.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Medicos Bank

Perhaps, that's why experts are calling for more awareness among people about organ-donation. There is a unanimous agreement among experts in Kashmir that organ donation can be increased by awareness created through textbooks, internet, open discussions and improving doctor-patient relationship.

"We've to generate awareness among people. Despite a religious go-ahead, there hasn't been much acceptance among people regarding organ-donation. People are reluctant not only in categoric donation but also in live donation. This can only be tackled with education and awareness among people. Not much effort has been put in by departments and hospitals. A push from religious bodies is also required," said Dr Nisar ul Hassan, adding that when it comes to saving a human life, nothing should stop us.

Even Dr Khurshheed says that people are still hesitant about donating organs. "So, a huge gap exists between transplants awaited and organs available. This lack of awareness and lack of care has to end," Dr Khurshheed added.

Not only that, even religion is another factor that repeatedly comes up in the minds of experts. While many religious scholars consider organ donation a permissible act, some scholars in Kashmir still suggest organ donation has no mention in the Islamic scriptures and thus needs to stop.

4% DA Hike

Pensioners/Family pensioners in two equal installments (one in November and other in December) and shall form part of pension/family pension from November onwards.

"Other provisions governing the grant of Dearness Allowance on pension/family pension such as the

regulations of Dearness Allowance during employment I-re-employment, where more than one pension is drawn etc. and other provisions of the existing rules/orders (as are not in conflict with provisions of this order), shall continue to remain in force," the order reads.

Leh Highway,

status of the road from TCUs Jmu0191-2459048, 0191-2740550, 9419147732), Sgr 0194-2450022, 2485396, 1800180709, Rbn 9419993745)," traffic department said. A traffic department official said that intermittent shooting stones continue to occur at Mehar Ramban due to rainy weather.

ASI, CRPF

in Haryana contacted the other touts based in J&K for soliciting candidates for sale of leaked question paper.

"The touts of J&K allegedly took the candidates from Jammu to Karnal (Haryana) one day before the examination. It was also alleged that vehicles for transporting the candidates to Karnal were arranged by the said ASI."

It reads that it was further alleged that the Karnal based accused arranged the hotel for providing leaked question paper to candidates at Karnal.

"The said constable of CRPF allegedly provided leaked question paper to certain candidates. The arrested accused are being produced today before the court of CJM, Jammu," it reads.

The J&K administration cancelled the police sub-inspector recruitment in July following allegations of irregularities and recommended a CBI probe.

"The results were declared on 04.06.2022. There were allegations regarding malpractice in the examination. The Jammu and Kashmir government had constituted an inquiry committee to look into the same," the

CBI had said in a statement following searches on August 5.

"It was alleged that the accused entered into a conspiracy amongst officials of the JKSSB, Bengaluru-based private company, beneficiary candidates and others, and caused gross irregularities in conduct of written examination for the posts of sub-inspectors," it had said.

The inquiry report showed that there was an "abnormally high percentage" of candidates who were selected from Jammu, Rajouri and Samba districts, the agency had said.

"Violation of rules by JKSSB was allegedly found in assigning the task of setting the question paper to a Bengaluru-based private company," it had said.

Multi-Pronged

Line of Control and near the ever changing infiltration routes, construction and maintenance of border fencing, and construction of culverts and

bridges on nullahs.

The efforts of the security forces were further helped by proving of improved technology, weapons and equipment, improved intelligence and operational coordination, installation of floodlight on the International Border and synergizing intelligence flow to check infiltration and pro-active action against terrorists within the Union territory, the report said.

The government has adopted various counter measures to neutralize the efforts and capabilities of militants to disturb peace, besides encouraging policies to mainstream the youth, including providing employment opportunities to wean them away from militancy.

While the number of infiltration bids in 2017 stood at 419 with 136 estimated infiltrations (terrorists who managed to cross over), the figure dropped to 73 infiltration attempts with 34 terrorists possibly slipping into the valley, according to the report.

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

KASHMIR
OBSERVER



KO PODCAST

Tirupati Temple Richer Than Wipro, Nestle, ONGC



Agenceis

Tirupati's world famous Lord Venkateswara temple's net worth of over Rs 2.5 lakh crore (about USD 30 billion) is more than the market capitalisation of IT services firm Wipro, food and beverage company Nestle and state-owned oil giants ONGC and IOC.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, keeper of the temple dedicated to Tirupati's presiding deity, for the first time since its founding in 1933 declared its net worth.

Its assets include 10.25 tonnes of gold deposits in banks, 2.5 tonnes of gold jewellery, about Rs 16,000 crore of deposits in banks, and 960 properties across India. All these total to over Rs 2.5 lakh crore.

At current trading price, the networth of Tirupati temple is more than several blue-chip Indian firms, according to stock exchange data.

Bengaluru-based Wipro had a market cap of Rs 2.14 lakh crore at close of trading on Friday, while UltraTech Cement had a market value of Rs 1.99 lakh crore.

Swiss multinational food and drink major Nestle's India unit, with a market cap of Rs 1.96 lakh crore, too was valued below it.

State-owned oil behemoths Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) too were valued less than the temple trust and so was power giant NTPC Ltd, auto makers Mahindra and Mahindra and Tata Motors, world's largest coal producer Coal India Ltd, mining conglomerate Vedanta, real estate firm DLF and several others.

Only about two dozen companies have market valuation larger than the temple trust's network.

These include billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd (Rs 17.53 lakh crore), Tata Consultancy Services (Rs 11.76 lakh crore), HDFC Bank (Rs 8.34 lakh crore), Infosys (Rs 6.37 lakh crore), ICICI Bank (Rs 6.31 lakh crore), Hindustan Unilever Ltd (Rs 5.92 lakh crore), State Bank of India (Rs 5.29 lakh crore), Bharti Airtel (Rs 4.54 lakh crore) and ITC (Rs 4.38 lakh crore).

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is growing richer and richer as the cash and gold offerings made by devotees at the hill temple continue to rise and fixed deposits in banks are also generating more income in view of increase in interest rates, a temple official said.

Lab-Grown Blood Given To People In World-First Clinical Trial

Agenceis

Scientists in the UK have infused blood cells grown in a laboratory into people in the first such clinical trial in the world.

If proven safe and effective, manufactured blood cells could in time revolutionise treatments for people with blood disorders such as sickle cell and rare blood types, the researchers said.

It can be difficult to find enough well-matched donated blood for some people with these disorders, they said.

The team, including researchers from the University of Cambridge in the UK, said the blood cells were grown from stem cells from donors. The red cells were then transfused into healthy volunteers.

This is the first time in the world that red blood cells that have been grown in a laboratory have been given to another person as part of a trial into blood transfusion, they said.

"We hope our lab grown red blood cells will last longer than those that come from blood donors," said chief investigator Cedric Ghevaert, a professor at the University of Cambridge and NHS Blood and Transplant.

"If our trial, the first such in the world, is successful, it will mean that patients who currently require regular long-term blood transfusions will need fewer transfusions in future, helping transform their care," Ghevaert said in a statement.

The trial is studying the lifespan



of the lab grown cells compared with infusions of standard red blood cells from the same donor.

The lab-grown blood cells are all fresh, so the trial team expect them to perform better than a similar transfusion of standard donated red cells, which contains cells of varying ages, the researchers said.

If manufactured cells last longer in the body, patients who regularly need blood may not need transfusions as often, reducing iron overload from frequent blood transfusions, which can lead to serious complications, they said.

"This challenging and exciting trial is a huge stepping stone for manufacturing blood from stem cells," said Ashley Toye, a professor at the University of Bristol.

"This is the first-time lab grown blood from an allogeneic donor has been transfused and

we are excited to see how well the cells perform at the end of the clinical trial," Toye said.

For the foreseeable future, manufactured cells could only be used for a very small number of patients with very complex transfusions needs, the researchers said.

Two people have so far been transfused with the lab grown red cells. They were closely monitored and no untoward side effects were reported, they said.

The participants are well and healthy. The identities of infused volunteers so far are not currently being unveiled, to help keep the trial 'blinded'.

The amount of lab grown cells being infused varies but is around 5-10 ml - about one to two teaspoons.

Donors were recruited from a blood donor base. They donated blood to the trial and stem cells were separated out from their blood.

This Gurugram High-Rise Has "Deficiencies Beyond Repair", To Be Razed

Agenceis

A tower of Chintels Paradiso society in Gurugram, which had partially collapsed in February killing two women, will be demolished, the district administration said on Saturday citing a report of an IIT Delhi team that found structural deficiencies "beyond repair".

Two women were killed after the dining room floor of a sixth-floor apartment of the Tower D at Chintels Paradiso in Sector 109 came down on February 10, triggering the collapse of roofs and floors directly under it, till

the first floor.

The 18-floor tower has 50 flats.

Gurugram Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav, while sharing the report of the IIT team on Saturday, said the team has found structural deficiencies in the construction of the tower, whose repair is not possible on technical and economic grounds. "Therefore, the entire Tower D of Chintels Paradiso society should be demolished," Yadav said.

The deputy commissioner is likely to fix the date of demolition on Monday.



The 18-floor tower has 50 flats.

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