25th year OF PUBLICATION

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## Unscheduled Power Cuts 'Unacceptable': Govt

### Flat Rate System Of Billing Will Be Dispensed Soon: CS

**Observer News Service**

**Jammu:** Terming unscheduled power cuts unacceptable, Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday directed the Power Development Department (PDD) to ensure that the schedule of power cuts, wherever required, is publicized in advance so that the consumers can plan their activities accordingly.

Chairing a winter preparedness review of Power Distribution Companies (DisComs) at the Civil Secretariat here Tuesday, Mehta also directed for concluding immediate disciplinary action against officers incharge of feeders with losses greater than 90%, an official spokesperson said.

The Chief Secretary, he said, also stressed that Aggregated Technical and Commercial (AT&C) Losses should be maintained below 15 percent.

The spokesperson said that the Chief Secretary instructed the officers to ensure that government workshops are replenished with spare parts, inspections of transformers should be undertaken and sufficient stock of transformers is maintained to meet demand during peak consumption season.

"He stated that the flat rate system of billing will be dispensed with soon," he said.

Mehta, the spokesperson said, observed that demand side management to reduce losses and to ensure regular supply of power to the customers is of paramount importance.

"For this purpose, effective enforcement has to be undertaken against power theft," the Chief Secretary said, while directing the department to ensure that the schedule of power cuts, wherever required, is publicized in advance so that the consumers can plan their activities accordingly.

The Chief Secretary, he said, also called for expediting the process of power lines installation between Ramban-Kishtwar and for Sonamarg and Gurez.

Reviewing the overall power scenario, the spokesperson said, Mehta called for hiring professional consultants for efficient and cost effective power procurement by the UT.

The Chief Secretary, he said, called for formulating definite procedures for such purchases, either through Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or from power exchanges.

"The officers were directed to set definite targets of revenue collection |More on P6

> **THE OFFICERS WERE DIRECTED TO SET DEFINITE** targets of revenue collection from regular customers and amnesty payers and asked for ensuring efficiency of the process. The Chief Secretary reiterated directions for installation of at least 1.5 lakh smart meters each in Srinagar and Jammu cities by March 2023."

## Another Snow Spell In Kashmir From Today

**Observer News Service**

**Srinagar:** The weather department on Tuesday predicted more rain and snowfall in Kashmir Valley from Wednesday, likely to disrupt traffic along the major highways, besides causing a sharp dip in day temperature.

"Partly cloudy weather is expected today and light to moderate rain/snowfall (over higher reaches) is expected at many places during November 9 evening to 11th forenoon," a meteorological department official said Tuesday.

However, he said, there was no forecast of any major rain/snowfall during the spell.

From November 12-16, he said, the weather is expected to be "fair to partly cloudy".

Regarding probable impacts, he said, snowfall and low temperature may lead to temporary disruption of surface transportation, mainly over Zojila, Jammu-Srinagar Highway, Leh-Manali road on November 10 and 11.

"Prior to embarking on journey, people are advised to know the status of the road from traffic police to avoid inconveniences," the MeT official said, adding, "Travellers on major passes are advised to carry sufficient food items, warm shoes, clothes etc with them as road conditions remain uncertain during inclement weather." |More on P6

## Centre Reserves Medical Seats For J&K 'Terror Victims'

### BOPEE Invites Offline Applications For MBBS, BDS Courses

**Observer News Service**

**Srinagar:** In a significant development, the government of India has reserved seats in the MBBS and BDS courses from the central pool for terrorist victims in Jammu and Kashmir for the academic year 2022-23.

Citing an official communication from the Ministry of Home Affairs dated November 1, 2022, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) has issued a notification inviting offline applications from the spouse and children of terror victims.

'Pursuant to communication No.17015/47/2022-CT-II dated 01.11.2022 from Ministry of Home Affairs, Government |More on P6

### Centre Grants 265 DNB Medical Seats To J&K

In sync with Prime Minister's vision of "Health for All," the government has granted 265 Diplomate of National Board (DNB) postgraduate medical seats to several government hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir across 20 districts. The step will not only benefit people of Jammu and Kashmir, but the doctors there will also get an opportunity of being trained in their own |More on P6

> **THE BOARD UNDERTAKES THAT MERE SUBMISSION** of applications shall not confer any right on the applicant for his/her selection, which shall be done by the concerned Ministry Government, of India, in accordance with the rules/ procedures on the subject."

## Kulgam Driver Beaten Up At Punjab Toll Plaza

### Two Employees Arrested, Case Filed

**Auqib Javeed**

**Srinagar:** Two toll plaza employees on Tuesday were arrested for allegedly assaulting a Kashmiri truck driver in Hoshiarpur District of the neighbouring state Punjab.

Sahil Iqbal, a resident of Yaripora in Kulgam district, was roughed up by the employees of Mukerian toll plaza following an altercation over FASTag payment. Iqbal, who was on his way to Uttar Pradesh with truckload of apples, sustained injuries in the assault and was simultaneously shifted to the civil hospital in Mukerian.

"It all started over toll tax. The FASTag mashing apparently wasn't functioning properly and the employees |More on P6

SI RECRUITMENT SCAM

## CBI Conducts Searches At 7 Locations

**Press Trust Of India**

**New Delhi:** The CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at seven locations in Jammu, Pathankot, Rewari and Karnal in connection with the police sub-inspector recruitment scam in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The searches were conducted at the premises of arrested mastermind Yatin Yadav and CRPF constable Surender Singh among others, they said.

The CBI had taken over investigation into the case on August 3 on a reference from the Jammu and Kashmir government.

The case pertains to the leak of question paper for the examination through which 1,200 posts of sub-inspectors were to be filled by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB), they said.

The agency has arrested 13 persons so far in connection with the case, they said.

A Rewari resident, Yatin Yadav, had allegedly leaked the question paper |More on P6

## 4 Feared Dead In Chenab Car Crash

**Press Trust Of India**

**Jammu:** At least four persons were feared drowned after a private car skidded off the road and rolled into the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Tuesday, an official said.

The accident took place at Shibnote-Karara along the Batote-Kishtwar National Highway around 7.30 pm, Sub Divisional Magistrate (Thathri) Athar Amin Zargar said.

Quoting preliminary information, he said the car was on its way to Kishtwar from Doda when it rolled down into the fast-flowing river.

A police party, along with local volunteers and rafters of JK Adventures who are stationed near the accident site at Shibnote, |More on P6

## SHORT TAKES

### Leh Highway Opens For One-Way Traffic

The traffic movement on Srinagar-Leh highway, which was suspended on Sunday after fresh snowfall at Zoji La, was restored for one way traffic on Tuesday morning. "Traffic plying on Jammu-Srinagar NHW. After clearance of snow from the road traffic has been released |More on P6

### Govt Transfers Four JKAS Officers

The Jammu and Kashmir government Tuesday ordered transfer of four JKAS officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect. According to a government order, Gopal Singh, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General |More on P6

### Police Reunite Missing Woman With Family

A woman who went missing in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district was traced and reunited with her family on Tuesday, police said. A person from Mansha in Thakrakote here had filed a complaint stating that his wife had been to the market on November 3, but |More on P6

### Revenue Official Caught Taking Bribe

A revenue official was suspended and an inquiry was ordered after a video, purportedly showing him taking bribe, went viral on social media in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, an official said on Tuesday. Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Devansh Yadav ordered the immediate suspension of Patwari Vineet Kumar following a preliminary report submitted by Tehsildar Paddar showing "possible misdemeanor and misuse of office" by the official. |More on P6

# 'One In Five People May Recall Near-Death Experiences After Surviving Cardiac Arrest'

**Press Trust Of India**

One in five people who survive cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) after cardiac arrest may describe lucid experiences of death that occurred while they were seemingly unconscious and on the brink of dying, a first-of-its-kind study has found.

CPR is a lifesaving technique, consisting of chest compressions often combined with artificial ventilation, that's useful in many emergencies, such as a heart attack or near drowning, in which someone's breathing or heartbeat has stopped.

The research, published in the journal Circulation, involved 567 men and women whose hearts stopped beating while hospitalised and who received CPR between May 2017 and March 2020 in the US and UK.

Despite immediate treatment, fewer than 10 per cent recovered sufficiently to be discharged from hospital, the researchers said.

Survivors reported having unique lucid experiences, including a perception of separation from the body, observing events without pain or distress, and a meaningful evaluation of life, including of their actions, intentions and thoughts towards others, they said.

The team found these experiences of death to be different from hallucinations, delusions, illusions, dreams or CPR-induced consciousness.

The research, presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2022 on November 6 in Chicago, US, also included tests for hidden brain activity.

A key finding was the discovery of spikes of brain activity, including so-called gamma, delta, theta, alpha and beta waves up to an hour into CPR. Some of these brain waves normally occur when people are conscious and performing higher mental functions, including thinking, memory retrieval, and conscious perception, the researchers said.

"These recalled experiences and brain wave changes may be the first signs of the so-called near-death experience, and we have captured them for the first time in a large study," said Sam Parnia, an associate professor at NYU Langone Health.

"Our results offer evidence that while on the brink of death and in a coma, people undergo a unique inner conscious experience, including awareness without distress," Parnia said.

> Our results offer evidence that while on the brink of death and in a coma, people undergo a unique inner conscious experience, including awareness without distress

Identifying measureable electrical signs of lucid and heightened brain activity, together with similar stories of recalled death experiences, suggests that the human sense of self and consciousness, much like other biological body functions, may not stop completely around the time of death, Parnia added.

"These lucid experiences cannot be considered a trick of a disordered or dying brain, but rather a unique human experience that emerges on the brink death," said Parnia.

As the brain is shutting down, many of its natural braking systems are released. Known as disinhibition, this provides access to the depths of a person's consciousness, including stored memories, thoughts from early childhood to death, and other aspects of reality.

While no one knows the evolutionary purpose of this phenomenon, it clearly reveals "intriguing questions about human consciousness, even at death," said Parnia.

The researchers noted that although studies to date have not been able to absolutely prove the reality or meaning of patients' experiences and claims of awareness in relation to death, it has been impossible to disclaim them either.

They said recalled experience surrounding death now merits further genuine empirical investigation without prejudice.

Some 25 hospitals in the US and UK participated in the study, called AWARE II. Only hospitalised patients were enrolled to standardize the CPR and resuscitation methods used after cardiac arrest, as well as the recordings made of brain activity.

Additional testimonies from 126 community survivors of cardiac arrest with self-reported memories were also examined in the study to provide greater understanding of the themes related to the recalled experience of death.

Further research is needed to more precisely define biomarkers of what is considered to be clinical consciousness, the human recalled experience of death, and to monitor the long-term psychological effects of resuscitation after cardiac arrest, Parnia added.

# Study Finds How Regular Aspirin Use Can Cause Stomach Bleeding

**ANI**

The safety of aspirin when used to prevent heart attacks, strokes, and possibly some cancer may be improved, according to a recent study, which indicated that the risk of stomach bleeding caused by long-term aspirin use can be decreased with a brief course of antibiotics.

The results of the HEAT (Helicobacter pylori Eradication Aspirin) trial, which was led by Professor Chris Hawkey from the University of Nottingham's School of Medicine and Nottingham Digestive Diseases Centre, and funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research Health Technology Assessment programme, are published in The Lancet.

Aspirin in low doses is a very useful preventative drug in people at high risk of strokes or heart attacks. However, on rare occasions, it can provoke internal ulcer bleeding.

By thinning the blood, aspirin makes ulcers in the stomach bleed. These ulcers may be caused by a particular type of bacteria, helicobacter pylori.

The STAR (Simple Trials for Academic Research) team from the University of Nottingham investigated whether a short course of antibiotics to remove these bacteria would reduce the risk of bleeding in aspirin users.

The HEAT (Helicobacter pylori Eradication Aspirin) Trial was a very large trial conducted in 1,208 UK general practices. It was a real-life study that used clinical data routinely stored in GP and hospital records, instead of bringing patients back for follow-up trial visits.

The team wrote to 188,875 patients who were taking aspirin and 30,166 volunteered and took part in the study. Those who tested positive for H. pylori were randomised to receive antibiotics or placebos (dummy tablets) and were followed for up to 7 years.

Over the first two and a half years, those who had antibiotic treatment were less likely to be admitted to hospital because of ulcer bleeding than those who had dummy tablets (6 versus 17). Protection occurred rapidly: with those who received placebos (dummy treatment), the first hospitalisation for ulcer bleeding occurred after 6 days, compared to 525 days following antibiotic treatment.

Over a longer time period, protection appeared to wane. However, the overall rate of hospitalisation for ulcer bleeding was lower than expected and this in line with other evidence that ulcer disease is on the decline. Risks for people already on aspirin are low. Risks are higher when people first start aspirin, when searching for H. pylori and treating it is probably worthwhile.

Professor Chris Hawkey said: "Aspirin has many benefits in terms of reducing the risk of heart attacks and strokes in people at increased risk. There is also evidence that it is able to slow down certain cancers. The HEAT trial is the largest UK-based study of its kind, and we are pleased that the findings have shown that ulcer bleeding can be significantly reduced following a one-week course of antibiotics.

# 'Exposure To Third Hand Smoke May Trigger Skin Diseases'

**Press Trust Of India**

Acute exposure to thirdhand smoke may increase the risk of skin diseases such as contact dermatitis and psoriasis, according to a small study.

Thirdhand smoke (THS) comprises the residual pollutants from tobacco smoke that remain on surfaces and in dust after tobacco has been smoked. It can remain on indoor surfaces indefinitely, causing potentially harmful exposure to both smokers and non-smokers.

Acute exposure of the skin to thirdhand smoke elevates biomarkers associated with the initiation of skin diseases. Biomarkers are natural substances that indicate a biological state, most commonly a disease.

The study, published in eBioMedicine, claims to be the first one to be performed on humans exposed dermally to THS.

"We found that exposure of human skin to THS initiates mechanisms of inflammatory skin disease, and elevates urinary biomarkers of oxidative harm, which could lead to other diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, and atherosclerosis," said researcher Shane Sakamaki-Ching from University of California.

The research, which took place at UC San Francisco, involved the participation of 10 healthy, non-smokers who were 22 to 45 years old.

For three hours, each participant wore clothing infused with THS and either walked or ran on a treadmill for at least 15 minutes each hour to induce perspiration and increase uptake of THS through the skin.

"Alarmingly, acute dermal exposure to THS mimics the harmful effects of cigarette smoking. We found acute THS exposure caused elevation of urinary biomarkers of oxidative damage to DNA, lipids, and proteins, and these biomarkers remained high after the exposure stopped," said Sakamaki-Ching. "Cigarette smokers show the same elevation in these biomarkers. Our findings can help physicians in diagnosing patients exposed to THS and help develop regulatory policies dealing with remediation of indoor environments contaminated with THS, " said Sakamaki-Ching.

Prue Talbot, a professor of cell biology in whose lab Sakamaki-Ching worked, explained that skin is the largest organ to contact THS and may thus receive the greatest exposure.

"There is a general lack of knowledge of human health responses to THS exposure," said Talbot, the paper's corresponding author.

"If you buy a used car previously owned by a smoker, you are putting yourself at some health risk. If you go to a casino that allows smoking, you are exposing your skin to THS. The same applies to staying in a hotel room that was previously occupied by a smoker." The THS exposures that the ten participants were subjected to were relatively brief and did not cause visible changes in the skin. Nevertheless, the molecular biomarkers in blood that are associated with early-stage activation of contact dermatitis, psoriasis and other skin conditions were elevated.

"This underscores the idea that dermal exposure to THS could lead to molecular initiation of inflammation-induced skin diseases," Sakamaki-Ching said.

The participants did not know the clothing had THS. Blood and urine samples were then collected from the participants at regular intervals to identify protein changes and markers of oxidative stress induced by the THS.

Control exposure participants wore clean clothing.

Next, the researchers plan to evaluate residues left by electronic cigarettes that can come into contact with human skin. They also plan to evaluate larger populations exposed to longer periods of dermal THS.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

In my earlier passport, my name is written as ABUL RAIS BINI RASOOL BHAT while in my matriculation certificate it is written as ABUL RAIS BINI RASOOL. I am applying for renewal of my passport with the same details as per my matriculation certificate. Anybody having any objection may contact Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a week at the most.

Abul Rais Bini Rasool
S/O Ghulam Rasool Bhat
R/O Rather Colony Methan Chanapora

aqo

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Showkat Ahmad Pathan presently posted as Driver at Adress J&k bank corporate head qauator Dalgate do hereby inform one and all that I resign from the post of Vice President from Driver Union of J&K Bank.
And, from today viz. 09 November, 2022 I am no more associated with this Union.

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## The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No:. 107020260 Session: Anual - Regul. Year 2021 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/ parent, my Father's Name and Mother's Name has been recorded with the Board as Muhammad Shafi Melu & Rafeeqa Befum while as actual Father's name / Mother's Name is Mohammad Shafi Melu & Rafeeqa Begum
Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bernina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

**Name: Shakeel Ahmad Melu**
**F/N: Mohammad Shafi Melu**
**M/N Rafeeqa Begum**
**DOB 01/01/2006**
**Residence: Pachhar Chandoosa**

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# Commuters Urge Construction Of FootBridge Near Children's Hospital

Agencies

Srinagar: The lack of a foot-over bridge and medical shops outside Children's hospital, Bemina is the source of problem for the attendants.

Attendants say that there are chances of a road accident outside the hospital road as attendants and patients are crossing the bypass without any foot-over bridge or Zebra-Crossing.

Recently, the Government shifted the Children's Hospital from Sonwar to Srinagar. The attendants have been facing multiple problems in the newly inaugurated hospital.

The attendants say that there is a strong case for installing a foot-over bridge outside the hospital for safe commuting. "The hospital is outside the bypass where vehicles pass without any dynamic speed limit. The spot is prone to accidents and to avoid those, the government should install a foot-over bridge like we have one outside JVC or Government College for Women on MA Road," they said, adding that authorities must address the issue at the earliest.

The attendants also said that they are finding it hard to get the required medicine prescribed by the medicos as there are no chemist shops outside the hospital.

"Government must allow chemists to run the shops outside the hospital so that medicines are available for the patients," one of the attendants said.

Attendants who visit the hospital from far-flung areas are forced to eat in the open as there is no designated place for them. "Only those who are allowed to take their personal food in the canteen pay for it. I was having my food with me and ate it in the open," said an attendant.

Meanwhile, a medico on condition of anonymity said that even doctors don't have hostel facilities in the hospital. (KNT)

# NIT Signs MOU With LCMA To Maintain Waters Of Dal, Nigeen Lakes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) to maintain the waters of Dal and Nigeen lakes healthy and clean.

The MoU was signed between Director, NIT Srinagar (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal and Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat (IRS) Vice Chairman, J&K LCMA Srinagar.

As per the MoU, both parties are desirous to work together to maintain the waters of Dal and Nigeen lakes healthy and clean. They shall work together to devise joint strategies and programs in this direction.

In his key address, Director, NIT Srinagar Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said it is indeed a matter of great pleasure that two major institutions are coming together to sign the historic MoU. This collaboration will further strengthen the ties of J&K LCMA and NIT Srinagar, he said.

"LCMA is playing a vital role in managing and conserving the water bodies in Kashmir. There is a need for a permanent solution for such things without compromising the beauty of Dal and Nigeen lakes," he said.

Prof. Sehgal said the effective participation of major stakeholders is important to develop and conserving these iconic lakes. Both NIT and LCMA will work on joint strategies and programs that will be helpful to maintain a better quality of water in both lakes, he said.

On the occasion, Vice Chairman, J&K LCMA Srinagar, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat (IRS) termed the signing of the MoU between NIT Srinagar and LCMA as historic step to restore the pristine glory of twin lakes in the city.

He said both organizations will work together to study the technology adopted by various existing STPs and others in the pipeline around the lakes. We will improve and enhance the treatment efficiency of various such STPs, Mr. Bhat said.

Dean Research and Consultancy (R&C) NIT Srinagar, Prof. M F Wani said this MoU will boost the mutual coordination between the two intuitions.

"I am confident that this partnership will help us reach out desired results," he said.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said the signing of this MoU will bring both organizations closer to serving society. Both NIT Srinagar and LCMA will act as a bridge between society and government, he said.

Hundreds of Sikh devotees visited Gurudwara Chati Padshahi on the occasion of the 553rd birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

# Kashmir Expo Start-Up For Livelihood To Boost Self-Start Culture

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The three-day 'Kashmir Expo Start-ups for Livelihood' event which is set to begin on Wednesday is expected to boost self-start culture in Kashmir, Experts say.

Kashmir Expo is set to welcome youth with innovation in various fields who will come to display their products, technology, and services. About 55 startups from across India are participating in this start-up exhibition being organized at SKICC.

Experts say, the presence of a large number of students will help boost the culture of startups in Kashmir.

Dr Anita Gupta Head (Innovation and Entrepreneurship) at Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India said that Startups are driven by young talented minds and in Jammu and Kashmir the government is initiating many programmes which will help boost startup culture in Kashmir.

"Kashmir Expo Startup is one of a kind event where startups will be showcased. We have planned participation from University of Kashmir, National Institute Of Technology and other institutes where all stakeholders will be present and the ecosystem will be energized for startups" Dr Anita said.

She further said that JK is a promising place and has a lot of potential to nurture startups.

"We are targeting a very good number of people and this event will fuel new activities and new enthusiasm for startups to germinate here. We hope school students will also be able to get inspired by new innovations which are driven by startups" Dr Anita added.

> **We are targeting a very** good number of people and this event will fuel new activities and new enthusiasm for startups to germinate here

Dr Vipin Kumar, Director, National Innovation Foundation India said the event will provide an opportunity for people to see that even ordinary people have ideas to initiate a startup and it will help boost startup culture in Kashmir.

"Our startup program is moving towards inclusivity. Innovators and startups are not confined to big cities of India. People from far off places are taking part and being part of the change," Dr Vipin said.

"People have solutions to persistent problems and students are coming up with ideas and problem solving solutions. We have invited a lot of students, they can be job providers instead of job seekers"

Dr Vipin expressed hope that with an event of such magnitude more and more innovators will come from Jammu and Kashmir and it will become the innovation hub of India.

It is pertinent to mention, The Kashmir Expo Start-up For Livelihood is being organized under the aegis of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre, Srinagar in association with National Innovation Foundation-India.

بسم اللہ الرحمن الرحیم

## اظہار تشکر

من لم یشکر الناس لم یشکر اللہ

قائد اتحاد حجۃ الاسلام والمسلمین مولانا محمد عباس انصاری (قدس سرہ)

کے انتقال پر جموں وکشمیر، کرگل لداخ، ہندوستان، پاکستان، ایران اور دنیا کے دیگر ممالک سے تعلق رکھنے والے جن سرکردہ شخصیات، علما، مشائخ، دینی، سماجی، تعلیمی، طبّی، سیاسی، سرکاری اور تجارتی انجمنوں کے ذمہ داران کے علاوہ مزاحمتی رہنماؤں، مساجد، خانقاہوں، امام بارگاہوں، مدارس اسلامیہ، دینی درسگاہوں اور صحافتی اداروں کے ذمہ داران نے براہ راست یا بذریعہ فون، اخبارات، ای میل، واٹس ایپ اور دیگر سماجی رابطہ گاہوں کے ذریعہ سوگواران خصوصا مرحوم کے فرزندان، فرزندان نسبتی، خانوادہ انصاری و سادات رضویہ کے دیگر اراکین کے ساتھ تعزیت پُرسی کی اور اس سانحہ عظمیٰ پر ہماری ڈھارس بندھائی، تعزیت، ہمدردی اور یکجہتی کا اظہار کیا اور موحوم ومغفور حجۃ الاسلام والمسلمین مولانا محمد عباس انصاری کے حق میں مساجد، درسگاہوں اور امام بارگاہوں میں قرآن خوانی، ایصال ثواب، فاتحہ خوانی اور دعا کی مجالس کا اہتمام کیا یا تجہیز و تکفین اور جلوس جنازہ میں شرکت کی، ان سب کا ہم تہہ دل سے شکریہ ادا کرتے ہیں۔

ہم سکمز کے ذمہ داران، طبّی ونیم طبّی عملہ اور دیگر ڈاکٹر صاحبان کا بھی خصوصی طور پر شکریہ ادا کرتے ہیں جنہوں نے مرحوم کے علاج ومعالجہ میں سنجیدگی کا بھرپور اظہار کیا اور زندگی کی آخری سانس تک آپ کی دیکھ بال کی۔ہم محلّہ خانقاہ سوختہ نوا کدل، محلّہ سید افضل و دیگر رضا کاران اتحاد المسلمین کا بھی دل کی عمیق گہرائیوں سے شکریہ ادا کرتے ہیں۔

اللہ تبارک وتعالیٰ آپ سب کو اجر عظیم عطا فرمائے۔ آمین

سوگواران

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

**AIRPORTS**

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**HIJRI CALENDAR**

13 Rabi ul Sani
1444

**PRAYERS**

| | |
|---|---|
| FAJR | 5:32 |
| ZUHR | 12:14 |
| ASR | 3:54 |
| Magrib | 5:34 |
| ISHA | 7: 56 |

## This Day In History

- 1729 - Spain, France & Britain sign Treaty of Seville
- 1794 - Russian troops occupy Warsaw
- 1799 - Napoleon Bonaparte pulls off a coup and becomes the dictator of France under the title of First Consul
- 1821 1st US pharmacy college holds 1st classes, Philadelphia
- 1842 - The first U.S. design patent for typefaces and borders was issued to George Bruce of New York City
- 1900 - China has resumed nominal control of Manchuria, but in a secret agreement the Chinese governor of Manchuria grants Russia such rights as keeping troops along the railroad lines and controlling civil administration
- 1904 - 1st airplane flight to last more than 5 minutes
- 1906 - Theodore Roosevelt is 1st US President to visit another country (Puerto Rico and Panama)
- 1922 - Frederick Soddy wins the 1921 Nobel Prize in Chemistry (announced in 1922 due to a technicality)
- 1923 - Beer Hall Putsch, Munich; Nazis fail to overthrow government, 16 die, Hitler flees
- 1930 - 1st nonstop airplane flight from NY to Panama
- 1936 - Albanian government of Frasheri falls

*From KO Archives*

# Probe Ordered In Sikh Massacre

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government today or¬dered, a judicial probe into the Chittisinghpora massacre in which 35 Sikhs were gunned down during President Bill Clinton's visit to India in last March. This follows in¬dictment of SOG and CRPF personnel by the two commis¬sions that probed the killing of protesters at Barakpora and the massacre of Amarnath yatris at Pahalgam.

Announcing the decision at a crowded press conference at his residence, the chief minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, im¬mediately after chairing a cabinet meeting, said here today that the judicial commission headed by Justice

S R Pandian, which probed the Barakpora firing on April 3 on demonstrators protesting the disappearance of five lo¬cal youths, had indicted three SOG personnel of Jammu and Kashmir police and four CRPF jawans.

Similarly, the chief minister said, a three member com¬mission, headed by Lt Gen J R Mukherjee of the XV corps and comprising the principal secretary, home, and the deputy commissioner, Anantnag, which inquired into the shooting incident on an Amarnath pilgrims camp at Pa¬halgam on August 1 in which 23 devotees were among S3 people killed, has indicted five CRPF personnel for using excessive force besides some police officials for derelic¬tion of their duty.

Dr Farooq said the government had decided to register murder cases against the three SOG personnel indicted by the Pandian commission and a special team would be constituted to prepare cases against them in a court of law. They have been immediately placed under suspension. The cases relating to the CRPF personnel would be referred to the centre for 'appropriate action.

The indicted SOG personnel include ASI Ashok Kumar, head constable, Kishen Kumar, and sergeant constable, Chaman Lai. The CRPF personnel indicted are: com¬mandant, RP Roy; besides PC Handi, Sham Kumar and S Limberkar.

Stating that his government has accepted the report of the two panels "in toto', Dr Farooq said it had decided to order fresh probe into the Chittisinghpora massacre and subsequent Pathribal incidents by Justice Pandian. "Since all the three cases are linked to one another, we are going to request Justice Pandian to conduct an in¬quiry into Pathribal and Chittisinghpora incidents also," Abdullah said. Law minister, P L Handoo will visit Chen¬nai to request Justice Pandian to investigate the causes that led to the two incidents as he was the right person to head the inquiry.

About the recommendation of Justice Pandian commis¬sion for reinstatement of the then senior superintendent of police. Anantnag, Farooq Khan, and the SHO, Achhabal, Gaanfar All, the chief minister said the matter would be put on hold in view of the inquiry into Pathribal and Chattsinghpora incidents. The inquiry into the latter would also address the apprehensions of the Sikh commu¬nity, he added.

The chief minister said the Pandian report had recom¬mended compensation of Rs two lakh to next of the kin of each of the dead and an equal amount to the two injured. Others injured have been recommended a compensation of Rs 25,000 and Rs 10,000. He said the next of kin of the dead had already been paid Rs one lakh each and the remaining Rs one lakh would be paid to them soon.

*(Kashmir Observer, November 09, 2000)*

## KASHMIR OBSERVER

### That Time Of The Year

At a time when Kashmir Valley is experiencing extreme cold, the unscheduled electricity cuts have plunged many parts of the union territory into darkness, increasing the misery of people. Over the last week, the temperature in the Valley has drastically dived. Srinagar is recording a minimum night night temperature of minus 6 degrees Celsius which is 5.2 degrees Celsius below the average for this time of the year. At Pahalgam, the mercury plummeted to 2.1°C. The famous skiing resort of Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 3.6°C.

The problem with the winters in Jammu and Kashmir is that the power supply generally goes down, due to the reduced discharge in the rivers. As has always been the case, the freezing cold in winter is reinforced by the severe power shortage which happens to be nobody's concern, either in the government or in the opposition. This only shows how much this seasonal power crisis has become a naturalized part of our lives. So much so that the people have now grudgingly resigned themselves to the state of affairs and government doesn't feel unduly worried about the situation either. And to top it, we also have the drastic power curtailment schedule imposed through a matter-of-fact government order with unscheduled power cuts to boot make the matters worse. What is more, the curtailment schedule is unfair and discriminatory in its implementation across the different regions of the UT.

One hopes that the situation improves going forward. The real challenge lies ahead. The severity of the winter will only increase as Chillai Kalan rolls in on December 21. And the people will expect the government to be prepared for the next snowfall. One also expects that unlike many times in the past, Power Development Department will be better prepared to deal with the situation. The utility has usually been the target of public vitriol, both on street and online for its inability to immediately restore electricity after Valley is snowed in.

Compared to past winters, nothing has changed for the better on the ground. In fact, in some aspects, the situation is only worse off. The power supply has been reduced to a trickle in parts of the Valley, with long unscheduled power cuts the order of the day - albeit, in some urban areas, the situation on the power front has been relatively better. Both metered as well as unmetered areas have already been slapped with a load-shedding schedule. Now that with each passing day, the Valley is heading deeper into winter, the government can be hoped to prepare for the tough times ahead. Snowfalls could soon become the order of the day.

OTHER OPINON

### Debatable

Few would object to opportunities created for the poor. But the Centre's decision to provide reservations to economically weaker sections among the general category or non-scheduled castes through a constitutional amendment touched on too many debatable issues to go down smoothly. That yesterday's Supreme Court verdict in response to petitions challenging the amendment was split three to two, with the majority reportedly ruling that the amendment did not go against the basic structure of the Constitution, indicated that it was not simple. The 10 per cent EWS quota for educational institutions and government jobs would be separate from quotas for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes. That seems fair and square. The EWS reservation, however, depends on the understanding of various concepts — social justice, for example. Does social justice include economic justice or are the two distinct? The chief minister of Tamil Nadu, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's M.K. Stalin, has declared the EWS quota to be a setback to social justice, while the Bharatiya Janata Party is overjoyed by what it claims to be Narendra Modi's triumph in his mission to uplift the poor.

Greeting these reservations as a pro-poor move is heartening, yet it leaves some discomfort in its wake. The quota is declaredly not for those who come under other reservations umbrellas; the poor among SC/ST and OBC groups are excluded. The Constitution is against discrimination and in favour of equality. But the Supreme Court dismissed the petitioners' objections on this score since the Constitution's basic structure is not hurt by the EWS quota. Obviously, then, representation — rather, the lack of it — is not the basis of reservations, neither, necessarily, is educational and social backwardness caused by historical injustice. The EWS quota was brought up by the BJP in 2019, before the elections. No doubt the upper caste majoritarian community would be grateful, now that 2024 looms. The huge non-upper caste population may be less entranced. The poorer among them, who often find it difficult to access the fruits of reservations anyway, may perceive an additional advantage being officially given to the upper castes; Dalits in general may fail to appreciate the importance of an exclusionary pro-poor policy. No doubt the government will tread with care in the matter, since the sentiments of so many of its people are concerned

*Telegraph India*

# A Clash Or Dialogue Of Civilizations?

## Reading Putin's Valdai Speech

Anuraag Khaund

The speech delivered by Russian President Vladimir Putin on 27 October, 2022 in the Moscow-based think tank Valdai Discussion Club was carefully observed and read by scholars and policymakers worldwide in order to gauge Kremlin's attitude towards the world at large in the backdrop of the Russia- Ukraine conflict and other geopolitical churns taking place in the international arena. While the speech contained the usual references to the 'special military operation' and its instigation because of the actions by the US- led NATO, yet a significant part of the address was also related to the emergence of a new world order and the emergence of many new centres of power challenging the 'Western Civilization' which, as per Putin (quoting the Russian novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn) is 'characterized by a continuous blindness of superiority'. While rebuking the West or the US- led NATO for 'its globalization model, neocolonial in essence' who believes that 'all vast areas on our planet should develop and develop to the current Western systems', yet at the same time Putin also gives a hint of reconciliation in his mention of 'dialogue of civilizations, based on spiritual and moral values'. The aim of the article is to briefly explore whether the speech in Valdai can be interpreted as setting the stage for a new clash or dialogue between civilizations or the West and the Rest.

At the outset, I shall lay out briefly the idea of the 'clash of civilizations', first promulgated by American political scientist Samuel P. Huntington in an essay of the same title in 1992. As per Huntington, the conflicts in the Post Cold War era would move from the realm of ideology (liberal democracy vs Communism) to the realm of culture, region or 'civilization'. As per Huntington' the 'civilizational differences' are 'products of centuries… and more fundamental than those among political regimes or ideologies' thereby leading to sharper conflicts which might not be resolved easily. Among the eight broad civilizations outlined by Huntington, the most prominent conflict was the clash between Western (US& Europe) and the Slavic Orthodox (Russia).

The first instance of indication of clash is the mention of the 'cancel culture' of the West by Putin which stands in contradiction to the latter's professed ideals of 'liberalism and progress'. Along with explicit reference to actions such as the banning of Russian icons like Dostoevsky along other materials related to Russian intellectual and cultural life in Western universities, the 'cancel culture' also referred to, as per Putin, the tendency of Western liberalism to 'mow down everything that is alive and creative, does not allow free thought to develop in any of the areas: neither in economics, nor in politics, nor in culture'. In addition, Putin also accuses the current Western Liberalism of intolerance of 'other views' and reaching the 'point of absurdity, when any alternative point of view is declared as subversive propaganda and threat to democracy'. In other words, through these statements Putin has reiterated the positions often expressed by Russia and now an increasingly assertive China about the need for the West, especially the US to respect other modes and form of authority which are different from liberal democracy. In line with the above position, Putin also blamed the West of the 'desire to restrain, block the free development of other civilizations' through 'simplification' or the imposition of its own political and economic system over others. This anti- Western sentiment was also predicted by Huntington in 1992 as the revolt of non- Western powers such as Russia and China against the 'world community' a phrase, which as per Huntington, 'has become a euphemism to give legitimacy to the actions of the West'. At the same time, Putin's accusation of 'a direct mercantilist interest (capturing non-Western markets)' driving Western imposition over other regions is in sync with Huntington's claim that 'The West… is using international institutions, military power and economic resources to run the world in ways that will maintain Western pre-dominance, protect Western interests and promote Western political and economic values'.

Along with systems, the clash between the West and the rest was also seen in the realm of values in Putin's speech. As per Putin, the West had lost its 'creative powers' or its earlier values leading to 'positive development' due to the prevalence of cancel culture as mentioned above. Putin also accuses the West of not following its own liberal ethos of 'the freedom to say what you want, to do what you want' by declaring those who did not agree with its ideology as the 'enemies of open society'. The twin factors of cancel culture and the divergence from liberalism had led to 'a doctrinal crisis' in the West which was in confusion and conflict over its own values (claimed by Putin). Against the image of a 'confused, unitary non-liberal Western civilization' Putin puts forward the idea of Russia where 'a culture of interaction' existed between 'Christian, Islamic and Jewish values' without 'canceling and being respectful to each other'. At the same time, Putin also draws attention to 'traditional values' which, as opposed to 'neoliberal' or Western values are 'not fixed set of postulates

> **Putin also accuses the West of not following its own liberal ethos of 'the freedom to say what you want, to do what you want' by declaring those who did not agree with its ideology as the 'enemies of open society'. The twin factors of cancel culture and the divergence from liberalism had led to 'a doctrinal crisis' in the West which was in confusion and conflict over its own values (claimed by Putin)**

that everyone must adhere to' but instead 'are unique, because they follow from the tradition of a particular society, its culture and historical experience' and hence cannot be simply imposed on others but 'must be respected, carefully treated' as they have been 'chosen by countries for centuries'. In other words, 'creative powers' and 'true liberalism' lay not in the 'unitary and forceful imposition' of Western neoliberal values but instead in the respect for and interaction between the 'traditional values' of all countries. This sentiment is echoed in Putin's call for a 'multipolar world' which 'presupposes the possibility for any nation… for any society, any civilization to choose its own path, its own socio-political system. Hence, true liberalism or democracy lay in recognizing that 'if the United States, the EU countries have such a right (to choose liberal democracy and free market systems) then, of course, the countries of Asia, the Islamic states, the monarchies of Persian Gulf and the states of other continents (including Russia) also have this right i.e., the right to choose systems other than those of the West. In this respect, Putin also be seen as claiming that the centre of liberalism has shifted from its birthplace or the West to the non- West or specifically Russia which not only respects the right of other countries to their own traditions and systems but also, unlike the US 'does not climb into someone else's ward' or interferes in the internal matter of other countries.

Putin's rhetoric takes on a more confrontational approach when he predicts about the West 'losing its dominance' and becoming 'a minority on the world stage' in the rise of the multipolar world order where Asia, Africa and Latin America will see 'an increase in their influence' in the international arena in the coming days. The confrontational attitude of Putin is further underlined by his reference to Eurasia as the continent where 'the centers of the most ancient civilizations of mankind arose' and the 'Western civilization' constituting only a marginal part of the region. The reference to Eurasia also comes at a time when, as per some experts, Russia has started to view itself as a 'Eurasian civilization' with its own unique heritage and culture as opposed to the US- dominated Western civilization in the Russian perspective, the Asian part or its connections with Central Asia and China have become more stronger than its connection with Western Europe within the 'Eurasian' identification of Moscow. The rise of 'Eurasianism' in Russian political psyche also sits well with Huntington's prediction that the end of the Soviet Union and Communism in the 1990s would provide further impetus to the question of 'Westernization vs Russification' which would occupy post Cold War Russia, spurned by the US and NATO community. Putin also highlights the ability and potential of Eurasian region as a 'self-sufficient complex with gigantic resources and huge opportunities' and where 'a majority of the human population is concentrated' (China, India and Russia) by developing its 'connectivity, creating new ways and forms of cooperation' through initiatives such as the One Belt One Road (OBOR), Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Interesting to note here is the reference to the OBOR or the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) and the SCO initiatives spearheaded by China, a country who not only has 'no-limits partnership' with Russia, but also harbors similar resentment against US led interventionism in world affairs. One might say that Putin envisages Russia along with China leading the Eurasian civilization or civilizations in their struggle against Western hegemony. In addition, Putin also outlines possible ways to counter the Western dominance in economic and technological front by executing bilateral dealings in national currencies (eg the energy dealings between India and Russia in Rupee and Ruble) and by supporting the efforts of other countries to develop their own technological prowess just like the erstwhile Soviet Union which had helped many countries to develop their 'centres of competence' by providing aid in the formation of nuclear plants. Such efforts along with the Russian proposal to build more international financial institutions which are 'depoliticized, automated and not dependent on any single control centre' as well as 'creating mechanisms' fostering a space of interaction between the complementary economies, social systems and infrastructure of different countries, as per Putin, would lead to the creation of a 'multipolar world order' based on the 'true unity of humanity' without the unitary impositions of the West.

However, a more conciliatory approach is adopted when reference is made to the 'dialogue of civilizations' based on moral and spiritual values recognizing the dignity of the human individual (although Putin did not clarify further on these lofty ideas). The conciliation is also re-directed to the antagonist, the 'Western civilization' especially the 'traditional West' which is based on Christian values, freedom and patriotism – values shared with Russia. From the 'common values' mentioned earlier, it might be conjectured that the 'traditional West' of Putin might refer to the far-right groups and organisations in Europe and the West which has extended its support to Putin's efforts against Ukraine. At the same time, Putin also issues a veiled warning in the midst of conciliation by saying that unless the West drop the 'conviction that Europeans are better than others' and realize that 'they (Europe) …have already become someone else's (US) periphery, have essentially turned into vassals (of the US), they would miss out becoming a part of the 'Eurasian civilization' which will fast lead to the birth of a multipolar order.

Huntington ended his essay with the words that 'for the relevant future, there will be no universal civilization, but instead a world of different civilizations, each of which will have to learn to coexist with each other'. This sentiment is also expressed by Putin when he ends his address by advocating the need to 'listen to everyone, take into account every point of view, nation, society, culture, every system of worldview…'. Yet whether this would lead to the co-existence of the multiple civilizations of Huntington or the 'multipolar world order' of Putin is not yet clear. But for the time being, we are indeed witnessing a 'clash' between worldviews and ideologies in the backdrop of events such as the Ukraine conflict, Taiwan Strait crisis and the emerging US- China 'New Cold War'.

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*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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# COMMUNITY CATHARSIS
# *Frames of Faithful Kashmir*

As a photographer I strive to capture moments which don't require captions.

Taha Wani

Capturing a community-beseeching is always a special image. There're women imploring their hearts out, old men crying like babies and young Kashmiris raising their hands for emancipation.

The faith binds the vale and its collective commemoration is always a cathartic experience for masses.

These days as faithful flock Shah-i-Jeelan's Khanyar sanctum, the pleading picture of Kashmir is only becoming a moment of solace.

But away from the Shehre Khaas's prominent Urs, a man sat alone meditating inside an arctic park of Dargah Hazratbal. The fall and the frozen vibes of the season hardly derailed his devotion.

While the old man prayed, the ambiance of Kashmir's revered place was getting contemplative. The cleric broadcasted a soulful naat and made masses to pour their hearts out.
In the courtyard, many broke down in beseeching, while kids had a frolic outing. The tears and giggles merged and made it a meditative-cum-merry moment.

In the lawn, an old man arrived to offer prayers on the dusty pathway. Faith moves mountains, but in this case it created a depth of one's devotion.

While the old man sought salvation in seclusion, a bearded man nearby had fallen on his knees. In the autumn of his life, he was seeking some spiritual sustenance to tackle the upcoming winter.

At the sanctum's doorsteps, one devotee was inconsolable. His image appeared of a mortal caught in the trials of life.

Many more had fallen in prostration inside the sanctified space. What looked like a regular act of worship had helplessness written all over it.

But it was an outside outpouring that had created a big entreating ecosystem. A mother had shown up in a quintessential kosher appearance, filing petitions in His supreme court. Her list was endless, but mostly driven by her family's health concerns. The mother's supplication was all about His Shifa.

Not everyone, however, was shrilling their supplications. Some silent acts of worship were making the mood even more reflective. Among those silent supplicators was an old man with an unflinching gaze at the shimmering sanctum.

Rubbing shoulders were young Kashmiris—turbaned, caped and hatted—demonstrating their devotion as a collective act. The youthful congregation quietly cried for emancipation.

Kashmir's faithful gatherings mark the presence of some shattered souls who leave nothing unsaid. Their presence makes sanctum a sanatorium, where ailing sounds of others make one forget his pain. This man in frame was one of those sad souls.

But what made the entire entreating assembly quite assuring was the presence and participation of budding Kashmir. They, as Ottomans reckon, make the future faithful.

# Cloudy, Hazy Skies Over Delhi; Air Quality Deteriorates Further

**Press Trust of India**

**New Delhi:** A layer of smoky haze shrouded Delhi on Monday as its air quality deteriorated to the upper end of the "very poor" category on Monday due to calmer winds.

The air quality is forecast to become worse over the next two days due to unhelpful meteorological conditions. Favourable wind speed -- 15 to 20 kmph -- is predicted to bring a considerable improvement from November 11.

The capital's 24-hour average air quality index worsened from 354 on Monday to 372 on Tuesday. It was 339 on Sunday and 381 on Saturday.

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

Farm fires in Punjab dropped from 2,487 on Monday to 605 on Tuesday. Their share in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution dipped from 14 per cent on Monday to 9 per cent on Tuesday, according to data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and SAFAR, a forecasting agency under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The haze during the day lowered visibility to 800 meters and 900 meters at the Safdarjung and Palam airports, respectively, an official at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Mahesh Palawat, vice president (meteorology and climate change), Skymet Weather, said the air quality is likely to become worse before improving on Friday.

"Though the contribution of stubble burning is not significant, calmer local winds are slowing accumulation of locally generated pollutants," he said, adding that the wind speed is likely to improve to 15-20 kmph from Friday onwards.

The 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 had said.

Violation of the ban could invite a fine of Rs 20,000. Vehicles deployed for emergency services, and government and election-related work are exempted.

The Delhi government will run 500 additional buses in the capital under the "Paryavaran Bus Sewa" campaign to bolster public transport in a bid

# Media Needs To Be Vigilant, Flag Govt's Shortcomings: Former PM Manmohan Singh

**Press Trust of India**

**New Delhi:** Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday said media needs to remain vigilant and flag shortcomings of the government with a view to improve the effectiveness of governance.

Speaking at the TIOL Heritage Award function here, Singh asserted that India will continue to rise and show to the world the way forward by blending tradition with modernity.

He noted that an entirely new generation of Indians have emerged who are aspirational and are exerting pressure on the government to perform better and be transparent.

Singh also recalled his tenures as the finance minister and the prime minister in steering the country at difficult times.

On the role of the media in a democracy, the former prime minister said it has a very important contribution to make in the process of nation-building.

"We expect the media to be vigilant, to point out the shortcomings of the government and thus help in improving the effectiveness of governance," he said in his virtual address at the function.

He was conferred with the TIOL Fiscal Heritage Award. The award function was organised by a portal 'TaxIndiaOnline'.

According to Singh, economic growth, social change and political empowerment have brought in their wake the new aspirations of an entirely new generation of Indians.

"This has contributed to growing impatience and a desire for faster growth and a better quality of life. These aspirations and ambitions are exerting pressures on governments to deliver more, perform better, and be more transparent and efficient," he added.

Recalling his days as the finance minister, Singh said that he entered the world of politics in the midst of a crisis. In 1991, India was confronted by challenges on the external front.

"Most of you will only recall the external payments crisis of 1990-91. But this payments crisis occurred against the backdrop of an even bigger challenge -- the breakdown of the global bipolar order," he said.

As the finance minister, Singh said he had to worry not only about reducing the fiscal deficit and reviving economic growth but also about stabilising the rupee and ensuring access to adequate foreign exchange.

"At that critical time, I had said that the emergence of India as an economic powerhouse was an idea whose time had come," he said, adding that as the finance minister he defended the interest of the nation while remaining committed to the pursuit of equity and justice.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, he said, "we took momentous decisions with respect to our economic policies as well as our foreign policy. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao launched what has come to be known as India's 'Look East Policy,' linking India to the new growth engines of Asia".

He said India liberalised its trade and investment rules to help the country re-integrate with the global economy.

# EX-IPS officer Vanzara launches 'Hindutva'-based political party ahead of Gujarat polls

**Agenceis**

Ahmedabad, Nov 8 (PTI) Former IPS officer DG Vanzara on Tuesday launched a political party based on "Hindutva" ideology which will contest the next month's Assembly elections in Gujarat.

Vanzara, a former "encounter specialist", was acquitted in the alleged fake encounter case of Sohrabuddin Shaikh and Tulsiram Prajapati and discharged in the Ishrat Jahan alleged fake encounter case.

He said the people of Gujarat will have an alternative in the newly-floated "Praja Vijay Party" (PVP) as Congress and AAP cannot be "alternatives" to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the state.

The PVP will contest all 182 seats in the two-phase polls scheduled on December 1 and 5, but it is not clear whether Vanzara will enter the poll fray.

"People of Gujarat do not easily accept a non-Hindutva party. Only a Hindutva party can provide an alternative to the BJP. Today, I want the people of the state and the country to know that 'Praja Vijay Party' is a Hindutva party," Vanzara told a press conference.

He said had Congress been an alternative, there would not have been a single-party (BJP) rule in the state for the last 27 years.

"Even the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) cannot become an option for people in Gujarat who want an alternative to the BJP," Vanzara said.

When asked whether he decided to float a new party because he was denied a ticket by the BJP, Vanzara said the question was of ideology. "I am not someone who will stand in a queue for a party ticket," he added.

General Secretary of the PVP, Samatsinh Chauhan, said the newly-launched party has joined the fray with a distinct identity as a Hindutva party.

## CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

### Unscheduled Power

from regular customers and amnesty payers and asked for ensuring efficiency of the process. The Chief Secretary reiterated directions for installation of at least 1.5 lakh smart meters each in Srinagar and Jammu cities by March 2023," the spokesperson added.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Power Development Department (PDD), H. Rajesh Prasad; Managing Director JPDCL, Shiv Anant Tayal and Managing Director KPDCL, Yasin M Choudhary among other senior officers of the discoms.

### Another Snow Spell

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a low of 4.3°C against 4.2°C on the previous night, the official said. The temperature was 2.5°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a low of 5.0°C against 5.4°C on the previous night, while in Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 1.6°C against 1.6°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C below normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of 4.1°C against 4.6°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C above normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 2.6°C against minus 4.5°C on the previous night and it was 2.8°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 28°C against 2.3°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 1.5°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Regarding rainfall in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours, the official said, Srinagar received 1.9mm of rain, Qazigund 24.6mm, Pahalgam 10.2mm, Kupwara 5.2mm, Kokernag 12.6mm, Gulmarg 2.6mm, Jammu nil, Banihal 27.8mm, Batote 7.8mm, Katra 7.0mm and Bhaderwah 2.2mm.

### Centre Reserves

of India, offline applications are invited from eligible candidates on prescribed format annexed as Annexure-A to this notification for allocation of MBBS/BDS Seats from the Central Pool for Spouse of Children of Terrorist Victims for the academic year 2022-23," reads the notification issued on November 6, 2022.

According to the notification, the students applying for the courses need to be permanent residents of State/ Union Territory, the employees of the state/UT government concerned, the employees of central/other state government on deputation to J&K and the employees of central /other State government posted in and having their headquarters in the state will be considered eligible.

"The children of central and state government employees aforementioned should be treated at par with the local resident," it reads.

To avail the reservation the student should have passed Physics, Chemistry, Biology/Biotechnology, and English individually, in addition to a minimum of 50% (40% for SC/ST/OSC, 45% for Gen-PwD category candidates, and 40% for SC/ST/OBC-PWD candidates) in Physics, Chemistry, Biology/ Bio-Technology.

The notification has also placed the applicants in three priority groups. In the first priority group are the children whose both parents have been killed by terrorists. The second priority group is of those children who have lost their sole bread earners to terrorists. And the last group comprises wards of victims with permanent disability and serious injury caused by terrorist operations.

The notification further states that the selection of the candidates would be made according to their performance in the National Eligibility-Cum Entrance Test (NEET) exam.

However, in respect of candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC, the minimum marks shall be at the 40th percentile. However, in respect of candidates with a specified disability, the minimum marks shall be at 45th percentile. The percentile shall be determined on the basis of highest marks scored in the All India Common Merit List in National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to MBBS/BDS Courses," the notification reads.

"The Board undertakes that mere submission of applications shall not confer any right on the applicant for his/her selection, which shall be done by the concerned Ministry Government, of India, in accordance with the rules/ procedures on the subject," it adds.

The last date for the submission for the application is November 11, 2022.

### Centre Grants

region, a health ministry statement said.

Tapping into this homegrown medical workforce would lead to an effective healthcare delivery system in the Union Territory, it said.

"With the vision of providing trained specialists in almost every district of Jammu and Kashmir, the Government of India took this as a challenge in a mission mode," read the statement.

"The Ministry of Health along with National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) took a lead role and ensured that several postgraduate seats of NBEMS are granted to various government hospitals of Jammu and Kashmir," it said.

As a consequence, at present there exist more than 250 PG seats across 20 districts in phase 1 of the expansion plan. Two more PG seats will be granted in the second phase.

Fifty per cent of the PG seats are reserved for local in-service doctors to provide them with the opportunity for postgraduate training.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir will be benefited as modern quality healthcare will become more affordable and accessible in almost all the districts. This in turn, would further enhance the quality of primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare, the statement said.

The Indian government has also increased the number of examination centres in the UT to ensure that the candidates do not have to travel to other states to appear in the entrance examinations, the statement said.

### Kulgam Driver

asked me to pay in cash. When I refused and told them that I have recharged my FASTag last week only, they cornered and started beating me and my helper," Iqbal told Kashmir Observer.

The alleged assailants, he said, soon brought iron rods and sticks to vent their anger at the driver-conductor duo. In the alleged assault, Iqbal said, his phone was also damaged.

"I would not have been alive had the fellow drivers and police me from the clutches of the toll plaza employees," Iqbal said.

Meanwhile, police have filed a case FIR number 173/2022 of IPC and arrested two of the accused, J&K Students Association said Tuesday.

JKSA National Convener, Nasir Khuehami said the arrests were made after the association took up the issue with Punjab Assembly Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan.

Quoting DSP Mukerian, Kulwinder Virk, the JKSA Convener said both the accused have been identified and arrested.

"The matter is being dealt as per the law," Virk told Khuehami.

### CBI Conducts

with the help of an employee of the printing press in Okhla.

Yadav allegedly used illicit services of touts based in Jammu and Kashmir, including constables of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), for luring candidates who were charged anything between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 30 lakh approximately for the paper, they said.

The candidates were allegedly taken to Karnal in Haryana in vehicles provided by CRPF constable Surender Singh and a question paper was provided to them at a hotel there, the CBI said.

The leaked question paper was also allegedly provided to the candidates in Jammu.

### 4 Feared Dead

launched a rescue operation but there was no trace of neither the vehicle nor its four occupations, the official said.

Reinforcements have been rushed to the scene and a massive search operation is underway to trace the victims, he added.

Former chief minister and Democratic Azad Party chief Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is touring Doda and Kishtwar districts, was spotted at the scene of the accident in a video shared from the area.

He was accompanied by his colleague and former minister GM Saroori, who could be heard in the video appealing for expediting the rescue operation.

Azad was returning after addressing public rallies at Changa-Bhalessa and Gali-Batoli in Doda district, officials said.

### Leh Highway

from Minimarg towards sonamarg however Mughal road is still closed," J&K Traffic police said on its official Twitter handle.

Due to snowfall, authorities had closed the Srinagar-Leh highway for traffic movement on Sunday.

### Govt Transfers

Administration Department, has been posted as Chief Executive Officer, Katra Development Authority, against an available vacancy.

Ms. Rachna Sharma, JKAS, Collector, 220KV Power Development Department, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Registrar, Jammu (South), against an available vacancy.

Vishal Singh Parihar, JKAS, Sub-Registrar, Vijaypur, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Kathua, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Registrar, Kathua, on full time basis.

Pawan Kumar Goswami, JKAS, Collector, Land Acquisition, Northern Railways, Udhampur/Reasi, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Registrar, Vijaypur.

### Police Reunite

she did not return home.

Reasi Senior Superintendent of Police Amit Gupta constituted a special team to trace the woman. With technical assistance, she was rescued from Shajroo in Reasi district, the police said.

### Revenue Official

Kumar was allegedly caught on-camera accepting the bribe at his office in village Massu last week and later the video was circulated on social media.

Kewal Krishan, Patwari Halqa Gulagbarh, has been given the additional charge to look after the routine work of Patwari Halqa Massu till further orders, the official said.

Taking strong note of the incident, the deputy commissioner sought a report from the concerned Tehsildar, the official said.

The accused Patwari Kumar was attached to the office of Tehsildar Drabshalla and its Tehsildar Chander Shakhar Sharma was asked to conduct a discreet inquiry into the matter and furnish his report within 15 days, the official said.

# Jitendra Singh To Inaugurate 3-Day Kashmir Expo Start-Up For Livelihood Event

**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** The Union Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh will inaugurate the three-day 'Kashmir Expo Start-ups for Livelihood' event on Wednesday.

The expo is being organized under the aegis of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre, Srinagar in association with National Innovation Foundation-India.

Manoj Sinha, LG will represent the Jammu and Kashmir governments at the event. About 55 start-ups from across the country are participating in this start-up exhibition being organized in the conference center. In this three-day exhibition, youth who have started with innovation in various fields will also come to display their products, technology, and services.

The central government is making continuous and effective efforts towards creating employment opportunities in the rural areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and providing better employment to the local people in their home state. To meet this objective, the 'Kashmir Expo Start-up for Livelihood' is being organized.

Since 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi first talked about 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', it fuelled many ambitions within the country. India, which has emerged as the 3rd largest among the Global Start-up Hubs – got a lot of inspiration from the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign. In the last seven years, some renowned start-ups have come up in India, which are empowering rural people by creating business opportunities for a better quality of life in rural India.

When Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi took power, there were only around 350 start-ups in the country, whose number has increased to 75 thousand today. The technology of these start-ups has been a game changer, paving the way for increased productivity and growth potential in rural areas.

It is also to be mentioned that recently, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the Start-up Expo in Jammu. After the launch of the event, the Minister of State in his address had said that start-ups are taking new flight under the vision and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Then there were 50 biotech parks in the country and today there are 5500 biotech parks in the country. All this was possible because the Prime Minister knew their importance. He gave them the right encouragement at the right time.

# Gurpurab Celebrated With Religious Fervor

**SRINAGAR:** Gurpurab, the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji, was Tuesday celebrated with religious fervor and gaiety across Kashmir Valley.

The main function was held at Gurdwara Chatti Padshahi at Rainawari here where hundreds of Sikhs across the valley attended the special prayers, according to reports.

Special langars were organized for the devotees in Gurdwaras. Similar celebrations were also held in other local Gurdwaras including Jawahar Nagar, Allochi Bagh, Barzulla in Srinagar, Tral Pulwama, Rangreth Budgam, Pattan and Baramulla in north Kashmir and others.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar visited Gurudwara Chati Padshahi Baramulla to participate in the celebrations of Gurupurab, observed with religious fervour on the birth anniversary of first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

She extended warm greetings to the Sikh community of Baramulla and assured assistance from District administration for smooth conduct of the celebrations.

She also directed the concerned authorities to ensure uninterrupted electricity, drinking water and supply of other essential amenities at the venue.

She said that religious coexistence, harmony, peace and progress of all has been the way of life of all Sikh Gurus and is the message of every religion.

Extending warm greetings on the auspicious occasion, she prayed for unity, harmony, peace, progress and prosperity in J&K. Gurdwaras were beautifully decorated to mark the occasion.

# Shahr-E-Khaas Traders Attend KICC Organised Interactive Session

**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Shahr-e-Khaas traders and manufacturers coordination committee on Tuesday attended an interactive session organized by the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) with various stakeholders.

The Shahr-e-Khaas traders and manufacturers coordination committee delegation was led by President Arif Ahmad Wani, Senior Vice President Muhammad Rouf Kota, VP Sheikh Sajad, General Secretary Aijaz Pampori and other functionaries, a committee spokesperson said.

The KCCI President Sheikh Ashiq, he said, took an opinion from every stakeholder for the revival of the business.

"KCCI President gave patient hearing to all the delegates and assured to take up all the issues and grievances with the concerned authorities for immediate redressal," the spokesperson said.

He said that association's senior Vice President Muhammad Rouf Kota voiced concern about the shortage of parking slots in the downtown besides demanding promotion of the Old City as a tourist destination.

"Parking facility is the basic and main problem in Shahr-e-Khaas. At times, customers don't step into our shops and business establishments due to no parking space. This is causing us huge losses," Kota said, as per the spokesperson.

"We are already in severe stress from 3 consecutive years due to unfavorable circumstances and Covid-19 lockdown. Now this parking problem has further dented our business," he added, while urging the administration to intervene and resolve the issue at the earliest.

# Tragedy Stares At Govt Buildings In J&K's Biggest Warehouse Market

**Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** Hundreds of people here in Nehru market of Jammu risk their lives every day living in ramshackle government flats which outlived their utility years back with little to no hope of a safe rehabilitation from the authorities.

The buildings were declared "unsafe for habitation" by the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) in 2012, yet they house several families and businesses.

Nehru Market happens to be Jammu and Kashmir's biggest warehouse belt having firms serving the region since the 1950s, when the buildings were first erected.

The three buildings located in the market have 72 quarters and over 50 shops which were constructed in the early 1950s in the heart of the city famed for its temples.

But over the decades, they have been reduced to being rundown structures with their residents eking out with a precarious existence with a very literal danger hanging above their heads.

Besides their old age, these buildings are also alleged by the residents to be the victims of neglect and poor maintenance by the estates department and JDA.

Their occupants have been demanding that they be shifted to a safer place, and worry it will take nothing less than a catastrophe before the authorities wake up.

"I feel the government is waiting for a tragedy to happen before they wake up. For 32 years, no repair and renovation was carried out by the JDA and estates department," Bharat Bushan, a migrant, who lives in quarter number 7, with his three-member family on a relief amount of Rs 13,000, told PTI.

"Government should immediately wake up to save the people here," he said.

Meenakshi, his wife, says that they moved to the flat 32 years ago, when her father-in-law, who worked as a government employee with the civil secretariat, and was a Kashmiri migrant, got it in allotment.

"There is no care of us. Despite repeated requests, neither they renovated the buildings, nor provided us alternative accommodation," said Meenakshi, adding that how will the family afford rent elsewhere, when it survives on a pittance.

Even as the administration put up boards warning the residents of danger, migrants living in these blocks and shopkeepers running trade there refuse to leave the place due to, among other things, fear of loss of business.

"They have left us to die here. We raised issues with all but nobody is listening to us or coming forward to help us. We urge Lieutenant Governor to help us by relocating us to a safer place," said 70-year-old Kishni Wantoo, wife of former civil secretariat officer Late T N Wantoo. J

DA declared the buildings unsafe for living and for carrying out trading activity in 2012-13 after considering the assessment of the Public Works department (PWD) which had notified JDA that the buildings had outlived their utility and structural stability.

Though some occupants left the buildings after JDA put up warning boards, still about 50 families live in them and scores of other people run businesses there.

Traders Association Warehouse president Deepak Gupta called for immediate shifting of families and asked the authorities to ensure some mechanism so that livelihood of traders do not suffer during the rehabilitation.

"It is the biggest warehouse of Jammu and Kashmir which has been supplying essential commodities to the twin provinces since 1962," he said.

"Government cannot escape from its responsibilities by putting up warning sign boards. They have ensured security of life of flat dwellers and ensure that there is loss to livelihood of the traders and shopkeepers," he added.

Gupta urged the government to relocate residents to safe accommodations and build temporary shops for the traders to carry out their regular work.

JDA which oversees the buildings in the area is working on setting up an India Habitat Centre type hub here.

After it found the buildings unsafe for habitation, JDA put up warning boards for the residents suggesting to them that they should find a new place.

"It is brought in the notice occupants residing in government quarters at Nehru market, warehouse in block A, B (old and new) and D need to vacate the quarters keeping in view the deplorable and dilapidated conditions of the buildings to avoid any untoward mishap to their life and properties.

"Despite this notice, if somebody still chooses to reside in these quarters, he or she will be doing it at his or her own risk and cost," the board reads.

Magotra too has appealed to the residents to vacate the premises, but with no alternative arrangement on offer.

"It is my submission to people that it is highly unsafe to live there. It is time you shift from that place. It is urged to both shopkeepers as well as families — don't put your lives at risk. It is more important than the economic aspect," Magotra told PTI.

He added that the rehabilitation issue is very important and will be raised with the government as it involves the livelihood of the people.

Magotra said that the process of declaring these buildings "unsafe" was started in 2012.

"State PWD conducted a survey of buildings, which are 70 years old now. They found that these buildings had outlived their utility and structural stability. They notified to us that they have turned unsafe. You (JDA) rebuild it," he said.

He said the authority accordingly began a process for setting up an IHC-type hub here and began work in this direction from 2018-19. "But it requires that people vacate these buildings," Magotra added.

# 19 Of 28 MLAs Elected In 2014 Polls Left PDP In 4 Years

**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** In the past four years, 19 MLAs, who were elected on PDP ticket in the last assembly polls of Jammu & Kashmir, have either resigned from the party or were expelled from it.

Banking on the anti-incumbency wave against the National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) registered its best-ever poll performance in 2014 assembly polls by winning 28 seats. Subsequently, the party entered into a power-sharing arrangement with the Bharatiya Janta Party for six years, but the alliance did not last for the full term as the latter withdrew support to Mehbooba Mufti-led coalition Government in June 2018, citing "deteriorating security situation" in Jammu & Kashmir. Now out of 28 members who were elected on its ticket in 2018, only eight are left with the party.

Abdul Haq Khan was the 19th legislator of the last assembly of erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir to disassociate himself from Peoples Democratic Party.

According to the details, out of 19 former MLAs of PDP, 12 have joined Apni Party.

Apni Party was formed by businessman-turned-politician Altaf Bukhari after the abrogation of Article 370 and reorganization of erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union Territories.

In its maiden electoral test in 2020, Apni Party managed to win only 12 seats despite fielding its candidates on 172 seats across J&K.

Apart from Altaf Bukhari, former PDP MLAs who have joined Apni Party include Raja Manzoor, Yawar Ahmad Mir, Javid Hassan Baig, Noor Muhammad Sheikh, Javid Mustafa Mir, Abdul Majid Padder, Abdul Rahim Rather, Muhammad Ashraf Mir, Choudhary Zulfikar Ali, Qamar Hussain, Shah Muhammad Tantrey.

Four of them- three from north Kashmir- have joined Peoples Conference.

Those who have joined PC include prominent Shia leader and former minister Imran Reza Ansari, Muhammad Abbas Wani, former minister Syed Basharat Bukhari and Abid Hussain Ansari.

Muhammad Khalil Bandh, who won 2014 polls from Pulwama assembly segment, joined National Conference in 2019.

Former ministers, Haseeb Drabu and Abdul Haq Khan, who were elected respectively from Rajpora (Pulwama) and Lolab (Kupwara), have not joined any political party after quitting PDP.

Former CM Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, who was elected from Anantnag segment in 2014 polls, passed away in 2016—(KNO)

# 20 Injured As Bus Overturns In Handwara

**SRINAGAR:** At least 20 persons were injured when a vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident in Watayin area of Handwara in North Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday.

News agency KNO quoting an official reported that a bus turned turtle near Watayin when it was on its way to Srinagar.

He said that at least 20 persons were injured and they were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The official added that among 20 injured 14 were later referred to district hospital Handwara.

# Two Injured Due To Electrocution

**SRINAGAR:** Two persons were injured due to an electric shock in Buchoo village of Kokernag in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday.

News agency KNO quoting an official reported that two persons received electric shock after they came in contact with a live wire in Buchoo village.

He said that both were working with Khanday Infrastructure Private Limited company as labourers. He added that the duo was shifted to GMC Anantnag for treatment, where their condition is said to be stable.

The injured have been identified as Javaid Ahmad Bhat anf Shabir Ahmad Sheikh—both residents of Watnad.

Back to Village-4 Programme

# Around 14000 Dropouts Re-Join Schools; 1L Golden Cards Issued

## Visiting Officers To Be 'Panchayat Prabharies' For Next One Year: CS

**Observer News Service**

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta chaired a meeting with Administrative Secretaries here to review achievements of the recently concluded Back to Village-4 programme.

Dr Mehta congratulated the Secretaries and their respective departments for successful culmination of the programme with most of the set targets achieved.

The 35 participating departments were successful in saturation of 54 deliverables set as their respective targets for the programme. The rest of the set 101 deliverables have also been partially achieved, it was informed.

Among numerous success stories of the B2V4 programme, readmission of 13977 school dropouts into schools, with quality education assured, stands out as the biggest achievement of the programme.

Additionally, to foster connect with the youth, 23 musical talent shows from all over J&K were hosted on YouTube during the programme. Similarly 15 role-models have also been identified to inspire youth through a contemporary digital format.

The programme has been successful in providing self employment opportunities to 21329 individuals. 277 cooperative societies were also registered in various fields like poultry, housing, transport, health etc. In the agriculture sector, 14567 Soil Health Cards, 5914 Kissan Credit Cards were issued during Jan Abhiyan.

Labourers and migrant workers also benefitted during B2V4 as 24179 beneficiaries were enrolled and 4063 e-Shram cards were generated. The scheme now stands 88 percent saturated so far in the UT.

In the health sector, 95959 PMJAY-SEHAT Golden Cards were issued thereby giving health insurance coverage to 49526 families. With the achievement, the scheme has reached to 93% saturation rate in the UT.

The Revenue Department has been successful in issuing 6.6 lakh Land Passbooks. During B2V4, 8.46 lakh persons were introduced to Apki Zamin Apki Nigrani portal enabling them to access revenue records from the comfort of their homes.

A lot has been achieved by the Social Welfare Department, which digitized 5159 Disability Cards (UDID) and seeded 30231 Anganwadi beneficiaries and 11313 Ladli Beti beneficiaries with Aadhaar. Moreover 211 Divyang Camps were also organised by the department.

In addition more than 1.55 lakh e-challans were issued by the Mining Department with unique QR code integrated with an online payment system for sale and purchase of minerals through zero-manual interface.

The Chief Secretary asked for implementation of e-Contractor Registration System and Online Billing System and promotion of digital payment systems across all works departments. He called for introducing School Complex System, under which teachers are able to teach in multiple schools.

He also asked the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department to expedite actions on Aspirational Panchayat Programme and Panchayat Development Index. He also asked all departments for creation of Gati Shakti layers by 25th November.

The Chief Secretary also laid stress on Swacch Gram Yojana and asked the concerned department to work in unison to achieve the goal of Clean J&K.

He directed for implementation of app-based attendance system, and conducting audit of manpower in government departments. Discussion was held on implementation of e-Office, training of PRI members and measures against Lumpy Skin Disease and Dengue were also reviewed by the Chief Secretary in the meeting.

Besides other directions, he asked for compilation and analysis of data collected during the program to work out the future planning in holistic sense. He asked the visiting officer to visit their Panchayat atleast once every quarter to assess the change on ground after their visit and act as Panchayat Prabhari for the area during the next one year.

Chief Secretary finally lauded efforts of the public and government officials in the conduct of the programme.

# New Skills Needed To Support Domestic Tourism: Minister

**Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Tuesday said new skills are needed to support domestic tourism as it transforms with wellness and adventure tourism as new pivots.

The Union minister of state for skill development and entrepreneurship was interacting with leaders of the hotel industry at the popular hill resort of Patnitop in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. The minister urged them to draw a roadmap for making Patnitop a vibrant tourist destination, taking into consideration its local advantages and resources.

"There has been a significant change in the domestic tourism circuit which is pivoting more towards wellness, healthcare and other activities like adventure or sports, thereby triggering a demand for diverse skills and opportunities," Chandrasekhar said.

He said road trips, places with smaller footprints, short-term rentals or stay-at-home facilities have become more in vogue and the hotel industry must decide on the narrative for the destination keeping these changes in mind.

"Tourism is all about human connection. The tourism fraternity must study, assess and deliberate, factoring in the resources and the skill sets available or required, to develop Patnitop as a pre-eminent tourist destination, he said.

Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on developing the local economy, the minister said self-help groups (SHGs) could play a big role in connecting the local craftspersons with the marketplace. "Our handicrafts exports last year were worth about 2 billion dollars and mostly done through e-commerce platforms. So to help the individual craftsperson, SHGs could help as a bridge for market access," he said.

The minister also met students and members of tourism clubs who shared with him their ideas of developing Patnitop.

In another meeting with electronics engineering students, Chandrasekhar spoke of Modi's vision of a New India' and how there were tremendous opportunities available for them in the electronics or semicon manufacturing and design segments.

# Rohit Sharma Survives Serious Injury In Training

Press Trust of India

**ADELAIDE:** The Indian cricket team survived a scare ahead of the T20 World Cup semifinal against England as skipper Rohit Sharma sustained a powerful blow on his forearm during training on Tuesday, but it did not turn out to be a serious injury.

Rohit was undergoing usual practice drills as he faced team's throwdown expert S Raghu at the Adelaide Oval when a short ball jumped off the length area and hit his right forearm.

The captain, who was attempting a pull shot and missed the ball, was visibly in pain. After applying ice pack on the injured arm and resting for a while, Rohit resumed his training.

Team sources said the skipper is doing fine and should play the semifinal against England on Thursday.

"He didn't feel much discomfort when he batted for the second time. CT scan or x-ray might not be needed. Also we have one day in the middle which is also an optional session. It doesn't look serious as of now," a source privy to development told PTI.

Rohit looked desolate and in considerable pain when he was watching the training session from a distance, sitting on an ice box, after being hit. Mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton was seen talking to him for a considerable amount of time.

Rohit resumed his training after some time but throwdown experts were told not to go full throttle as he mostly played defensive shots to check if his movements were okay.

# Unpredictable Pakistan To Test Consistent New Zealand In T20 WC Semis

Press Trust of India

**SYDNEY:** Formidable New Zealand appear strong on paper, but they have to defy history when they clash with an unpredictable and upbeat Pakistan in the first T20 World Cup semifinal here on Wednesday.

Unlike Pakistan's roller-coaster and miraculous journey into the last-four, the Kiwis had a straightforward passage into the knockout stage as they finished on top of Group 1 following wins over reigning champions Australia, Sri Lanka and Ireland in a group of 'death'.

Babar Azam and his team mates, who had lost two key Super 12 clashes against India and Zimbabwe up front, were probably thinking of their departure plans when the Netherlands favoured them by eliminating South Africa on a dramatic Sunday.

All Pakistan had to do was to beat Bangladesh in the second match of the day to make a dream semi-final. It's giving a sense of 'deja vu' as Pakistan had clashed against New Zealand in the 1992 World Cup semi-final, coming from nowhere, and went on to win the match and later trophy.

Pakistan also have history backing them as New Zealand have lost all their previous World Cup semifinals to them in ODI (1992, 1999) and T20 (2007) formats.

The Black Caps have lost three World Cup finals in seven years (2015, 2019 in ODI and 2021 in T20).

Skipper Babar is still struggling while Mohammad Rizwan is also far from his ominous best. They were in panic mode even while chasing a modest 128 against Bangladesh.

Kiwi pace duo of Trent Boult and Tim Southee will be back at the same venue where they rattled Australia and Sri Lanka top-order en route easy wins as they would look for a strong start. Incidentally, Pakistan too have their strong point in their bowling and the key would be to seize the battle with the bat. After a quiet start, skipper Williamson has got some runs under his belt in the last two matches as he would look to steer his side to yet another final. Pakistan on the other hand would be desperate to prove that their journey to the semis is not a fluke.

Luck apart, it's Pakistan's bowling, superbly spearheaded by Shaheen Afridi and Haris Rauf, that has been the instrumental in their success.

**SQUADS:**

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (Captain), Martin Guptill, Finn Allen (wk), Glenn Phillips, Mark Chapman, Michael Bracewell, Mitchell Santner, Adam Milne, Ish Sodhi, Lockie Ferguson, Tim Southee, Devon Conway, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Trent Boult.

Pakistan: Babar Azam (Captain), Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Khushdil Shah, Shan Masood, Mohammad Haris, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Haris Rauf, Mohammad Hasnain, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Afridi.

Match starts at 1.30pm IST.

# Picking Qatar As WC Host Was A 'Mistake': Blatter

Agencies

**GENEVA:** Picking Qatar to host the World Cup was a mistake 12 years ago, FIFA's president at the time Sepp Blatter said Tuesday, again citing a meeting between Nicolas Sarkozy and Michel Platini for swaying key votes.

The 86-year-old Blatter spoke with the Swiss newspaper group Tamedia in his first major interview since being acquitted with Platini in July of financial misconduct at FIFA after a trial at federal criminal court. "It's a country that's too small," Blatter said of Qatar, the smallest host by size since the 1954 tournament in Switzerland. "Football and the World Cup are too big for that."

The 32 teams will play 64 games in eight stadiums in and around the city of Doha which has been transformed since 2010 by massive construction projects to prepare for the World Cup.

Games start on Nov. 20 with about 1.2 million international visitors expected to arrive in Qatar during the World Cup. With limited places to stay in the host nation, some will commute in from neighbouring states.

"It was a bad choice. And I was responsible for that as president at the time," said Blatter, who has long said he voted for the United States. (AP)

# WC Ambassador From Qatar Denounces Homosexuality

Agencies

**BERLIN:** An ambassador for the World Cup in Qatar has described homosexuality as a "damage in the mind" in an interview with German public broadcaster ZDF only two weeks before the opening of the football tournament in the Gulf state, highlighting concerns about the conservative country's treatment of gays and lesbians.

Former Qatari national team player Khalid Salman told a German reporter in an interview that being gay is "haram," or forbidden in Arabic, and that he has a problem with children seeing gay people.

Excerpts of the television interview were shown Monday on the ZDF news program Heute Journal. The full interview, which is part of a documentary, will be shown Tuesday on ZDF.

Germany's interior minister condemned Salman's remarks. (AP)