

Chances High Of Big Earthquake In Himalayas, Need To Prep: Scientists

Agences

Dehradun: Scientists on Wednesday said there is a strong possibility of a major earthquake in the Himalayan region and underlined the need for better preparation to minimise the damage to life and property.

Tremors were felt in Uttarakhand after a strong 6.6-magnitude earthquake jolted the remote mountainous region of western Nepal early Wednesday, killing six people.

Senior geophysicist of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology Ajay Paul said the Himalayas

have come into existence as a result of a collision between Indian and Eurasian plates.

Due to constant pressure of the Eurasian plate on the Indian plate, strained energy accumulating under it keeps releasing itself from time to time in the form of earthquakes, Paul said.

"Occurrence of earthquakes due to accumulation of strained



File Photo

energy under the Himalayas is a normal and relentless process. The entire Himalayan region is highly vulnerable to tremors and the strong possibility of a major earthquake is always there," Paul said.

The magnitude of future earthquake might be of seven or more on the richter scale, he claimed. Paul, however, said the

release of strained energy or an earthquake cannot be predicted. "No one knows when it would happen. It may happen the next moment, the next month or after 100 years," he said.

Four major earthquakes were recorded in the Himalayan region over the past 150 years, including the tremors in Shillong in 1897, in Kangra in 1905, in Bihar-Nepal in 1934 and in Assam in 1950.

Despite these pieces of information, nothing can be said about the frequency of earthquakes, he said.

An earthquake | [More on P10](#)

Six Dead After Earthquake Hits Nepal, Tremors Felt In New Delhi

A magnitude 6.6 earthquake has struck Nepal, killing at least six people, injuring several others, and destroying multiple houses in the northwestern district of Doti, officials said. The earthquake, which hit at about 2am local time on Wednesday (20:15 GMT), sent tremors into northern India. Bhola Bhatta, deputy superintendent of police in Doti, said that four children were among the fatalities that occurred when eight houses collapsed after the earthquake struck the mountainous western region. The police chief confirmed earlier information provided | [More on P10](#)

Early Snowfall Blocks Leh Highway, Mughal Road

Light To Moderate Rain, Snow Till Nov 11: MeT Dept

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The higher reaches of Kashmir Valley received fresh snowspell on Wednesday while rains lashed the plains, leading to the closure of strategic Srinagar-Leh highway and Mughal Road, connecting South Kashmir with Poonch and Rajouri districts in Jammu division.

According to a meteorological department official, the upper reaches of the Valley, including the famous hill stations of Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam received fresh overnight snowfall.

The Affarwat mountain range in the ski resort, he said, was draped in a white blanket following fresh snowfall.

Also, the official said that Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 2 degrees Celsius while the maximum temperature was recorded 1 degree Celsius. Reports of snowfall have also been received from Chandanwari, Pisso Top, Sheshnag and the areas around Amarnath cave shrine in South Kashmir.

In the last 24 hours till 0830 hours Wednesday, the MeT



File Photo

official said Pahalgam received 0.5mm of rainfall while Gulmarg amassed 2cms of fresh snowfall.

The MeT official said that from November 9 evening to November 11 forenoon, light to moderate rain/snowfall over higher reaches is expected at many places

However, he ruled out the possibility of a major rain or

snowfall during the spell.

The official also said that on November 11, the weather will be generally cloudy, while from November 12-16; it will remain "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 | [More on P10](#)

5 NIT Students Injured In Night Scuffle

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Five students of National Institute of Technology (NIT) here sustained "minor" injuries during a scuffle after a volleyball match at the campus, police said on Wednesday.

However, the situation was brought under control and was normal, the police said.

"A late night scuffle happened in NIT Srinagar wherein 2 group of students belonging to different batches clashed after the end of a volleyball match," Srinagar Police said on Twitter.

The police said five students from both sides sustained "minor injuries" in the scuffle.

"Police on request of NIT authorities entered campus & situation is normal now," the police wrote on Twitter.

In 2016, clashes broke out at the institute between outstation and local | [More on P10](#)

RS 87.88 CR BANK FRAUD CASE CBI Arrests Two Ex-Directors Of Jammu Firm

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The CBI has arrested two former directors of a private paper manufacturing company in a multi-crore bank fraud case in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, an official said on Wednesday.

The case against Bharat Papers Ltd and others, including its managing director and directors, was registered on February 12, 2020 on a complaint from State Bank of India's, SAM Branch in Ludhiana, Punjab, a CBI spokesperson said.

The two then directors Anil Kumar and Praveen Kumar were arrested on Tuesday evening and produced before a magistrate who remanded



File Photo

them to seven days in CBI custody on Wednesday.

According to the CBI, the accused in the conspiracy with unknown SBI officials had cheated the bank of Rs 87.88 crore (which with interest amounted to Rs 121.13 crore)

from 2006 to 2019 by illegally removing machinery and other parts without getting prior permission and without informing the lender banks.

The proceeds or value of such machines and motors were not | [More on P10](#)

Infant 'Abductor' Woman Slapped With PSA

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A woman suspected to be involved in the kidnapping of an infant was detained after being slapped with the Public Safety Act (PSA) in Kishtwar district on Wednesday, officials said.

Shabnum Begum was arrested for her alleged involvement in the kidnapping of a six-month-old from the district hospital in Kishtwar on September 27, they said.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) rejected her bail plea amid the prosecution's contention that the case was of public interest, they said.

Later, she was granted bail by the Sessions Court.

A police officer said normal law would not deter her from such acts in the future and, keeping in | [More on P10](#)

PM Lauds New Era Of Medical Education In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on Wednesday lauded the new era of medical education in Jammu & Kashmir, a day after the Union Health Ministry granted 265 Diplomate of National Board (DNB) seats to the government hospitals in the Union Territory.

The Prime Minister hailed the government's decision to grant 265 DNB seats across 20 district Govt hospitals and said that it is an important effort aimed at empowering the youth and furthering medical infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

Sharing a tweet by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya, the Prime Minister tweeted;

"This is an important effort aimed at empowering the youth and furthering medical



infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir!"

On Tuesday, the health ministry statement said that the grant of 265 DNB seats was a step that will not only benefit people of Jammu and Kashmir, but the doctors there will also get an opportunity of being trained in their own region.

"Tapping into this home-grown medical | [More on P10](#)

S H O R T T A K E S

3 Killed In Kathua Bus Collision

Three people were killed and sixteen others injured in an accident between two buses in Kathua district on Wednesday. Official sources said that at around 04:30 P.M., a mini bus hit another from behind near Nanak Chak area, leading to the death of three people on the spot and injuries to sixteen others who have been hospitalized. The two buses bearing registration numbers—JK02AP-5095 and UP14FT-3267—were going in the same direction—towards Kathua side, they said. When contacted, | [More on P10](#)

Misfire Kills Soldier In Poonch

An Army soldier died of a bullet injury as his service weapon went off accidentally in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Wednesday, officials said. The service rifle of the soldier belonging to the Army's Rashtriya Rifles unit went off accidentally, resulting in a bullet injury to him, in the border belt of Mankote, the officials said. The injured jawan was rushed to a hospital, where he was declared "brought dead", they said. The inquest proceedings have been launched.

BSF Shoots Down Pak Drone Along IB



Pakistani drone has been shot down by the Border Security Force (BSF) along the India-Pakistan International Border in Punjab, a senior officer said Wednesday. The 'hexa copter' drone was shot around 11:25 pm on Tuesday in the Ferozepur sector. | [More on P10](#)

3 JeM Operatives Held In Jammu

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday claimed to have busted a module of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) with the arrest of three suspected operatives and seizure of a cache of arms and ammunition in Jammu. The terror module was busted in a chance operation and the arms and ammunition, including three AK assault rifles, one pistol and six grenades, were recovered from an oil tanker in the Narwal area of the winter capital, a police spokesman said. He said the module was assigned the task of | [More on P10](#)

NIA Charges TRF 'Operative'

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday filed a supplementary charge sheet against an arrested operative of The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), an official said. The charge sheet against Muzamil Mushtaq Bhat alias 'Hamza' alias 'Daniyal', a resident of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Arms Act, Explosive Substances Act and | [More on P10](#)

Army Rescues 7 Cab Passengers

Army on Wednesday rescued seven passengers after a civil taxi they were travelling met an accident at Mohanpora area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district. Defence sources told a local news agency KNO that a civil taxi carrying seven passengers fell down in Nala from Akhipura Bridge near the village Mohandpora Kulgam. "The civilians called nearby Nellow camp of 34 Rashtriya Rifles for help and a swift action was carried out by the rescue team with a recovery | [More on P10](#)



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Srinagar | Thursday | 10-11-2022

2

Air Pollution Exposure Linked To Higher Cardiovascular Disorder Risk: Study

Press Trust Of India

Long-term exposure to air pollution is associated with additional risk of cardiovascular disorders in those already having an underlying heart condition, according to a study.

The research, published recently in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC), evaluated the association between long-term exposure to small particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) and 10 (PM10), and coronary vasomotor disorders in patients with nonobstructive coronary artery disease (NOCAD), which is associated with poor cardiovascular outcomes.

Coronary vasomotor disorders are characterised by impaired ability to adequately adjust coronary blood flow to oxygen demand due to dysfunctional vasomotor function.

The researchers from Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome, Italy and colleagues studied patients with myocardial ischemia and NOCAD undergoing coronary angiography and intracoronary provocation test, an established method for assessment of coronary artery spasm.

Both patients with chronic myocardial ischemia and nonobstructive coronary arteries and myocardial infarction with nonobstructive coronary



arteries (MINOCA) were enrolled.

Based on each case's home address, exposure to PM2.5 and PM10 was assessed.

The study included 287 patients with a median age of 62 years. 149 of the participants were male and 161 had myocardial ischemia and nonobstructive coronary arteries while 126 had MINOCA.

Higher exposure to PM2.5 and PM10 in patients with myocardial

ischemia and NOCAD is associated with coronary vasomotor abnormalities, the researchers said.

In particular, PM2.5 is an independent risk factor for the occurrence of epicardial spasm and MINOCA as clinical presentation, they said.

"Our study shows for the first time an association between long-term air pollution exposure and the occurrence of coronary vasomotor disorders,

suggesting a possible role for pollutants in determining myocardial ischemia in patients with NOCAD," the authors of the study noted.

"In particular, we show that PM2.5 and PM10 are independently associated with a positive coronary provocation test in these patients, and that PM2.5 is positively related to the occurrence of epicardial spasm as opposed to microvascular spasm," they added.

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th & 12th under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Saimah Akhtar
D/o Gulam Ahmad Mir
R/o Watal Pora



Details of Marks Certificate lost

Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 2408502 Session /Year Annual /
Reg. 2019-20

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam

fko

J&K Bank Employees Union (Kashmir)



Workmen staff of district Anantnag feel immensely pleased and delighted to congratulate Mr. Firdous Nissar and team (Workmen Front) for being elected to the office of Jammu and Kashmir Bank Employees Union Kashmir Unit.

This election is the recognition of their Hard-work , Competence and Dedication.

We would also like to particularly congratulate our representatives from South Mr. Abrar Qasim and Rahil Hussain as their election to this office will contribute to strengthen the bond between the core members.

ss

Publicity Secretary

FATEHA KHAWANI

With profound grief, we inform the demise of **Zainab Begum** W/o Late Mohammad Akbar Wani R/o Khanyar at present Habib Colony Baghat Barzulla Lane No. A, House No. 3 on **8th of Nov. 2022** (Tuesday). May Almighty Allah grant Jannat ul Firdous to the departed soul. Fateha Khawani will be held on **11th of Nov. 2022** (Friday) after prayer at **2:30 PM** at their graveyard Bahauddin Sahib, Nowhatta, Srinagar.

LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO BRING ANY KIND OF Eatables WITH THEM.

BEREAVED

**MANZOOR AHMAD WANI (7706085775),
MOHAMMAD IQBAL WANI (9682593737**

ss

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.: 107028260 Session: Annual - 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 Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

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

ask_r

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

Attention Please New Campus Bemina Srinagar
Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 7410

Class 10th

Year & Session 1980- Oct-Nov

Registration: 13682-HSE-IX-79

Name : Ghulam Mohi-udin Rawa

Father's Name: Ghulam Qadir Rawa

Mother's Name : --

Date of Birth:- 09-04-1963

Residence:- Sopore



According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 5200 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/KD/22

Dated 09-11-2022

Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.

krc

از غائب سہری وار پورہ
درخواست منجانب بشیر احمد گنائی ولد خضر محمد گنائی ساکن سر یو گودہ ڈاکٹر پورہ تحصیل پٹن
برادر اجرائی EWS CERTIFICATE
بھتیجی عادل بشیر و شہیل احمد گنائی
اشعار ہمارا ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن کے EWS CERTIFICATE دفتر میں زیر
کارروئی ہے اس سلسلے میں سال کو پہلے ہی آمدنی سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء ہوئی ہے جس کے مطابق
ساکل کو ماہانہ آمدنی 4500 ہے اور ساکن کے پاس 05 مہینے سے کم زمین موجود
ہے۔ ساکن کا مکان جو 200 سق فٹ سے کم رقبہ پر واقع ہے لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفیکٹ
بھتیجی ساکن کو اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ
سات یوم کے اندر اپنے عذرات دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیا گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی
عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
نائب تحصیلدار fko

YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE

Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.
Contact:- 0194-3550112
G-mail- yardimciunike92@gmail.com
I.G: yardimci_multi_venture
F.B: yardimci_multiVenture

Plumbing Jobs

AH Tube wells- 9419006446
Amriz Services- 7947411032
Valley Plumbers - 7947130027
Shah Constructions- 7947130111
Electric & Plumbing - 7947130256
Ajaz Plumber- 6008402994

Carpenter Jobs

Manpreet Singh- 9988612761
Mohammad Yaseen- 9419502845
Mohammad Ishfaq - 6064850094
Wasta Aashiq- 606480982
Kuljit Singh- 9906480421
Naijar Furniture Works- 9906598910
Umaid & Company- 7889686402
Suraj Joinery Works- 9906698804

Tutorials

Home Tutions
Excellent Coaching for,
9th,10th,11th & 12th classes
Contact:-7006515740

Office Of The Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

B

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-TENDER NIT NO. 123/XEN/EDS/2022-23 OF 11/2022

Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K invites tenders by E-tendering on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Registered Civil Contractors with Union Territory J&K /CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc (Amt. In Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head Of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Balance work of store at Partap park.	6.32 lacs	300/-	25 Days	CEE/DEE	4059-PLAN
2	3	2.77 lacs	200/-	10 Days	DEE	
3	Renovation of washroom and rest room of Director NHM Block A Old Secretariat Srinagar.	2.77 lacs	200/-	10 Days	DEE	
4	Upgradation of GAD Library and Law library at New civil Secretariat Srinagar.	8.30 lacs	600/-	25 Days	CEE/DEE	

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of Funds: 50% Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07-11-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08.11.2022 from 10.00 AM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	08.11.2022 from 10.00 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	16.11.2022 upto 3.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	16.11.2022 at 3.05 PM.

In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

3. All Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).

4. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of advertised cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP is over.

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

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

7.1. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

7.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

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

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

11. Price escalation and Taxes:- The rate quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

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

13. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

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

a. All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.

b. All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan

c. All bidders shall upload Bid Security Declaration Form

d. All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.

14. All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest Clearance Certificate FORM GST-3B i.e. latest Clearance Certificate.

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

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

17. Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document (s) which has /have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

DIPK-13108/22

No: - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/5879-89/2022 /T-1
Dated:- 09-11-2022

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,
Estates Division, Sgr.



Leakage In Pipeline Damages House In Baghwanpora

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A Resident of Baghwanpora, Lal Bazar has alleged that the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department has failed to fix leakage in a pipeline near Masjid-e-Imam Hussain (AS) which has rendered serious damage to his house.

Ghulam Mustafa, who lives near Imam Hussain Mosque alleges that it has been around two weeks that the issue has been brought up to the notice of PWD officials. However, he says that PWD officials have not been able to come to the rescue of the affected family.

Mustafa says his house has developed major cracks and he and his family are living in constant fear.

“The leakage in the PWD pipeline is causing severe damage to my house, walls are developing cracks and the water is seeping deep down the earth which may

damage the foundations of my house” Mustafa said.

“The officials are prioritizing a road over my house,” are we awaiting a human catastrophe” he questioned.

Mustafa’s family members also alleged the inordinate delay in fixing the pipeline is causing distress to the family.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Executive Engineer PWD Ishfaq Ahmed said that he is aware about the issue and he has sought permission from R&B city roads so that they can dig the road and fix the pipeline.

“The road has been macadamized recently and without the permission of the R & B department we cannot dig the road. I am awaiting permission, once we get it, I will restore it in the next hour. Everything is not in my hand” Ishfaq said.

“I have written a letter to the R&B officials and as soon as I get the permission we will fix the leakage” he added.

Install ATM in Zafran Colony, Urge Residents

Agencies

Srinagar: The residents of Zafran Colony, Pantha Chowk, Srinagar urged the J&K Bank Chairman to address their long pending demand of installing an ATM in their area as they have been demanding the same since past 10 years but to no avail.

A group of elderly residents of Zafran Colony, Srinagar said that they have to travel four to five kilometres to withdraw money from the ATM which is located at Pantha Chowk and Balhama. “We have been urging the J&K Bank authorities to install an ATM in our area since past ten years but don’t know why our pleas are not being heard,” said Adil Bashir, a resident of the Colony, adding that the Colony has already been facing the issue of non-availability of public transport and the absence of ATM has further aggravated their problems.

Ghulam Qadir, an elderly

resident said that they have time and again requested the J&K Bank authorities through written requests to install an ATM in Zafran Colony which is spread over 5 kms from Sempora, Srinagar. “Every time we get assurances only and nothing happens on the ground,” he said. “In the past 10 years, the population has increased manifold in Zafran Colony due to massive construction and a large number of people are suffering in absence of an ATM.”

A group of elderly men from Zafran Colony petitioned Chairman J&K Bank to intervene and pass immediate directions to the Bank authorities to install an ATM in the area on priority as part of the good governance and governance at the doorsteps of people initiative started by the J&K LG Manoj Sinha. “We hope that this time, we will get an ATM in our Colony,” they said. (KNO)

One Killed In Road Accident At Shalteng

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A pedestrian was killed in a road accident near Shalteng in the outskirts of Srinagar on Wednesday evening.

An official said that an

unidentified man was hit by a vehicle near Shalteng, resulting in his onspot death.

He said that identification of the deceased was being ascertained. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident.

Weekly Block Diwas

Public Grievance Redressal Camp Held At Dara

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As a part of Public Outreach programme to reach out to the people living in the rural areas of the District to address their grievances, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Wednesday undertook an extensive tour of Dara area in Harwan Block of the District and presided over a Public Grievance Redressal Camp under weekly Block Diwas initiative.

During the Grievance Redressal Camp, members of DDC and BDC, PRI representatives, Public delegations and scores of individuals projected various issues and demands before the DC including transfer of roads back to R&B, upgradation of local School to Higher Secondary, removal of encroachments, market checking installation of JKBank ATM and fire sta-

tion, NOC regarding water filtration plant, providing man days under MGNREGA, and other issues.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, the DC sought on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp and assured the people of Dara and other areas of Harwan Block that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be addressed on priority basis.

The DC also gave on the spot directions to the concerned officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said the purpose of holding such grievance redressal Camps is to take appraisal of local issues from the general public for precise and unground assessment for their time bound redressal.



'Congestion In Old City Makes It Vulnerable To Fire Incidents'

Agencies

Srinagar: The Joint Director Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Kashmir Bashir Ahmed Shah on Wednesday stated that the fire incidents have shown a considerable decline in Kashmir in the last few years but downtown Srinagar continues to be a challenge and vulnerable to fire given congested localities and narrow lanes

Bashir Ahmed Shah further said that given the figures available with them since 2016, fire incidents have shown a tremendous dip across Kashmir. “Reasons are obvious that people use very less wood in the construction. Wooden roofs first and second storeys of new houses have been replaced by concrete cemented slabs,” said Shah. He said that final roofing is made of wood and overall there is

concrete construction including walls etc of new houses.

Shah, however, said that downtown areas of Srinagar continue to remain vulnerable to fire incidents given congested localities and narrow lanes which makes it difficult to maneuver for the firemen when it comes to dousing of flames. He urged people across Kashmir, especially downtown, not to call police stations in case of a fire incident and instead right away dial 101 and give the exact location of the incident site.

As per the figures available, property worth over Rs 70 Crore has been damaged in various fire incidents across Kashmir highest after 2016 when the figure was property worth Rs 87.41 crore was damaged. The data states that this year, Srinagar recorded the highest ever fire

calls at 384 followed by Baramulla at 252. “In Srinagar, property worth 2914, 96 lakhs were damaged in the ensuing year in various fire related incidents,” the figure suggests.

Replying to a query about shortage of manpower in the F&ES department, the Joint Director said that after 700 employees were inducted in the department through recruitment in 2020, the shortage of manpower was addressed to a large extent but the shortage of officers’ remains. About availability of new vehicles, he said even though the department procured some new vehicles while as world bank also provided some fire dousing vehicles, but majority of the vehicles available with the department are outdated and need to be replaced by latest ones—(KNO)

LCMA Convenes 123rd BPA Meeting; Approves 82 Cases

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA) today convened 123rd meeting of the Building Permission Authority (BPA) under the chairmanship of Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Vice Chairman, LCMA at Dockyard, Nishat, NFR-Srinagar, here.

The agenda for the meeting was discussed threadbare and 88 cases were decided out of which

82 were approved, 02 cases were deferred while 04 cases were rejected by the BPA on merits.

Among others, Chief Town Planner of Kashmir, Joint Commissioner (P) SMC, Secretary JKLCMA, Collector JK LCMA, Executive Engineer Lake Division 2nd LCMA, Executive Engineer Electric Inspection Division, Enforcement Officers LCMA and representatives of Executive Engineer UEED Division 1st, PHE, Tehsildar Khanyar and Tehsildar

Nazool as members of the Building Permission Authority were present in the meeting.

Moreover, Enforcement Wing of LCMA today took a demolition drive in the areas of Babademb, Laam Nishat, Ishber Shalimar, Kanitar/Saderbal, Batpora, Harwan and Hazratbal where 03 double Storeys, 03 Single Storeys, 01 Plinth, 03 tin walling, 02 Truss / Roofing and 01 three Storey structures were demolished/ removed.

CRITICAL CARE
AMBULANCE

FREE FOR EVERY ONE

Call, Any Time 24x7

9484100200
01942310018

CONTROL ROOM:
27 Gogji Bagh, Near
Oasis School, Srinagar

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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

HIJRI
CALENDAR

14 Rabi ul Sani
1444

PRAYERS

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

This Day In History

- 1938 - Nobel for literature awarded to Pearl Buck (Good Earth)
- 1945 - Heavy battle in Surabaya between Indonesian nationalists and returning colonialists after World War II, celebrated as Heroes' Day (Hari Pahlawan).
- 1950 - Nobel for literature awarded to William Faulkner
- 1970 - Luna 17, with unmanned self-propelled Lunokhod 1, is launched
- 1975 - PLO leader Yasser Arafat addresses UN in NYC
- 1975 - UN General Assembly approves resolution equating Zionism with racism
- 1978- Israel's top negotiators broke away from Middle East peace talks
- 1979 - Train derailment in Mississauga, Ontario; a 106 car train derails causing the evacuation of 200,000 people
- 1980 - Iraq captures southern port of Khorramshahr
- 1982 - IMF lends Mexico \$3.8 billion due to threatened bankruptcy
- 1982 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened
- 1986 - Bangladeshi Constitution restored
- 1989 - Germans begin demolishing the Berlin Wall
- 1993 Slovakian government of Vladimir Meiar forms
- 1995 - In Nigeria, playwright and environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa along with eight others from the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (Mosop) are hanged by government forces
- 1996 - 46th NASCAR Sprint Cup: Terry Labonte wins
- 2001 - An agreement is reached at talks in Marrakech, Morocco, on rules for implementation of the Kyoto climate change treaty
- 2006 - Sri Lankan Tamil Parliamentarian Nadarajah Raviraj assassinated in Colombo.
- 2012 - 20 Syrian troops are killed by suicide bombings in Daara
- 2012 - 27 people are killed and dozens injured in a prison conflict in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2012 - Israeli counter strike on Palestinian militants in Gaza kills 5 and injure 30
- 2012 - 17 people are killed in a helicopter crash as a result of bad weather in Turkey
- 2012 - The final US presidential election results are declared after Barack Obama wins Florida to defeat Mitt Romney 332-206 in Electoral College votes

From KO Archives

US hostage's wife wants write-ups back

Srinagar- The wife of an American hostage missing in Kashmir for more than five years has issued an emotional appeal for the return of draft articles he wrote for foreign journals.

"If I never see my husband again, at least to have something he wrote would be of comfort to me Jane Schelly said in a letter sent to media offices in the Kashmir summer capital.

Schelly is the wife of Donald Hutchings, who was abducted along with five other foreigners in Kashmir by Muslim militants in July 1995.

One of the hostages escaped, one was beheaded and the other four—including Hutchings remain missing, presumed dead. Schelly said Hutchings used to write for some journals, and the rough articles were with Him when he was kidnapped.

"Some of the pages of that written material might exist somewhere, left in some hut or home, passed to the side and forgotten, she said, appealing to anyone who might have found the papers to send them to her.

Hutchings would have been 48 on November 12, and Schelly said the return of his writings would comprise the perfect birthday gift.

"I have done my utmost to find out what has happened to him... There is no conclusive answer," she wrote. If I have no closure to this sad situation ...only the assumption that my husband and three westerners were most likely killed. (AFP)

(Kashmir Observer, November 10, 2000)

Govt Completes Mother Tongue Survey Of 576 Languages

Arranging the linguistic data by in-house linguists is under process

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Home Affairs has successfully completed a mother tongue survey with field videography of 576 languages and dialects across the country.

According to the annual report of the home ministry for 2021-22, it has been planned to set up a web archive at the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to preserve and analyse the original flavour of each indigenous mother tongue.

For this purpose, proper editing in arranging the linguistic data by in-house linguists is under process, it said.

The Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI) project is successfully completed with field videography of 576 mother tongues, the report said.

The home ministry said the Linguistic Survey of India (LSI) is a regular research activity in the country since the 6th Five Year Plan.

In continuation to earlier publications under this project, the volume on LSI Jharkhand is finalised and that on LSI Himachal Pradesh is nearing completion.

The field work of LSI Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh is going on.

The videographed speech data of mother tongues is going to be uploaded on the NIC server for archiving purposes,

the report said.

The home ministry said in the upcoming census, which has been kept on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic, several new initiatives have been taken for facilitating smooth conduct of the mega exercise, including use of the advanced geospatial technology.

The pre-census mapping activities include the preparation and updation of maps showing administrative units of the states and UTs, districts, sub-districts, villages, towns and wards within towns to ensure proper coverage of the entire geographical area of the country.

Further, efforts are being made for dissemination of Census results through web based interactive maps. Preparatory work in this direction has already been initiated.

Some of these initiatives include purchase of versions and re-modules of software for completing the Census mapping activities in a quick and efficient manner and all mapping manpower trained on using the latest software, the report said.

Jurisdictional changes that occurred in the country after Census 2011 till December 31, 2019 have been updated in the geo-referenced database and further updation is going on as the freezing date has been extended upto June 30, 2022.

Pakistan Long March To Resume As Wounded Khan Wins Sympathy

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party is all set to resume its stalled long march on Thursday from Wazirabad area of Punjab province where an assassination attempt was made on the former prime minister last week.

Khan, 70, suffered bullet injuries in the right leg when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others standing on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area, where he was leading the march last week.

He underwent surgery for bullet injuries at the Shaukat Khanum Hospital owned by his charitable organisation. He is advised to take rest for four to six weeks by doctors.

The long march was suspended following the attack on Khan.

Khan, who is recovering from his injuries, had announced resumption of the long march on Tuesday but later the party changed the decision and re-scheduled it for Thursday. He would join the long march in Rawalpindi when it reaches there in 10 to 14 days.

"PTI vice-chairman and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi will lead the march from Wazirabad on Thursday at 2 pm (local time)," PTI Punjab leader and health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid told PTI on Wednesday.

"The long march will resume with prayers for those killed and injured in the shooting. A sea of people will reach Islamabad to push the coalition government of 13



parties led by PML-N to announce the date for early elections," she said.

One person was killed and 11 others, including Khan, were injured in the attack during the long march.

Punjab police on Tuesday registered an FIR over the failed assassination bid on Khan, a day after the Supreme Court ordered the provincial police chief to register the case within 24 hours or face suo motu action.

The FIR named the assailant, Naveed Mohammad Basher, as the prime accused in Thursday's attack and booked him under the Anti-Terrorism Act. However, it did not mention the names of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Major General Faisal Naseer — three people who Khan had accused of hatching a plot to assassinate him.

Khan has expressed displeasure over the registration of the FIR regarding the attack on him as it did not have the names of the suspects he had named.

Commenting on the case, Khan said that his lawyers would give his position on the

"farical FIR".

Khan also said that his party's doors were open to "all democratic loving forces".

"For the future of Pakistan the doors of PTI are open to all democratic loving forces to join our struggle for Justice, rule of law and freedom from foreign subservience — our goal of Haqeeqi Azadi," he tweeted.

He said that the statement of the suspect, who opened fire at him and his other party men in Wazirabad, "is a pack of lies".

Khan said he will disclose the name of the second officer who was sitting with Maj General Faisal in the control room from around 12 noon to 5 pm monitoring the execution of the plot.

Khan, who was ousted as prime minister in April this year after a no-confidence motion was passed in the National Assembly, is seeking fresh general elections in Pakistan.

However, the federal government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is opposed to holding elections now. The term of the current National Assembly will end in August 2023.

Twitter To Launch New "Official" Verification Badge For Verified Accounts

Agencies

SAN FRANCISCO: Billionaire Elon Musk's social media firm Twitter will introduce an 'Official' label for select verified accounts including major media outlets and governments, when it launches its new \$8 service with the blue verification mark, its early stage products executive Esther Crawford said on Tuesday.

"Not all previously verified accounts will get the 'Official' label and the label is not available for purchase. Accounts that will receive it include government accounts, commercial companies, business partners, major media outlets, publishers and some public figures," Crawford



ford tweeted.

"The new Twitter Blue does not include ID verification — it's an opt-in, paid subscription that offers a blue checkmark and access to select features. We'll continue to experiment with ways to differentiate between account types."

Indians Make Up Largest Foreign-Born Residents In England And Wales: Census

Agencies

Nearly one in six people living in England and Wales last year were born outside the country and Indians constituted the largest chunk at 1.5 per cent of residents, according to the latest statistics based on the country's 2021 census data.

The UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) found that India remained the most common country of birth outside of the UK last year at 9,20,000 people, followed by Poland at 7,43,000 people or 1.2 per cent of residents and Pakistan at 6,24,000 (1 per cent).

One in six usual residents of England and Wales were born outside the UK, an increase of 2.5 million since 2011, from 7.5 million (13.4 per cent) to 10 million (16.8 per cent), the ONS said in a release.

India remained the most common country of birth outside the UK in 2021, it said.

The top three countries of birth outside the UK for England and Wales remain unchanged as India, Poland and Pakistan since the last census 10 years ago, with the numbers rising across all categories — India from 6,94,000, Poland from 5,79,000 and Pakistan from 4,82,000 in 2011.

The census data also shows that Polish (760,000, 1.3 per cent), Romanian (550,000, 0.9 per cent) and Indian (369,000, 0.6 per cent) were the three most common non-UK passports held by residents in England and Wales in 2021.

London remained the region with both the largest proportion of people born outside the UK and the largest proportion of people with non-UK passports.

In 2021, more than four in 10 (40.6 per cent) usual residents in London were non-UK born, and more than one in five (23.3 per cent) had a non-UK passport.

This is a marginal increase

since 2011 when 36.7 per cent of London residents were non-UK born and 21.0 per cent had a non-UK passport.

The number of people who listed Romania as their country of birth grew by 576 per cent since the previous census, from 80,000 in 2011 to 539,000 in 2021 marking the highest out of any country, driven by working restrictions for Romanian citizens being lifted in 2014.

"The census paints a picture of how the make-up of the population has changed in the past decade. That decade, of course, saw us leave the EU as well as live with the pandemic," said Jon Wroth-Smith, Census Deputy Director.

"While these events may have had an impact on people's decisions or ability to migrate or travel at a given time, the census tells us about the change over the whole decade who was living here in March 2021, compared with March 2011. We can see Romanians have been a big driver in this change, while there have also been increases due to migration from India, Pakistan and Poland, as well as southern European countries such as Italy," he said.

"We can also see that migration in the year prior to the census was lower in 2021 than it was in 2011. This is likely, in large part, due to the various travel restrictions in place during the coronavirus pandemic," he added.

The United States and Jamaica fell out of the top 10 non-UK countries of birth in 2021. Italy entered the table in sixth place behind Romania (fourth) and Ireland (fifth), and ahead of Bangladesh (seventh), Nigeria (eighth), Germany (ninth) and South Africa (10th).

Those born in the European Union (EU) made up 3.6 million (36.4 per cent of all non-UK-born residents) of the population, an increase from 2.5 million in 2011.

SC Defers Hearing On Pleas Challenging Demonetisation To Nov 24

Press Trust of India

The Supreme Court on Wednesday deferred to November 24 the hearing on a batch of pleas challenging the Centre's 2016 decision to demonetise currency notes of denomination of Rs 500 and Rs 1000.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice S A Nazeer adjourned the matter after Attorney General R Venkataramani sought time to file a comprehensive affidavit in the matter.

Venkataramani apologised to the bench also comprising Justices B R Gavai, A S Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian, and B V Nagarathna, for not being able to prepare the comprehensive affidavit and sought a week's time.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, representing petitioner Vivek Narayan Sharma, said this is highly unusual to ask a Constitution Bench for adjournment.

Senior advocate P Chidambaram, appearing for one of the parties, said this is an embarrassing situation. Justice Naga-



rathna observed that normally the Constitution Bench does not rise like this and this is very embarrassing.

The top court granted one week time to the Centre to file an affidavit.

The bench was hearing a batch of 58 petitions challenging the Centre's November 8, 2016 decision to demonetise the currency notes.

On December 16, 2016, a bench headed by then Chief Justice TS Thakur had referred the question of the validity of the decision and other related matters to a larger bench of five judges for an authoritative pronouncement.

Heatwaves Could Kill 90,000 Europeans Per Year By 2100: Report

COPENHAGEN: If nothing is done, heatwaves could lead to the deaths of 90,000 Europeans each year by the end of the century, the European Environment Agency said.

"Without adaptation measures, and under a scenario of 3 degrees Celsius global warming by 2100, 90,000 Europeans could die from extreme heat annually," it said.

"With 1.5 degrees C global warming, this is reduced to 30,000 deaths annually."

Countries have pledged to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels — a goal the world is set to miss on current emission trends.

Some 129,000 Europeans died from excessive heat in the period between 1980

and 2020, the agency said, citing insurance data.

But more frequent heatwaves linked to climate change, an ageing population and increased urbanisation have made this figure likely to increase in coming years, especially in the south of the continent, it said.

The World Health Organization on Monday said at least 15,000 people had died so far this year in Europe because of hot weather.

The three months from June-August were the hottest in Europe since records began, and the exceptionally high temperatures led to the worst drought the continent has witnessed since the Middle Ages.

Beyond the danger of heat itself, the EEA said, climate

change could also make Europe more prone to infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever spread by mosquito bites.

And the warming sea waters are becoming increasingly suitable for the bacteria that causes cholera, in particular along the coastlines of the Baltic Sea.

The EEA called for action. "Nearly all deaths associated with high temperatures are preventable in the European context," it said.

"Reducing the health impacts of heat requires implementing a wide range of solutions, including effective heat health action plans, urban greening, appropriate building design and construction, and adjusting working times and conditions," it said.

SC To Rule On Azam Khan's Disqualification Today



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Election Commission not to issue till November 10 the notification for the assembly bypoll in Rampur Sadar in Uttar Pradesh, which fell vacant following the disqualification of Samajwadi Party MLA Azam Khan after his conviction in a hate speech case.

A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud directed a special sessions court to hear and decide on Thursday itself the appeal of Azam Khan seeking a stay on his conviction so

that he survives disqualification as a lawmaker.

The Supreme Court said the Election Commission can issue the notification for the bypoll on or after November 11 once the sessions court decides on Khan's plea.

On October 27, Azam Khan was convicted in the hate speech case and sent to three years in jail by a Rampur court.

The MP-MLA court in Rampur also granted bail to the MLA in the 2019 case.

On October 28, the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat had announced the disqualification of Khan from the House.

When Herd Of 24 Elephants Drank Country Liquor

Press Trust of India

KEONJHAR: People of a village in Odisha went inside a forest to prepare 'mahua', a traditional country liquor, but found that a herd of elephants already devoured the water fermented with the intoxicating flowers and are in deep sleep.

The villagers living near Shilipada cashew forest in Keonjhar district saw that a total of 24 jumbos, who were apparently drunk, were sleeping near the place where mahua flowers were kept in water in large pots for fermentation.

"We went into the jungle at around 6 am to prepare mahua and found that all the pots were broken and the fermented water is missing. We also found that the elephants were sleeping. They consumed the fermented water and got drunk," Naria Sethi, a villager, said.

There were nine tuskers, six females and nine calves.

"That liquor was unprocessed. We tried to wake up the animals but failed. The forest department was then informed," he said.

Forest department personnel after reaching the spot in the jungle under the Patana forest range had to beat drums to wake the herd up.

The elephants then went deep inside the forest, said Ghasiram Patra, the forest ranger.

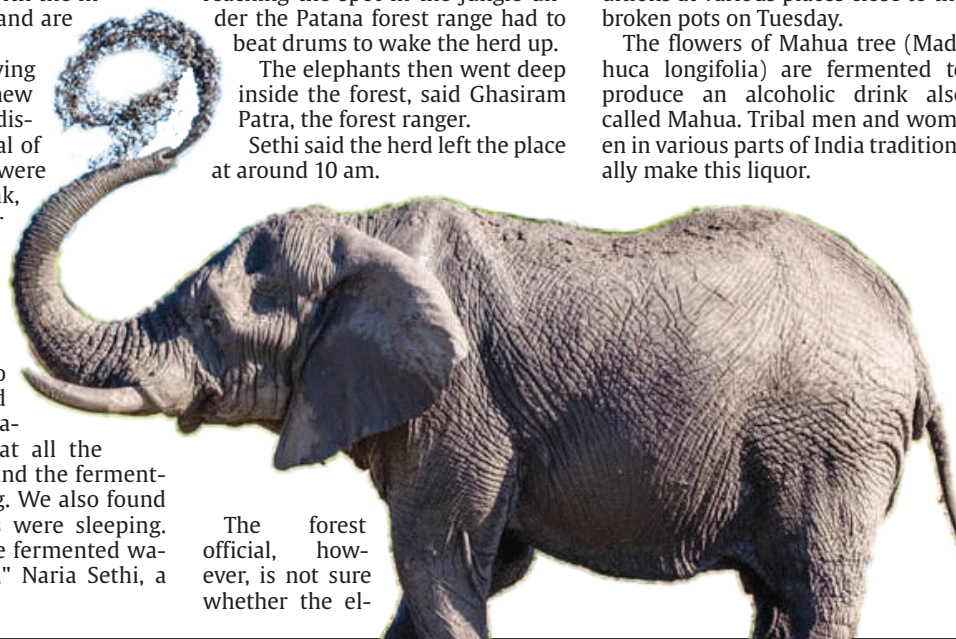
Sethi said the herd left the place at around 10 am.

elephants got drunk after consuming fermented mahua.

"Maybe, they were just resting there," Patra said.

Villagers, on the other hand, insisted that they spotted the elephants sleeping in intoxicated conditions at various places close to the broken pots on Tuesday.

The flowers of Mahua tree (Madhuca longifolia) are fermented to produce an alcoholic drink also called Mahua. Tribal men and women in various parts of India traditionally make this liquor.



The forest official, however, is not sure whether the el-

NEWS MAKERS

Chennai Man Forges RBI Permission Letter To Run Bank, Arrested

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: The Chennai Police has arrested a person for forging RBI permission certificate for running a bank in different parts of the state.

Fake passbooks, deposit forms, debit and credit cards among others were found in his possession, a police release said.

The man identified as Chandrabose, operated the Rural and Agriculture Farmers' Cooperative Bank (RAFC) in 9 cities including Chennai and Erode.

Action against him was taken based on a complaint from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The arrested man even procured credit cards of another bank and pasted his 'bank's' sticker on them to be given to customers, police said.

There was no permission from RBI for Chandrabose to run the bank and he had forged a permission letter, they said.

"He has some idea of banking.. had prepared passbooks, deposit slips..." Chennai Police Commissioner Shankar Jiwal said.

A luxury car was recovered from him while ₹56.65 lakh money held in the fake bank's deposit has been attached.



Secretary H&ME Chairs Meeting On NTEP Implementation

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar on Wednesday convened a meeting to review progress on implementation of National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) in Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here.

Secretary, while addressing the meeting, highlighted the importance of National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme for eradication of Tuberculosis from the UT by or before year 2025. He exhorted upon the officers to accord high priority to "Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat" as their prime duty towards citizens' welfare making this campaign a mass movement.

He directed the Director Health Services, Jammu and Kashmir to further intensify their efforts in registration of NI-KSHAY Mitras on the portal NI-kshay 2.0. He also emphasized upon the Program Officers to make consistent efforts in monitoring the TB case

notification and treatment besides ensuring real time reporting and community participation as key indicator.

Action points for strategic state plan were also discussed in the meeting, wherein both STOs were asked to submit proper targets and timelines against different indicators.

Secretary also directed for increasing TB testing in both the divisions of J&K so that maximum number of TB patients can be diagnosed and treated.

Among others the meeting was attended by Ayushi Sudan, Mission Director, NHM, J&K, Dr. Shashi Sudan, Principal, Government Medical College, Jammu, Dr. Saleem-Ur-Rehman, Director Health Services, Kashmir, State Tuberculosis Officer, Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Medical Officers, District Tuberculosis Officers, Programme Manager, NTEP, NHM, J&K while all out stationed officers and officials participated online.

DC Shopian Holds Weekly Block Diwas At Chitragram



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: To reach out to the people living in the rural areas of the district for addressing their day to day grievances, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vashiya on Wednesday presided over a Public Grievance Redressal Camp under weekly Block Diwas at Chitragram.

During the Grievance Redressal Camp, PRI representatives, Public delegations and scores of individuals projected various issues and demands before the DC including upgradation of local PHC and School, augmentation of water supply, uninterrupted power supply and other issues.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, the DC sought on spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp and assured the people of Chitragram and other areas that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be taken up with concerned authorities on priority.

The DC also gave on the spot directions to the concerned of-

ficers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said the purpose of holding such grievance redressal Camps is to take appraisal of local issues from the general public for precise redressal.

The DC also urged the local unemployed youth to come forward and take benefit from different Government self-employment schemes to earn a dignified livelihood for themselves and their family.

Later, the DC inspected the Cheera Dunj Bridge connecting Chitragram with Reban, Yari-pora, which collapsed due to recent heavy rains.

The DDC on the occasion directed the concerned executing agency, PMGSY for construction work of diversion immediately on war footing basis and for speeding up of the pace of work for the well-being of the people of the area who have great expectations with the Government and District Administration.

Besides members of local PRIs, the DC was accompanied by the Chief Planning Officer, Khurshid Ahmad Khatana, SDM Zainapora Mushtaq Ah-

DODA ACCIDENT

Body Of Youth Retrieved From Chenab, 3 Still Untraced



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The body of one of the four people, who were feared drowned after their car plunged into Chenab, was fished out from the river in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, a police official said.

The rescue-cum-search was launched at Shibnote-Karara along Batote-Kishtwar national highway following the accident around 7.30 pm Tuesday. Senior Superintendent of Police (Doda) Abdul Qayoom said.

The deceased was identified as Aditya Kotwal, the official said.

"After a day-long hectic search, the rescuers managed to recover one body this evening while the search for other three persons was continuing,"

he said.

He said the search operation was going on in full swing despite intermittent rains which lashed wide parts of the region.

SSP Qayoom and Doda Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan are supervising the operation which is being jointly carried out by the police, army and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).

River rafting experts from JK Adventures and specially trained local volunteers are also part of the rescue-cum-search operation, police officials said, adding after a night halt, the rescue operation resumed with the first light of the day.

Earlier, The officials said the district administration requested the National Hydroelectric Power Corpora-

tion (NHPC) to close down the dams so that the water flow in the river is lowered to speed up the operation.

"We responded immediately after the vehicle plunged into the river but the strong current at the scene of the accident proved an obstacle in carrying out the rescue operation," founder and chief executive officer of JK Adventures Sachin Singh Samyal said.

He said the adventure sports body had deployed its expert divers at the scene to help in locating the missing persons.

Kotwal along with Rohan Mangotra, Surjeet Singh and Vishal Chandel, all residents of Doda, were travelling to Kishtwar when their vehicle skidded off the road and fell into the river.

Timely, Inexpensive Justice Is Right Of Every Prisoner: Justice Magrey

Participates Programme At Amphalla Jail On National Legal Services Day

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey on Wednesday participated in a programme at district Jail Amphalla here to celebrate National Legal Services Day.

While speaking on the occasion, Justice Magrey emphasized that timely and inexpensive justice is the right of every prisoner and the Legal Services Institutions across the UTs of J&K and Ladakh are bound to provide competent and free legal aid to the prisoners. The Chief Justice interacted with the prisoners and assured them to redress their genuine grievances. The jail inmates presented a remarkable cultural performance.

The day is being observed as a part of the Pan India Campaigns: 'Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach' and 'Haq_humara_bhi_to_hai@75'.

The campaigns are meant to bridge the gap between the institutions and the underprivileged by spreading legal awareness and ensuring delivery of legal entitlements to eligible beneficiaries and for providing basic legal assistance to persons confined in prisons and child care institutions respectively to commemorate the 75th year of Independence.



The campaigns were launched by Dr. Justice D. Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India, the then Executive Chairman, NALSA on 31st October 2022.

And in this regard, J&K and Ladakh Legal Services Authorities under the dynamic leadership of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Patron-in-Chief, J&K and Ladakh Legal Services Authorities and under the guidance of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Executive Chairman, Ladakh Legal Services Authority, Legal Awareness Camps about the rights and remedies available to the prisoners were organized in all the jails and Child Care Institutions in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh to commemorate the National Legal Services Day.

During the campaign period numerous legal awareness programmes were organized as the field teams of the Legal Services

Institutions interacted one and one with the jail inmates to ensure that they are represented by a lawyer. The focus of the campaign is also to provide free legal counselling/assistance including drafting and filing of appropriate applications etc.

It was also ascertained that every prisoner is provided updated information regarding status of his case and facilitated communication with lawyers and helped them to contact with their family or friends physically or virtually.

In Child Care Institutions, for children in conflict with law, it was ascertained that the child is represented by a lawyer and also ensured that he is in contact with his/her guardian and was made aware of the status of his case.

The Campaign would conclude on November 13, 2022.

Pahalgam Hotelier Travels 70 Km To Return Tourist's Money

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A hotel owner from Pahalgam area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district travelled nearly 70 kilometres to return money to a tourist that he had forgotten in the hotel room in Pahalgam.

Abdul Wahid Wani, owner of Best view resort at Ladroo, Pahalgam returned over 19 thousand to the tourist that he had forgotten while leaving the hotel, reported news agency KNO.

Wahid said a tourist namely Ramesh Choudhary had stayed in his hotel and the next day his daughter came to clean the room and found Rs 19,700 there.

"We were waiting to return the money to the owner and on November 8, I received a call from



the tourist who had forgotten the money. I returned the money to him on the same day," he said.

Meanwhile, Ramesh who got his money back said that the hotel owner travelled 70 kilometres to return the lost money.

"I am very thankful to the man who returned my lost money," he added.

MC Chairman Langate Booked For Illegal Soil Excavation

Agencies

KUPWARA: Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday filed a case against Municipal Committee Chairman Langate in northern Kashmir for illegally excavating soil from the premises of a government school, officials said here.

The officials said that soon after Municipal Chairman, Langate Shahnawaz Abdullah was found responsible for illegally excavating soil from the premises of a government school, the police shortly took cognizance of the matter and filed an FIR against him.

He said that the police request the people not to indulge in any kind of illegal soil excavations as it is a violation of Government

rules. Persons found indulging in illegal mining activities shall be dealt as per law.

Regarding the same matter, the Department of Geology & Mining has also ordered a probe into the matter and the MC Chairman was slapped with a fine of 1.05.

Meanwhile, the locals said that illegal smuggling of soil excavation by the same accused was going on there for the past one week.

Earlier, after banning such activity the several officers including officials of revenue, police and administration visited the area and warns no one will be allowed to excavate the soil, however a few days later smugglers again started their activity—(KNO)

Samoon Reviews Progress On Formulation Of District Skill Development Plans

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the progress on formulation of District Skill Development Plans along with Panchayat level skill development plans and submission of job role demands (short term training) under PMKVY 4.0 for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principals of Polytechnic Colleges, senior officers of SDD and other allied departments. Secretary Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Deputy Commissioners of various districts, Mission Director JKSDM, Director SDD and other officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

While chairing the meeting, the Principal Secretary impressed upon the officers that a proper plan from each district should be formulated so that

trade wise plans can be developed. He said that the plans should commensurate with the needs of the industry and aspirations of the local youth.

He inquired about the District Skill Development Plan from every district and the way forward to achieve the desired results. He said that there is a need for convergence and our objective should be that maximum number of youth get benefited through skilling. He further asked the officers to work in coordination so that a proper plan in accordance with the provisions of each district can be formulated.

The Principal Secretary highlighted that the Skill training has a vast scope in Panchayat areas as large number of youth can be imparted training in various sectors and can be made self sufficient. He added that Skill planning from Panchayat Level will significantly help in reducing unemployment concerns of the youth.

BACK TO VILLAGE-IV

Prabhari Officers To Hold Follow Up Visits Of Panchayats From December 1-15

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday deployed the Visiting Officers of the just concluded Phase IV of 'Back to Village' Programme, as the Prabhari Officers for the concerned Panchayat(s) for the next one year or till decided otherwise.

The Visiting Officers had been nominated by the General Administration Department or by the Deputy Commissioners before the beginning of the Phase IV of the B2V programme across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to an order issued by the General Administrative Department, the Prabhari Officer(s) shall make quarterly physical follow up visits to the Panchayat(s) that he or she was allotted besides monthly virtual participation on First Monday of every month. The first follow up visit shall be held from December 1-15, 2022.

The Prabhari Officer shall guide and mentor the Panchayat(s), support and monitor all developmental activities and remove bottlenecks, if any, in the developmental process.

The Panchayat Prabhari shall ensure resolution of legitimate grievances and demands, and follow up on the several deliverables of the 'Back to Village' Programme.

The order has elaborated the deliverables as "Swachh Gram Programme saturation, dissemination of information regarding Jan Bhagidari, issuance of Land Passbooks, 100% saturation of Golden Cards, completion of pending inheritance mutations by the concerned Revenue officers, distribution of e-Shram cards among all eligible beneficiaries, 100% Aadhar Seeding/Penetration, rejuvenating self-employment across all Panchayats by facilitating interaction of eligible youth with concerned agencies/marketing awareness programmes, banks and other agencies/line departments,

progress on Jal Jeevan Mission, progress on Panchayat Paani Samitis, formation/activation of Panchayat Youth Clubs and progress achieved under Mission Amrit Sarovar.

The Prabhari Officer(s) shall lay special focus on 101 deliverables of various departments inter-alia priority areas mentioned above. They shall maintain a continuous liaison with the people of the Panchayat and facilitate appropriate communication between the Panchayat and local administration/line departments, ensuring redressal of grievances/issues locally.

All line departments shall extend cooperation to the Prabhari officers to their satisfaction. Any non-responsiveness/non cooperation by the representatives of line departments shall be reported to the concerned Sub-Divisional Magistrate/District Magistrate for appropriate action.

The government has ordered that the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati

Raj shall be the Nodal Department for coordinating the exercise, and shall devise an objective format/mechanism for monitoring the progress of the above deliverables.

According to the list of deliverables based on the order, distribution of Ayushman Bharat Golden Health Cards to all eligible beneficiaries shall be taken up in terms of ensuring 100% Aadhar Seeding/Penetration and usage of Aadhar for availing different Government services. Besides, Land Passbooks to be printed and issued to all landowners, inheritance Mutations all pending and current mutations to be attested by the revenue officers, promoting and encouraging self-employment across all Panchayats by facilitating interaction of eligible youth with concerned agencies, banks and line departments, creating awareness on different schemes for unemployed youth, identifying candidates for skill training under HIMAYAT and

skill development and ensuring that they are included for skill training under these schemes, ensuring that every Panchayat has a functional CSC and is supporting general public in accessing online schemes, creating awareness on Jan Bhagidari among PRIS and general public and all important information of schemes, online services and beneficiaries and other details to be painted in every Panchayat.

Similarly, Pani Samitis meetings to be held regularly in the Panchayat, field testing kits to be provided to the Panchayat Pani Samiti and trainings given besides water sufficiency and quality to be checked and certified and uploaded on portal Implement Swachh Gram Plans.

Other deliverables included conversion of UDID cards into Digital Format, distribution of e-Shram Cards among all eligible beneficiaries, ensuring that every Panchayat has one reasonable sized playground and that sports activities are conducted

there. In hilly areas or dispersed habitations, every mohra or sub village has a playground and presence of GRS, VLW, Panchayat Secretary shall be ensured in the Panchayat besides ensuring that their contact numbers are prominently displayed. Also, ensuring that Panchayat Ghar is functional, name and phone number of the Patwari/VLW and other officers is prominently painted, Amrit Sarovars to be completed in every Panchayat, formation and activation of Panchayat Youth Clubs, ensuring that Gram Sabha meetings with at least 50% attendance are held regularly and work plans are approved there, holding of Bal Sabhas and Mahila Sabhas, ensuring that all line departments regularly participate through their local/grass root level functionaries in Monday Meetings in Panchayats, ensuring that a Village Haat is established in every Village of the Panchayat, ensuring that all OLD AGE, WIDOW and DISABLED pensions

are sanctioned to every eligible beneficiary NOAPS/ISSS etc. likewise, ensuring that all out of school children are identified and brought back to school, ensuring that all demands, complaints and grievances raised during any B2V programme or any field visit are addressed and resolved, ensuring that all eligible children are supported by Anganwadis and that nutrition is provided, ensuring that basic infrastructure in terms of road, water and electricity is available and functional, ensuring that information about all government schemes is widely disseminated and that regular awareness and extension camps are conducted by different departments.

Meanwhile, by another order issued by General Administration Department, the government has directed different departments/agencies/ officers to complete tasks/achieve deliverables as a follow-up/way-forward for successful implementation of 'Back to Village' programme.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Climate Crisis

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres has warned the world leaders gathering in Egypt for the COP27 climate summit that mankind must choose between cooperating or committing "collective suicide" in the fight against global warming. Nearly 100 heads of state and government are assembling in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, where they are being urged to further reduce emissions and provide financial support to developing nations already suffering from the effects of global warming. "Humanity has a choice: cooperate or perish," Guterres told the summit on Monday.

This year the world has been buffeted by successive natural disasters that have taken thousands of lives and cost tens of billions of dollars. The countries such as Kenya, and Somalia witnessed droughts, Nigeria and Pakistan were wracked by devastating floods and vast swathes of the globe including the United States experienced unprecedented heatwaves. This has made people across the world understand the urgency of the creeping climate change and they want world leaders to act.

The Indian subcontinent is one of the worst-affected regions of the world. In recent years, the region has experienced the detrimental fallout of climate change. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh between them are home to around 1.7 billion people and any major disruption in the climate pattern could severely impact them. So, the three countries, as well as other countries in the region need to wake up and work toward a global response to the looming catastrophe.

To be sure, India has supported global action and initiatives to combat climate change. Addressing the COP26 summit last year at Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said 'one sun, one world, one grid' can be crucial to re-establishing the environmental balance.

A report last year by an UN-appointed panel warned of the far-reaching effects of climate change if no immediate measures were taken to remedy the damage already done. The report caused a global alarm after its release.

There is thus an urgent need for the world to come together and take remedial measures to preempt the catastrophe. In Kashmir too, climate change has led to considerable changes in weather patterns. Triggering alarm bells is the slowly shrinking glaciers that are the source of the Valley's water bodies. But the factors causing climate change are global in nature and so any effort to reverse the damage has to be backed by the world. And this should be done sooner than later. Time is running out fast.

OTHER OPINION

Muddying the waters

Brought by the Centre in 2019, this was challenged on the ground that it provides reservation only on the basis of economic criteria, excludes the poor among the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes/other backward castes, and breaches the 50% cap on reservation set by the apex court in its Indira Sawhney judgment. Given how research has shown that educational attainment, which is necessary for upward mobility, has a strong link with economic background than caste, the apex court is on the right track. For a long time now, there has been resentment among many general category constituents who are deprived of better education and job opportunities as they do not get the "benefit" of reservation. While the petitioners had argued that reservation was a tool for representation to address discrimination and not deprivation through financial upliftment, the apex court endorsed the view that reservation is affirmative action, available to disenfranchised groups.

The apex court was also right in calling for a sunset stipulation for reservation. Indeed, the Constitution itself, through Article 334, had envisioned a winding down of reservations accorded to the groups that had faced discrimination throughout history. After all, there is a defined sunset of 2030 for SC/ST reservations in legislatures. The entre and civil society activists need to build consensus on a similar end-date for SC/ST/OBC reservations under Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution. Reservation is neither an end in itself, as Justice JB Pardiwala reminds in the majority judgment, nor should it be allowed to become a "vested interest" furthering divisions through competitive caste politics.

However, the apex court's verdict that the EWS quota doesn't violate the basic structure of the Constitution on the 50% cap on reservations will muddy the waters for a long time to come. Indira Sawhney had set a "Lakshman rekha" for the quantum of reservation that could be given, with a provision for exception in "extraordinary circumstances". But the states' trigger-happy use of the exception provision has meant that Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, to name a few, have already breached the cap. Indeed, the Supreme Court, when it declared Maharashtra's Maratha reservation law "unconstitutional", had said that it didn't find any substance "to revisit the Indira Sawhney judgment or referring it to a larger bench. The judgment has been upheld by at least four Constitution Benches". So, the latest SC view has the potential to open the flood gates for a never-ending race on providing more reservations. If the government goes ahead and argues in favour of creating a category of reservations beyond the 50% cap, it will compromise merit as the opportunities for those left in the non-reserved general category will shrink further. The other point that needs to be looked into is the setting of an annual family income of ₹8 lakh as a ceiling to determine if someone belongs to the EWS category. A government-appointed committee had submitted that this ceiling was reasonable, but it could not adequately explain how the income criterion was arrived at.

Financial Express

Amber Rahim Shamsi

Arrayed on the side of evil is the current political set-up – a coalition of parties representing the old guard and the military establishment – who removed him from power allegedly at the behest of the US

On The Edge

Pakistan is on the edge, Imran Khan's shooting could tip it over



It was foreshadowed.

Thursday's assassination attempt on former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was shocking, if not surprising. In a rally in his home constituency of Mianwali in early October, he had asserted that he had information of a plan to kill him. If it were to happen, a video revealing those names would be released, he said, adding that the motive would be religious.

He blamed Maryam Nawaz, daughter of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) chief Nawaz Sharif and niece of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and other leaders from her party of accusing him of blasphemy. In Pakistan, the mere whisper of blasphemy can carry an executioner's sword.

A confessional video of the alleged gunman on Thursday, Naveed Ahmed, appears to support Khan's accusation. A resident of the area where the rally was attacked, he offered no remorse, instead regretting that he did not manage to kill Khan, who received a bullet wound to his leg.

"Imran Khan thinks he is the Prophet," Ahmed said. On his phone reportedly were videos of the leader of the extreme-right political party Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP). The TLP has weaponised blasphemy for votes and protests, with assassinations embedded in its DNA.

The TLP's icon is Mumtaz Qadri, who shot dead the governor of the Punjab Salman Taseer in 2011. Taseer had been publicly campaigning for a presidential pardon for a Christian woman Asia Bibi, who was on death row after being convicted of blasphemy. When Qadri was executed for assassinating Taseer, the massive crowds at his funeral portended the subsequent rise of the TLP.

But the story of Thursday's firing did not start with Ahmed: it's murkier than it seems.

Before the 2018 election that brought Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to power, it was the PMLN — in power then and now — that was being peppered with accusations of blasphemy over a law that had been passed in parliament.

The TLP had held protests, while Imran Khan and his party leaders cheered and egged on protesters from the sidelines. Just before elections, the PMLN's Ahsan Iqbal, a former interior minister, survived an assassination attempt. The accused was allegedly affiliated with the TLP. When I followed the campaign trail in central Punjab,

PTI leaders were continuing to play the religion card against their rivals even after the shooting.

Indeed, the TLP has mainstreamed both blasphemy and the rightward shift of major parties. Religion sells in Pakistan, on TV, at the mall, and at the polling booth. More worrying is that it isn't right-wing parties — which have effective street power but limited electoral power — that are cashing in, but more mainstream ones such as PTI and PMLN.

Khan himself has used religion effectively on the comeback trail after he was ousted from power through a parliamentary vote in April by a coalition of parties led by the PMLN and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). He has framed his struggle to return to power as a jihad, a battle between good and evil.

Arrayed on the side of evil is the current political set-up — a coalition of parties representing the old guard and the military establishment — who removed him from power allegedly at the behest of the US.

Khan's recipe of victimhood — a dollop of righteousness, a sprinkling of anti-Americanism, a dash of nationalism and a spoonful of corruption allegations against his opponents — is being lapped up by a fiercely loyal supporter base, young voters and fence-sitters. He has pulled in the votes in by-elections, and the crowds at rallies across Pakistan. Indeed, the PTI and Khan have been able to resurrect themselves after an unpopular turn in government.

Khan was on day seven of his long march to push the military establishment and government to call elections, when he was shot. With inflation at eye-watering levels and no story of hope or hate to tell, the current government and the powerful military have been unable to dent his rising popularity.

The march coincides with the likely announcement of a new army chief this month. That's no coincidence. Khan has said he doesn't think the current leadership has the moral standing to appoint the head of the most powerful institution in Pakistan.

He has also accused members of the top and mid-tier military brass of being traitors for supporting the "crooks" in power and ordering the torture of key aides. But he held off announcing a march during back-channel talks with the army under General Qamar Javed Bajwa, who is on an extension in his tenure.

Khan's subsequent announcement of the march indicated that those talks had broken down. It was clear that the focus of Khan's onslaught had shifted from the usual political rivals, to also include his former benefactors — the military.

Although Khan's playbook is new in Pakistan, his falling out with the military establishment that helped him to power in 2018, and the questions around the assassination attempt against him follow all-too-familiar patterns.

Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's repeated fallouts with the military have led to a coup and two exiles. Benazir Bhutto was removed from power several times with the assistance of the military. She also accused former military dictator Pervez Musharraf of threatening her prior to her return to Pakistan and subsequent assassination. While Bhutto's killers were allegedly the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Musharraf acknowledged potential state involvement in her death. He was declared a fugitive in her murder case. The subsequent investigation smacked of a cover-up.

Since the attempt on Khan's life, there have been pockets of protests across Pakistan, most notably in front of the Peshawar Corps commander's residence. In a video message on behalf of Imran Khan, senior PTI leader Asad Umar accused a serving general of being behind the attack, as well as Shehbaz Sharif, the current prime minister. PTI's former information minister Fawad Chaudhry has called for revenge. Khan may no longer have the army on his side, but he certainly has both popular support and a wave of sympathy, and his party seems to be looking to press the advantage.

Pakistan is on the edge — of something old and something new. In this tinderbox of religion, hate, populism, an unequal civil-military relationship and poor governance, one tiny spark could also mean more violence. Perhaps it was foreshadowed.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Al Jazeera

The author is a political commentator and director of the Centre of Excellence in Journalism at the IBA University, Karachi



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

AI Becoming a Boon in Cardiology

Researchers found that clinicians who most frequently followed an Artificial intelligence (AI) tool's recommendations were twice as likely to diagnose low ejection fraction (EF) perfectly, a sign that the heart is not functioning as well as it should. AI is poised to revolutionize medicine. AI can fill in any gaps in prior clinical experience. Promoting early detection, timely treatment,

and proper referral procedures in primary care can be greatly aided by this. It is evident that those that are able to employ AI effectively can increase their diagnostic precision and deliver superior patient care. Since AI is still in its infancy, the tools developed will undoubtedly advance in the coming years to assist physicians in determining whether a patient has a cardiac condition or a problem with their

heart's function. Most patients approach the doctor when they have symptoms like heaviness in the chest or difficulty in breathing — AI will diagnose heart conditions before the symptoms start prompting early treatment as per study. AI Technology will help doctors diagnose patients way before symptoms start and this will help in future according to research. With recent developments, the widespread

use of electronic health records, and the capacity to apply machine learning to this large data store, it is now conceivable to employ AI to enhance the precision of diagnoses and fine-tune treatment regimens. AI systems will be easy for busy caregivers to use.

Vijay Kumar
hkvmkmech@gmail.com

Kashmir Out of Valley

In Winters, When My Father Wears Pheran, People Get Very Curious About His Attire. They Sometimes Say, ‘We Were Waiting For You To Wear It This Season.’

Mrinal Pathak

Dyuti Raina, a resident of Uttam Nagar in Delhi, lives in a cluster for a reason. “It might help us in preserving our culture,” she says. Kashmiris living outside Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) have preserved their culture in the toughest of times. Be it unwanted circumstances or the desire for better economic opportunities, Kashmiris away from their land are fighting for their identity.

“It may sound stereotypical,” Dyuti says, “but one thing is for sure that one can take Kashmiris out of Kashmir, but not Kashmir out of Kashmiris.”

There are only two Kashmiri families living other than hers in the same locality. Dyuti’s family has been living in Delhi for the last 30 years and she believes that people still do not know much about their culture. “For them,” she says, “we are just Pandits from Kashmir whom they assume to be vegetarians.”

A majority of Kashmiri Pandits are followers of Shaivism and are non-vegetarians. KPs have very different cultural practices from the people living in other parts of the country when it comes to culture and religious practices.

Dyuti still remembers an incident when one of her friends gave her a strange look while she was having fish and mutton in Prasad (an item served after pooja).

“Hindus here find it very amusing,” she says. “They say, ‘Oh my god! You call yourselves Brahmins?’” She opines that the Kashmiri Pandits living outside J&K are often stereotyped.

A good number of Kashmiri Pandits who migrated to other states believe that they are living here just for survival and the actual place where they belong, is Kashmir.

Giving an example of Pamposh Enclave, a Delhi neighbourhood largely dominated by Kashmir Pandits, Dyuti strongly believes that if Kashmiri migrants live together in large clusters, they can sustain their culture and rituals.

The thing that disturbs her the most is that many Kashmiri Pandits of her generation are drifting away from their culture



and language. “A good number of KPs are trying to instill Kashmiri values in their children, but I wonder if the same continues with the next generation.”

Other than Pamposh and a few colonies in Faridabad, many Kashmiri migrants are scattered in different parts of Delhi and its neighboring cities.

Shriya Bhat’s family has been living in Noida for many years and they never faced any resistance from non-Kashmiris for following their rituals and customs. “I personally have never faced such a situation,” he says.

Shriya agrees with Dyuti that living together might help the migrants to inculcate

their cultural values, but her parents have always tried to adhere to the traditional practices of their community.

“Some people are indifferent,” he says, “but at the same time many people are curious also, to know about our culture.”

Shriya’s family has been living outside J&K for almost three decades now. “My parents tell me that many people used to have a lot of red meat when they were in Kashmir, but now because of different climatic conditions, people do not eat red meat very often.”

While talking about her family’s style of living, Shriya adds a pinch of humour. “In winters, when my father wears pheran,

people get very curious about his attire. They sometimes say, ‘We were waiting for you to wear it this season.’”

Talking of carrying forward the culture and language to the coming generation, he says the surrounding matters a lot. “I have been to Kashmir a couple of times and everyone speaks Kashmiri there, which is not the case here in the National Capital Region (NCR).”

Apart from Kashmiri Pandits, many Kashmiri Muslims are also living in other states of India for many years.

Nayaab Shahir left Kashmir in 2000 and settled in the NCR when he was just two years old. “Initially,” he says, “we used to

live in Daryaganj (a suburb in Old Delhi), it was a Muslim dominated area and my family witnessed a huge cultural amalgamation there. My father tells me that they used to have very simple Iftaar back in Kashmir, but now my family prepares iftaari just like people do here.”

For Nayaab, Kashmir is still a home away from home. He regularly visits his native hometown with his family. He asserts that Kashmir is very rich in culture and cuisine. “There are few things you can only get in Kashmir, such as Kashmiri Saag.”

Though his family has adapted to the environment here, their heart still lies in Kashmir. Similarly, a community that equally belongs to Kashmir and is still lesser known, is the community of Kashmiri Sikhs.

Navneet Kaur belongs to a Kashmiri Sikh family but was born and brought up in Punjabi Bagh area of Delhi. Although Kaur has never been to Kashmir, she gets nostalgic when she hears anyone talking about the place.

“Whenever my father comes across a Kashmiri, an end to end grin appears on his face,” she says cheerfully. “You can clearly see the never ending-bond of Kashmiriyat which is still intact.”

This brethren feeling binds all and sundry living outside their homeland. Not only they cherish their culture, but celebrate their unique identity, especially on the special occasions and festivals.

Faisal Wangnool is living in Delhi since 1999 with his family. While he calls himself a Delhi boy, inside he is still a Kashmiri Delhi wala.

Apart from nostalgia, Faisal believes that there are many stereotypes attached to Kashmiris living outside Kashmir. “People ask me about Kashmir as if I am still living there.”

Faisal is of the view that a large number of young Kashmiris are moving out of J&K in search of better opportunities and livelihood. But the shift is not always easy, especially for a Kashmiri.

“But it’s the Kashmiriyat that has helped the Kashmiris living outside Kashmir in preserving their culture,” he says. “The art and values which are integral to our culture are driving us, even outside Kashmir.”

Threat to Kashmir Fish

Nonindigenous species are posing a threat to the native fish of Kashmir.

Swati Joshi

Kashmir houses a plethora of rivers, lakes, and fast running streams. An angler’s paradise, the valley is gifted with the alluring water bodies like Dal Lake, Wular Lake, Nageen Lake, Indus, Jhelum and snow-fed streams like the Sindh, Hipora, Aripal.

Kashmir provides ample opportunities for the development of fisheries. Fishing is a big business in Kashmir through spring and summer. Several species of fish like Schizothorax, Oreinus, Glyptothorax are characteristically Palearctic fish that have reached Kashmir across the Himalayas. Palearctic region comprises of terrestrial ecoregions of Europe, northern Himalayas in Asia, northern Africa and central parts of the Arabian Peninsula.

Johann Jakob Heckel, an Australian zoologist, found out that no fish of Indian plains could reach the valley since they have to cross through 30-miles of rapids and rocky gorges, concluding that the fish in the valley is completely different from the rest of India.

Schizothoracine fish or snow trouts locally known as Alegad inhabit both lentic (standing) and lotic (flowing) water bodies of Kashmir. Five species of snow trouts are present in the valley which include Schizothorax esocinus (Chirru), Schizothorax curvifrons (Satter gad), Schizothorax niger, Schizothorax plaegostomus and Schizothorax labiatus.

The endemic fish have elongated and subcylindrical fleshy bodies and are known to be tastier and free of diseases. A pollution-free water body is characterized by the presence of snowtrouts.

Sunder Lal Hora, an ichthyologist, found out in his study that the origin and evolution of Schizothoracine occurred during the first interglacial period when turbulent streams were formed in Central Asia on account of the melting of ice.

In recent years Alegad has seen a rapid depletion in the valley. Heckel who visited Kashmir in 1838 reported 16 species of snowtrouts but at present only five species of the fish are found in the valley.

Several man-made factors are responsible for the deterioration of the endemic species.

An internal study conducted by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun reported by Times of India has revealed, “Climate change will affect around 150 native fish species of the Himalayan states, including Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh.” Common snow trout, found in the Hima-

layan region and much sought after as a food fish, alone would lose around 21% of its existing space of 16,251 square kilometers, adds the study.

Brown trout introduced by the Britishers in Jammu & Kashmir in 1860 for fishing sports, has turned out to be a consequential threat to the snowtrouts. The nonindigenous breed is carnivorous and is found at high altitude in cold water unlike the endemic species which is

herbivores and is found in cool water in mild altitude.

The increasing temperature forces Schizothorax niger move upward in search of food and that causes the conflict between the two species. The eggs and young ones of the snowtrouts become easy targets for the brown trout.

The introduction of exotic species like carp having prolific breeding, in Kashmir valley has resulted in a sharp decline of the native species. Carp was introduced in Kashmir in 1959 to accelerate fish yield, since then it has become the major commercial fish in the valley.

Excessive use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers by the farmers results in eutrophication that is another major cause of the declining number of Alegad.

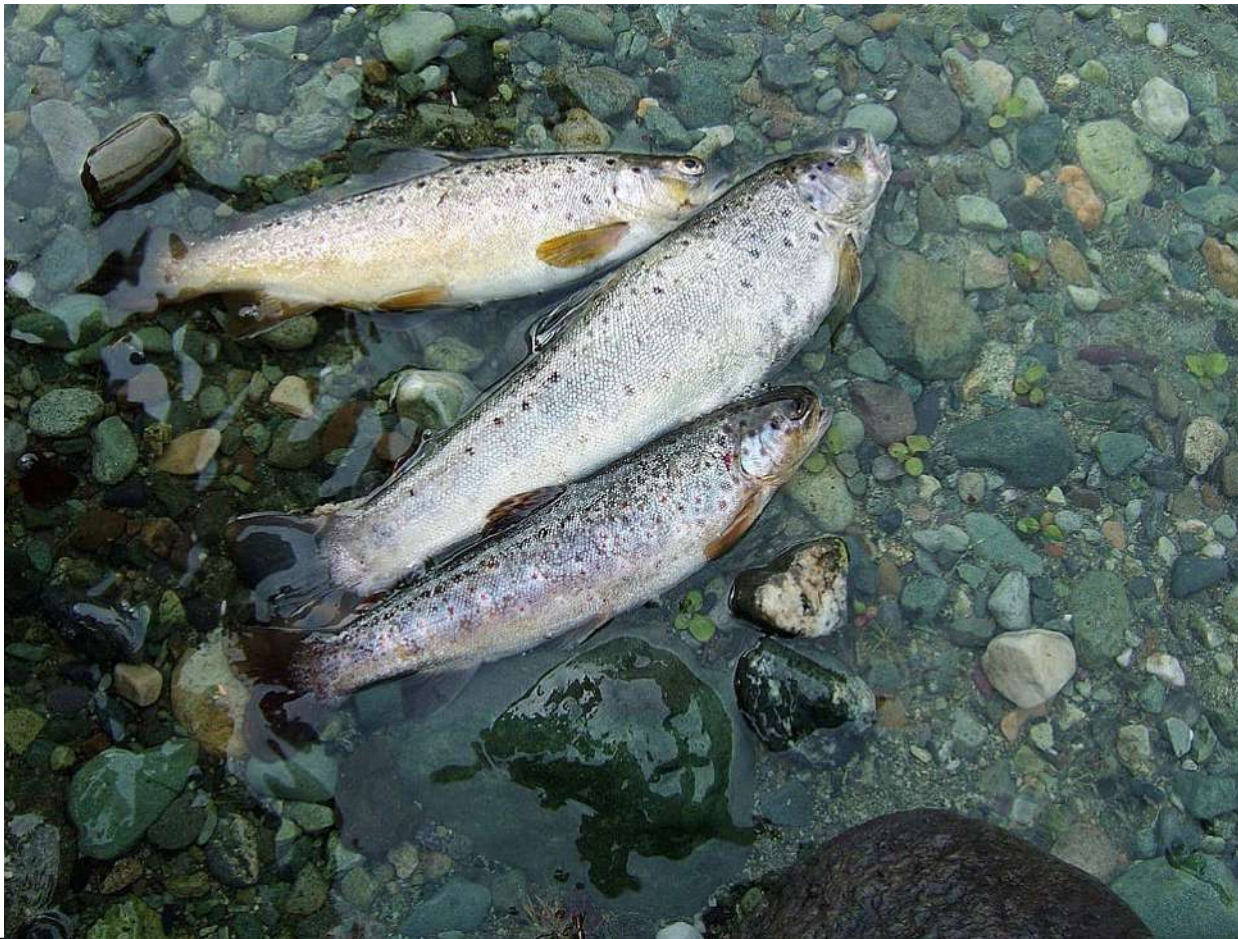
Eutrophication is the excessive growth of nutrients on the surface of the water body which causes a dense growth of algae, blocking the sunlight from reaching the aquatic flora and fauna.

Schizothoracine which survives in clean water finds it difficult to accommodate in such conditions resulting in heavy loss of the species.

Also, due to deforestation, a significant amount of eroded soil has entered the water bodies and destroyed the breeding ground for the fish.

During the spring season, lakes, rivers, and streams have an abundance of water due to the unprecedented melting of glaciers as a result of global warming.

The fish try to go upstream and lay their eggs in shallow areas during spawning. Once the melting stops the water level decreases and the fingerlings are trapped, finding it difficult to go back to the mainstream.



Instagram To Introduce 'Schedule Posts' And New Web Design

Meta-owned Instagram has announced that it will roll out a new 'Schedule Posts' feature and a new website design for better user experience.

Adam Mosseri, head of Instagram, made the announcement on his Twitter account by posting a video, explaining the new feature and update.

'Schedule Posts' will allow the creators to schedule their posts for the next 75 days.

The new feature will soon be available to the creators. The second announcement Mosseri made was the redesigned website.

"We know a lot of people use the web to multitask and we wanted to make sure Instagram



was as great an experience as possible online," said Mosseri.

"So it is cleaner, faster, easier to use and it is designed now to take advantage of large screen monitors," he added.

Earlier, the social media platform had rolled out new features to protect users from abuse, along with updates to Hidden Words.

If you block someone, you have the option to block additional accounts they might have to make it more difficult for them to connect with you again, the company said.

'Hidden Words' is an effective tool to automatically remove damaging content from message requests and comments.

Twitter Job Cuts

What Are Digital Layoffs And What Do They Mean For Employees And Companies?

The Conversation

Elon Musk is progressing plans to slim down Twitter since he bought the 396 million-member platform for USD 44 billion (38 billion euros) on October 27.

Musk's deal has taken Twitter private, dissolved the platform's board and enhanced his unilateral power as CEO. But mass redundancy announcements made since he took control have been scrutinised globally.

Musk's plans to restructure Twitter began with laying off top executives, before notifications were emailed to around half of the Twitter global workforce that they were being made redundant or that their jobs were at risk.

In a memo to staff, Musk defended the firings as "an effort to place Twitter on a healthy path" and "unfortunately necessary to ensure the company's success moving forward".

The widely reported memo also informed employees that they would find out their fate by email. It said: Given the nature of our distributed workforce and our desire to inform impacted individuals as quickly as possible, communications for this process will take place via email.

But tweets by some employees showed they found out before the email arrived when they could not access their work accounts or other internal systems. And a class action lawsuit filed in the US on November 3 claims Twitter locked employees out of their accounts, with at least one of the five plaintiffs being "terminated without notice or severance pay", according to news reports.

Digital layoffs

Dismissing staff in this way seems impersonal, blunt and lacking in compassion.

Certainly in Ireland, the home of Twitter's European headquarters, the Taoiseach (prime minister of Ireland) has called out Twitter's actions as "unacceptable" and pointed out that workers should be treated with dignity and respect.

Unfortunately, Twitter's approach resembles strategies adopted by a



growing number of companies in recent years. Klarna, a Swedish financial technology company sent a prerecorded message to inform employees of 700 layoffs last May, while P and O ferries dismissed 800 staff over Zoom in March.

Mortgage company Better.com made 900 employees redundant by Zoom in 2021, a year after electric scooter company Bird used a Zoom webinar to dismiss more than 400 workers.

Twitter operates globally and employment regulation varies between countries, and even among states in the US. Indeed, the communications sent to Twitter employees differed depending on where they were based.

In the US, the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act requires employers with 100 or more employees to provide workers with 60 days' notice for mass sackings.

Alternatively, employers can provide workers with 60 days of redundancy pay. After Twitter employees filed their lawsuit in California on November 3, Musk tweeted the following night that every dismissed employee will be offered three months of severance pay.

Twitter is also expected to provide advance warnings of mass redundancies to California's Employment Development Department. A representative for the agency told the New York

Times that no warning had been given by the evening of November 3.

Under UK and EU law, companies must consult with staff over mass redundancies. This may explain why Twitter employees in the UK and Ireland are reported to have received a slightly differently worded email informing them that their job is "potentially" impacted or "at risk".

An email sent to UK employees on Friday November 4 said they had until 9 am the following Tuesday to nominate someone to represent them in a formal consultation.

Twitter has notified employees in Ireland that they should also nominate employee representatives to engage in a formal consultation process.

Twitter did not respond to requests for comment on this process or about its communications with employees concerning these redundancies.

Reputational risk

With this level of uncertainty, it's not surprising that some Twitter employees have been joining unions ahead of the redundancies. In the UK, Prospect is representing at least some Twitter employees and says it will support members to defend their livelihoods.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions has argued the case highlights the need for workers across industries to have

better opportunities and rights to join unions as a form of collective voice.

Similarly, the United Nations, which advocates for "decent work and economic growth", has even felt compelled to comment following Musk's acquisition of Twitter.

The UN's high commissioner for human rights, Volker Türk, issued an open letter urging Musk to ensure that human rights are integral to the management of Twitter under his leadership, saying: Reports that Twitter's entire human rights team and all but two of its ethical AI team have been fired this week are not from my perspective an encouraging start.

Civil society groups and alliances were already concerned about the direction Twitter may take following its takeover. Musk has called out "activist groups" for supposedly pressurising advertisers to stop working with Twitter.

Pfizer, General Mills and Volkswagen are some of the companies that have recently paused their advertising on the platform. Others may follow after the redundancy announcements.

Twitter users have also already been moving to alternative social media platforms, and this kind of migration could continue following news of the mass job cuts. One such alternative, Irish microblogging site Mastodon, claims more than 230,000 people have moved to it since Twitter's takeover deal.

Worried about digital layoffs?

The Twitter chaos certainly seems to be far from over, with reports indicating that the company is now asking some dismissed employees to return to work.

Redundancies have risen sharply right across the tech sector in recent months, with firms including Facebook owner Meta and payments company Stripe recently announcing job cuts, although not all have implemented digital layoffs.

If you face redundancy – whether digitally or face to face – it's important to know your rights. Unions can provide information about this and can also support and represent employees before and after redundancies are announced.

How A SARS-CoV-2 Virus Protein Damages The Heart, Study Finds

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have identified the mechanism behind how SARS-CoV-2 virus damages the heart tissue.

People infected with COVID-19 are at a significantly higher risk for developing inflammation of the heart muscle, abnormal heart rhythms, blood clots, stroke, heart attacks, and heart failure for at least a year after infection, compared to those who have not been infected with the virus, said the study.

The scientists, who are from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, US, then used a drug to reverse the toxic effects of the SARS-CoV-2 virus protein on the heart.

"Our research shows that individual SARS-CoV-2 proteins can each do major damage to specific tissues in the body similar to what has been found for other viruses like HIV and Zika," said senior author Zhe Han.

Their findings, based on research with fruit flies and mouse heart cells, were published in Nature Communications Biology.

Although scientists around the world rapidly developed vaccines and medications to lessen the severity of COVID-19 disease, the study said that these therapies did not protect the heart or other organs from the damage that could be done by even a mild infection.

"To treat patients in the long run, we must first understand the mechanism behind what is causing the disease. By identifying these processes of injury in each tissue, we can test drugs to see whether any can reverse this damage; those drugs that show promise can then be further tested in clinical research studies," Han said.

Last year, Han and his team identified the most toxic SARS-CoV-2 proteins in studies using fruit flies and human cells. They found a drug 'selinexor' reduced the toxicity of one of these proteins, but not the other one, known as Nsp6, according to the study.

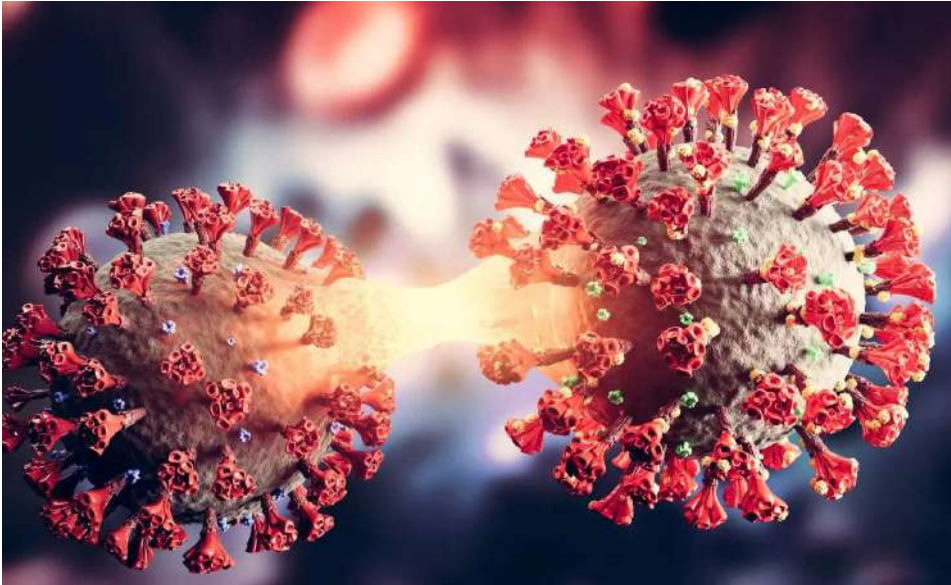
In their latest study, they found that Nsp6, turned out to be the most toxic SARS-CoV-2 protein in the fly heart.

Next, the study said, they found that the Nsp6 protein hijacked the fruit fly's cells in its heart to turn on the glycolysis process, which enables cells to burn the sugar glucose for energy. Typically, heart cells use fatty acids as an energy source, but switch over to sugar metabolism during heart failure as these cells to try to repair the dam-

aged tissue.

The researchers also found the Nsp6 protein did added damage by disrupting the cell's powerhouse, called the mitochondria, which produces energy from sugar metabolism, according to the study.

The team then blocked sugar metabolism in fruit flies and mouse heart cells using the drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2DG). They found that the drug reduced the heart and mitochondria damage caused by the Nsp6 viral protein, the study said.



Our research shows that individual SARS-CoV-2 proteins can each do major damage to specific tissues in the body similar to what has been found for other viruses like HIV and Zika

"We know that some viruses hijack the infected animal's cell machinery to change its metabolism to steal the cell's energy source, so we suspect SARS-CoV-2 does something similar. The viruses can also use the byproducts of sugar metabolism as building blocks to make more viruses," Han said.


"So, we predict this drug that changes the metabolism in the heart back to what it was before infection would be bad for the virus, by both cutting off its energy supply and eliminating the pieces it needs to repli-

cate," Han said.

The researchers said that fortunately 2DG is inexpensive and is used regularly in laboratory research. Although 2DG has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat disease, the drug is currently in clinical trials for treatment of COVID-19 in India, the study said.

"Too many Americans who have recovered from COVID wind up with dangerous heart conditions weeks or months later, and we need to learn the fundamental reasons for why this is happening," said Mark T. Gladwin, Vice President for Medical Affairs at University of Maryland.

"With this research elucidating the pathways of the Nsp6 protein, we can refine the treatments we target for future research with the ultimate aim of reversing further heart damage in these patients."



J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Board Secretariat
Corporate Headquarters
M. A. Road, Srinagar – 190 001
Tel: (0194) 2481930-35 ; Fax: (0194) 2481928
Visit us at: www.jkbank.com
Email: sharedept_jc@jkbank.com
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the certificates in respect of the under - mentioned shares of J&K Bank have been lost/misplaced and the holders of the said shares have applied to J&K Bank Ltd/ M/s KFin Technologies Ltd. (Share Transfer Agent) for issue of Duplicate Share Certificates.

S. No	Name of the Shareholder	Folio No.	Certificate No.	Distinctive No.s	No of Shares	Address
1.	Mohammad Youf Rangrez	JKB026676	505819	11001301-11002300	1000	Near Sub District Hospital, Seer Hamdan, Seer Kanil Gund, Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir-192129.
2.	Basharat Ahmad Dar	JKB026914	506274	11958731-11959730	1000	R/o Ashnoor Noorabad, The Kulgam, Anantnag, Kashmir-192233.

The Public is hereby warned against purchasing or dealing in any way with above share Certificate(s).Any Person(s) who has/have any claim(s)/objection in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim(s)/objection with the Bank at the Corporate Headquarters, M. A. Road, Srinagar/Share Transfer Agent at the address given below, within fifteen days from the date of Publication of this notice, after which no claim(s) will be entertained and the Bank/Share Transfer Agent will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates.

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited
Board Secretariat
Corporate Headquarters
M. A. Road, Srinagar - 190 001, Kashmir

Share Transfer Agent
M/s KFin Technologies Ltd.
Selenium Tower B, Plot 31 & 32
Financial District, Manakramguda
Serlingampally Mandal
Hyderabad 500 032

For Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Ref. No.: 7/2022-23

DIPK-NB-4849/22

Place: Srinagar
Date: 09th November, 2022

Sd/-
(Mohammad Shafi Mir)
Company Secretary



UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer,
Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage (%age) basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/U.T/ Central Governments for the following works

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (In Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Conversion of Corridor part into Store Room and allied minor repair works in the Department of Zoology	2.03Lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.4,060/-	03-11-2022 to 15-11-2022 (6.00 PM)	16-11-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net/ / www.jktenders.gov.in.

NIT No: - F(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/50/22
DATED: 09/11/22.

DIPK-NB-4846/22

Executive Engineer

Dulloo Reviews ODOP Scheme, Status Of Lumpy Skin Disease In J&K



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo Wednesday reviewed the progress under the Prime Ministers Formalization of Micro Food Enterprises (PMFME), One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of Agriculture Production Department in hybrid mode, besides the District Nodal Officers, District Resource Persons and Representatives of Financial Institutions of J&K Bank.

Special Secretary Agriculture Production Department (State Nodal Officer), Mohammad Farooq Dar gave a detailed presentation during the meeting wherein it was informed that 437 applications were submitted of which loans in 102 cases amounting to Rs 964 lakh has been sanctioned by J&K Bank and other financial institutions in favour of the Food Processing Entrepreneurs.

He also gave the details of capacity building initiatives taken by SNA for the beneficiaries and also the details of the promotional activities to be undertaken were also shared.

Additional Chief Secretary

directed that the District Nodal Officers/ DRPs shall ensure submission of at least 10 applications per month and sanction of at least 5 cases per district from the Financial Institutions in order to meet aggregate target of 552 set by the Ministry of Food Processing Industry Govt. of India (MoFPI).

Dulloo instructed that all District Nodal Officers and lead Bank Managers shall be held accountable for sanction of loans. It was also informed in the meeting that the District Nodal Officers are facing challenges with respect to sanction of loans from the JK Bank and other Financial Institutions.

He asked the bank representatives and DNOs of Reasi and Udhampur to submit the details of cases to the State Nodal Agency, which have been rejected by the Banks for detailed analysis and taking corrective measures.

The ACS was also directed to JKHMP and JKAGROS to ensure implementation/setting up of Common Incubation Center for Honey in Ramban and two Common Infrastructures, one each at Chadoora, Budgam and Samba for Jammu Division after proper and due diligence with respect to new guidelines issued by the Ministry in this regard.

J&K Can Become The Hub Of Agri-Tech Startups & Benefit From Its Immense Biodiversity: Jitendra Singh

Inaugurates three-day Kashmir Expo Start-up for Livelihood event

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh Wednesday said that Jammu and Kashmir has a huge potential of becoming the hub of agri-tech startups and technology can value add to the products from the region with its immense biodiversity.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the three day 'Kashmir Expo Start-ups for Livelihood' on Wednesday at Srinagar.

The expo is being organized under the aegis of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India in association with National Innovation Foundation-India. In this three-day exhibition, youth who have started with innovation in various fields will also come to display their products, technology, and services.

Dr. Singh highlighted major sectors like agriculture, biomedical engineering, telemedicine and so on that can be the prime focus areas for startups in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and said that the area is fast evolving. He added that it is pertinent to inspire entrepreneurial brains by making the youth aware of the government support available to them based on their talent so that they can generate their own earning opportunities and become job creators. Bamboo



grown in the state can be converted to several useful products including incense sticks (aggarbatti), while the shelf life of fruits like apples strawberries can be increased with innovative technologies", he added.

The inauguration of the three-day event, which is the first-ever startup expo organised in Kashmir valley, was attended by a large number of Vice Chancellors, educators, entrepreneurs, government officials, scientists, and other stakeholders and can go a long way to encourage youth towards a vibrant startup culture in the Union Territory (UT).

"Since the launch of the Startup India initiative by the Prime Minister on 16th January 2016, the Indian ecosystem has grown to become the 3rd largest in the world. The 30 States and UTs with their own dedicated startup policies can go a long way to take the country to new heights," Dr Singh stressed.

The Union Minister pointed out that J&K's startup policy focuses on encouraging women-led startups by offering unique incentives, establishing a complete complaint-handling system for startups, and creating entrepreneurial knowledge cells at higher education institutions to foster the entrepreneurial spirit and assist student entrepreneurs and these steps can help boost the startup movement and increase the number of startups in the UT.

"India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing innovation ecosystems over the last decade. While most of the countries seem to follow an obvious innovation trend that is proportional to the development levels, India seems to have evolved as an exception," he added. "India has climbed to the 40th rank in the global innovation index from the 81st position. This is a huge leap of 41 places in 7 years," Dr. Singh stressed.

Director Agri Monitors Physical & Financial Progress On Implementation Of CSSs



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To review the physical and financial progress on the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes (CSSs) and capex budget (Scheme wise/district wise), the Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Wednesday chaired a meeting of officers at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi, here.

Addressing the meeting, the Director highlighted the importance of effective and timely utilization of funds for the welfare and wellbeing of the farming community of the region. He asked the officers to maintain accountability and transparency during all the levels of expenditures and submit the utilization certificate immediately on all the schemes.

While talking about the different initiatives by the department, the Director impressed upon the officers to put in all the efforts for the successful

implementation of farmers friendly schemes. He asked the officers to evolve new concepts and innovations by adopting new cropping systems in the potential areas so that the productivity could be enhanced.

Iqbal asked the officers to reach out to the farmers of the far flung areas and make them aware about the latest farmers centric technology related to the development of the Agriculture sector. He marked the role of Panchayat Raj institutions and asked the officers to work in close coordination with the representatives of PRI's, block development councils and district development councils so that different Centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) and flagship programmes could reach the grass roots level in a more effective manner and contribute to the transformation of rural economy.

Earlier, the Director was apprised of the expenditures and progress on the implementation of different centrally sponsored schemes.

JKTPO Facilitates Participation Of Agri Based Product Sellers From J&K

Observer News Service

CHANDIGARH: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) organized the participation of 30 strong contingent of Agri and Agri based products sellers from Jammu & Kashmir in the CII Agro Tech India 2022, the premier Agri & Food Technology Fair of India. It worked as an ideal interactive platform between the Farm Producers and the Agro Industry, creating linkages for value creation and value addition.

The event was inaugurated in the honored presence of Jagdeep Dhankar, Vice President of India. It saw participation of hundreds of exhibitors from across the world, with display of state-of-the-art equipment & Technology, innovation and best practices, providing a deeper insight into Indian Agri industries and shaping the way of its growth.

The event has provided an excellent platform to the budding and established entrepreneurs of J&K in terms of improved product visibility, high on spot sale, opportunity for synergetic collabora-



tions, market and competitor knowledge, insights into best practices of business and use of technology in business development.

Stalls in the J&K Pavilion are witnessing tremendous footfall, fascinating the customers through their offering of a unique range of products. The brand J&K has found excellent acceptability among the visitors boosted by the authenticity and uniqueness of products.

Our exhibitors comprised of start-ups, FPOs, and individual sellers and came with a wide range of products with special focus on ODOP products from J&K. The products included honey, saffron, dry fruits, spices, kahwa, natural oils etc, and the event ensured great insight into the demand and likeability of

these products.

It also encouraged the participating exhibitors to further participate in such outreach exercise. Buoyed by the huge crowd thronging their stalls, all the exhibitors from J&K Pavilion, expressed gratitude for the opportunity provided by JKTPO and urged to organize more such engagements going forward.

Like this event JKTPO regularly organizes and participates in various activities like Buyer-Seller Meets, Trade Fairs, Exhibitions, Conferences, Seminars, etc. at National and International level for registered members & Hausla women entrepreneurs. For participation in these events, Startups Exporter/ Entrepreneurs/ Sellers from J&K can register themselves on JKTPO's website - www.jktpo.in.

SKUAST-K Launches 66 Skill Courses For Entrepreneurship In Agriculture, Allied Sectors

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir Wednesday launched a series of skill training programmes for entrepreneurship development in various emerging vocations of agriculture, horticulture, livestock, and allied sectors.

In collaboration with and sponsorship of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, SKUAST-K's Directorate of Planning and Monitoring and SKIIE Centre are organising 66 skill training programmes for entrepreneurship develop-

ment at the various faculties and divisions of the varsity.

The training programmes aim to build entrepreneurial mindset among the youth and develop their skills so they can launch their own innovation-led startups and business ventures.

To formally launch the skill training programmes, SKUAST-K on Wednesday held two functions at the Faculty of Horticulture, Shalimar Campus and the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, Shuhama in the forenoon and afternoon respectively.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K,



Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who attended both functions as the chief guest, while thanking the MSME Ministry for the support, said this is an opportunity to build, train and skill the workforce for agriculture 4.0.

He said the university has the responsibility to make students industry ready and entrepreneurial so that they can lead the conversion of subsistence-based farming towards sustainable commercial agriculture to benefit the economy in general and the farming community in particular.

Prof Nazir said SKUAST-K has already taken many steps to make SKUAST-K an innovation

and startup hub in Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the faculty to identify the challenges faced in the field and find sustainable solutions for them. He said the skill training is a great service for our society to empower unemployed youth and enable them for a better life.

Assistant Director, MSME Development and Facilitation Office Srinagar Branch, Ministry of MSME, Saheel Yaqoob Al-laqband, talked in detail about the procedure and requirements of the skill development courses.

Insurance Contracts Have Very Little Option For Consumers: Supreme Court

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Insurance contracts prepared by an insurer have very little option or choice for a consumer, except to sign on the dotted lines, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and M M Sundresh made the observation while setting aside an order passed by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in a case seeking compensation for a shop which met with a fire accident.

"Contracts of Insurance are prepared by the insurer having a standard format upon which a consumer is made to sign. He has a very little option or choice to negotiate the terms of the contract, except to sign on the dotted lines. The insurer, who being the dominant party, dictates its own terms, leaving it to the consumer, either to take it or leave it. Such contracts are obviously one-sided, grossly in favour of the insurer due to the weak bargaining power of the consumer," the bench said.

The top court said the concept of freedom of contract loses significance in a contract of insurance.

"Such contracts demand a very high degree of prudence, good faith, disclosure and notice on the part of the insurer, being

different facets of the doctrine of fairness. Though, a contract of insurance is a voluntary act on the part of the consumer, the obvious intentment is to cover any contingency that might happen in future.

"A premium is paid obviously for that purpose, as there is a legitimate expectation of reimbursement when an act of God happens. Therefore, an insurer is expected to keep that objective in mind, and that too from the point of view of the consumer, to cover the risk, as against a plausible repudiation," it said.

In this case, the appellant Texco Marketing Pvt. Ltd. secured a policy from TATA AIG General Insurance Company Ltd and was meant to cover a shop situated in the basement of the building.

However, the exclusion clause of the contract specified that it does not cover the basement.

Due inspection of the shop was made and not only this shop of the appellant, but yet another shop similarly situated, was also insured by the insurer.

The shop met with a fire accident for which the appellant raised a claim. The claim, however, was repudiated by taking umbrage under the exclusion clause.

The top court said the terms of the contract were unfair, particularly the exclusion clause.

SHORT TAKES

Dir JKEDI Reviews Functioning Of RC Jammu, CWE

JAMMU: Director Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Ajaz Ahmad Bhat on Wednesday chaired a review meeting at the Institute's Jammu campus and Centre for Women Entrepreneurship.

During the review meeting, the functioning of the Institute, progress made under different self-employment and entrepreneurship development schemes being implemented by the institute and other related issues were discussed threadbare.

The Director exhorted the Senior Faculty members, Vertical In-Charges and District Nodal Officers to double their efforts to reach out to the people. He said "Mass awareness in every area of the UT was a much needed requirement. Reaching out to far flung areas should be the priority."

The Director stressed on the need to liaison and enhance coordination with the line departments through constant feedback, so that a convergence of various government initiatives and schemes will benefit the youth. "JKEDI should be a single platform for counseling and guidance for the youth of the UT," he said and directed the officers and faculty members of the Institute to achieve 100 percent target in training youth, who are sponsored under various schemes of Mission Youth. **ONS**

BSE Organises Training Program On Mutual Fund

KATHUA: Career Counselling and placement cell, Government Degree College Kathua, in collaboration with Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd, Wednesday hosted a Skill Based Training Program on Mutual Fund for pass out and final year students of the College.

The launch of the program was attended by Chief Guest, the College Principal Prof. Sumanesh Jasrotia; Prof. Rakesh Singh, Convener Career Counselling and Placement Cell; Kamal K. Sharma, Visiting faculty, Author and Start-up Co-founder BSE and Shabir Ahmed, Placement Manager BSE. The members of Career Counselling Cell Dr. Anupma Arora, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Dr. Roshan Lal, Dr. Kamaldeep, Dr. Jasvinder Singh and faculty members of College Dr. Jogbinder Soodan and Dr. Shamsher Singh also attended the inaugural session. The training programme is being held under the aegis of "Mission Youth" initiative of Government of J&K UT for upgrading skills of youth in non-conventional economics sector like Banking and Financial Services having high employability potential.

Prof. Sumanesh, who inaugurated and addressed the maiden batch of over 40 students, stressed on the need of conducting more such type of skill courses to enhance the employability and self employment potential of the students which is also the objective of NEP-2020. **ONS**

Govt Announces Framework For Sovereign Green Bonds

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday came out with a framework for sovereign green bonds and proceeds from the issue of the bonds will be used for funding public sector projects that seek to reduce carbon emissions.

The government aims to mobilise Rs 16,000 crore through the issuance of green bonds in the current fiscal ending March 2023.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the framework will strengthen India's commitment towards the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets adopted under the Paris Agreement as well as help attract global and domestic investments into eligible green projects.

According to the framework announced by the finance ministry, the eligible expenditures will be limited to government expenditures that occurred maximum 12 months prior to issuance of the green bonds. It will be endeavoured that all the proceeds get allocated to projects within 24 months following the issuance.

The proceeds from the green bonds issuance cannot be used for extraction, production and distribution of fossil fuels or where the core energy source is fossil-fuel based, and nuclear power projects, an official statement said. **PTI**

India's FY24 Growth To Slow To 5.5%: UBS India

MUMBAI: India's GDP growth will slow down to 5.5 per cent in FY24 from the 6.9 per cent expected in the current fiscal 2022-23, a Swiss brokerage said on Wednesday. The slowdown was attributed to slowing global growth and tightening of monetary policies in the report by economists at UBS India. It said India will be among the "lesser affected economies" in the world, but made it clear that the world's fifth largest economy is not immune from global headwinds. "Factoring in the delayed impact of monetary tightening on domestic demand, we continue to expect India's growth to remain below consensus in FY24. In our base case, we expect India's real GDP growth to slow from 6.9 per cent in FY23 to 5.5 per cent in FY24 before settling at the long-run average of 6 per cent in FY25," the report said. Responding to high domestic inflation and rate hikes by global central banks, the RBI has already hiked the policy rate by 1.90 per cent since May this year and is only expected to hike more, which can have an impact on growth with a lag. The brokerage said it expects a normalisation in consumer spending after the spurt seen in the immediate aftermath of the COVID reopening fades, and households' purchasing power is impacted by tight monetary policy, the depletion of accumulated pandemic savings and an incomplete labour market recovery. **PTI**

Meta Cuts More Than 11,000 Jobs; Biggest Cull In Its History

NEW YORK: Facebook parent Meta is laying off 11,000 people, about 13% of its workforce, as it contends with faltering revenue and broader tech industry woes, CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in a letter to employees Wednesday.

The job cuts come just a week after widespread layoffs at Twitter under its new owner, billionaire Elon Musk.

There have been numerous job cuts at other tech companies that hired rapidly during the pandemic.

Zuckerberg as well said that he had made the decision to hire aggressively, anticipating rapid growth even after the pandemic ended.

"Unfortunately, this did not play out the way I expected," Zuckerberg said in a prepared statement.

"Not only has online commerce returned to prior trends, but the macroeconomic downturn, increased competition, and ads signal loss have caused our revenue to be much lower than I'd expected. I got this wrong, and I take responsibility for that."

Meta, like other social media companies, enjoyed a financial boost during the pandemic lockdown era because more people stayed home and scrolled on their phones and computers.

But as the lockdowns ended and people started going outside again, revenue growth began to falter. **AP**

LAHDC-Leh Passes Resolution Seeking Constitutional Safeguard To Ladakh

Press Trust of India

Leh: In a significant development, the Leh chapter of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) on Wednesday passed a resolution seeking constitutional safeguards to the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The resolution was passed at a special session of the general council under the chairmanship of Chief Executive Councillor Tashi Gyalson here, the LAHDC-Leh said in a statement.

Two resolutions were moved in the House. The first resolution was moved by Executive Councillor for Agriculture Stanzin Choshpel stating the need for a constitutional safeguard for Ladakh under a suitable provision of the Indian Constitution as per the aspiration of the people of Ladakh. The second one was moved by Councillor Lower Leh and

Leader of the Opposition, Tsering Namgyal, seeking constitutional safeguard on the lines of 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, the statement said.

During the question hours, the statement said all the elected representatives of the hill council, Leh debated on the two agendas discussing the advantages as well as the drawbacks of the resolution moved.

After a detailed discussion, the House passed the resolution moved by Executive Councillor Stanzin Choshpel thus seeking the Central government's intervention in fulfilling the aspiration of the people of Ladakh with the need for having safeguard for the protection of land, employment, culture, environment and trade.

Gyalson appreciated the active participation of all the councillors during the day-long session.

UK Student Claims Losing Smell After Deodorant Can Explodes In Face

Agencies

New Delhi: A British student has claimed that he is left with permanent scars on his face and nose after a deodorant can exploded in his face, according to a report in Metro. Josh Ditchfield also said that the horrific accident caused him to lose his sense of smell, the outlet further said in its report.

According to the 21-year-old from Hall Green area of south-east Birmingham in England, as he picked up the can of Lynx Deodorant, it "blew up". The man said he was decorating his bedroom and clarified that he did not place it on any hot or cold surface.

"There was no bang," Mr Josh

told the Metro. "The lid was still closed. The whole thing just exploded. The bottom bit of the can went into my nose. I ran to the bath because my eyes were burning. I went to the hospital, and they said if I hadn't splashed my eyes with water, I would have gone blind," he added.

Unilever, which sells millions of Lynx cans each year, confirmed that an investigation would be launched, while Mr Josh said he is seeking legal advice.

"We are extremely sorry to hear about what must have been a very distressing experience for Josh. The safety of our products is our priority," a Unilever spokesperson was quoted as saying by Metro.

Twitter Adds 'Official' Label For PM Modi, Some Verified Accounts

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: An 'Official' label has been added to the Twitter handle of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and some other ministers as the US-based social media platform started rolling out a feature to distinguish between the Twitter Blue account and verified accounts.

Modi's verified blue tick Twitter handle @narendramodi was marked 'Official' with a tick mark enclosed in a circle.

The same was label was also seen on the Twitter handles of Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and some other ministers.

Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi, some other opposition party leaders as well as sportspersons like Sachin Tendulkar too were given that label.

This is in line with Twitter's just-announced changes for verified accounts, as part of its new USD 8 premium subscription product.

The 'Official' label is given for select verified accounts including major media outlets and governments.

Twitter official Esther Crawford in a tweet said: "A lot of folks have asked about how you'll be able to distinguish between @TwitterBlue subscribers with blue checkmarks and accounts that are verified as official, which is why we're introducing the 'Official' label to select accounts when we launch."

"Not all previously verified



accounts will get the 'Official' label and the label is not available for purchase. Accounts that will receive it include government accounts, commercial companies, business partners, major media outlets, publishers and some public figures," she said.

The new Twitter Blue, she said, does not include ID verification. "It's an opt-in, paid subscription that offers a blue checkmark and access to select features. We'll continue to experiment with ways to differentiate between account types."

The changes come days after the world's richest man Elon Musk took over Twitter Inc for USD 44 billion and brought in a slew of changes, including a subscription programme and a new verification system.

He has announced a USD 8 per month price tag for the Blue Tick verification of handles.

Twitter's chargeable blue tick verification service is expected to roll out in India in "less than a month", Musk had said on Sunday.

"Hopefully, less than a month," Musk tweeted in response to a Twitter user's query on when the service is expected to be launched in India.

Earlier this month, Musk had announced that verification blue tick in front of a user's name that authenticates an account will be charged USD 8 per month.

Twitter's strategy to introduce a monthly charge for the verified badge has polarised users globally.

Musk, the CEO of electric car maker Tesla Inc, completed his USD 44-billion takeover of Twitter in October-end, placing the world's richest man at the helm of one of the most influential social media apps in the world. He also fired the social media company's four top executives, including CEO Parag Agrawal and legal executive Vijaya Gadde.

Twitter then proceeded to fire the majority of its over 200 employees in India as part of mass layoffs across the globe ordered by Musk who is looking to make the blockbuster acquisition work.

Tremors Of Nepal Quake Lead To Panic In Delhi, Triggers Meme Fest On Twitter

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Strong tremors in Delhi-NCR early on Wednesday not only woke many people out of their deep sleep but also triggered a meme fest on Twitter with several users sharing their experiences of rushing outside their homes amid poor air quality.

A strong 6.6-magnitude earthquake jolted the remote mountainous region of western Nepal early Wednesday, killing six people.

Several people took to Twitter to get a confirmation whether an earthquake had actually taken place.

"Omg just had #earthquake .. I feel that in Delhi, hope everything is fine in Nepal," Krish Andrew tweeted.

"Ghar mein earthquake, bahar pollution. Fir bolte ho Delhi walo ko itna gussa kyon aata hai! (Earthquake inside the house, pollution outside; and then people ask why people of Delhi get angry)," another user tweeted.

The tremors jolted people out of their sleep with many of them coming out of their houses in panic.

"It's 2am in the morning and people are having a stroll on the streets... Reason - #Earthquake in #DelhiNCR #earthquake," Aakash Biswas tweeted, sharing an 11-second video outside a residential building where

people had gathered outside.

While a few users pointed out how their sleep was disturbed, others were amazed that even such a strong earthquake could not wake them up.

"Today I came to know that even an earthquake of 6.3 magnitude can't wake me up," Bhuma Agarwal said in a Twitter post.

"Bruh legit like last 1 minute se PC shake hora mera, ab realise hua Earthquake aaya," Nischay Malhan, another user, tweeted.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also took to the micro-blogging website.

"I hope all of u (you) are safe," he wrote.

Many Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) said there were no reports of any kind of damage or casualty in their areas.

The earthquake jolted many people out of their sleep and there was panic for some moments, they said.

"We have not received any report of any structural damage or injury from any of the RWAs. However, there was a little panic during the night when people could not figure out what was happening.

"We were scared. People came out of their homes for a few minutes. However, things calmed down after a while," Atul Goyal President of United Residents Joint Action.



CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Chances High Of Big

occurred in Uttarkashi in 1991 followed by one in Chamoli in 1999 and one in Nepal in 2015.

Instead of fearing earthquakes due to their unpredictability, it is important to keep ourselves prepared to deal with them in a better way and minimise the damage they might cause to life and property, he said.

The constructions should be earthquake resistant, people should be made aware of what can be done by way of preparations before earthquakes, at the time of their occurrence and after they have happened, Paul said.

Mock drills should be conducted at least once every year, he said, adding that if these things are done, the damages by an earthquake can be reduced by 99.99 per cent.

Citing the example of Japan, Paul said due to its better preparedness, the country does not suffer much damage to life and property despite being constantly hit by medium intensity earthquakes.

He said the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology also keeps sending its teams to villages and schools to create awareness about what can be done to minimise the effects of an earthquake.

Another senior geo-physicist at the institute Naresh Kumar said Uttarakhand has been placed in seismic zone IV and V due to its vulnerability to earthquakes.

Around 60 earthquake observatories have been set up in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand to register seismic movements round the clock, he said.

Six Dead After

by home ministry official Tulsi Rijal.

The deceased included an 8-year-old boy, a 13-year-old girl, two 14-year-old girls, a 40-year-old woman and a 50-year-old man, Bhatta said, according to The Kathmandu Post news outlet.

A ground rescue team has been rushed to the site, and two helicopters were on standby in nearby Surkhet and Nepalgunj towns, a spokesperson for the Nepali army, Brigadier-General Narayan Silwal, said.

The earthquake was centred approximately 160km (100 miles) north-east of Pilibhit, a populous city in the neighbouring Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, and occurred at a depth of 10km, the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) said.

The EMSC recorded the earthquake at a magnitude of 5.6, the US Geological Survey also gave a preliminary rating of 5.6, and Nepal's seismological centre set the earthquake at a magnitude of 6.6.

Western Nepal had been jolted by a magnitude 4.8 earthquake at a depth of 10km hours earlier, at about 9pm (15:15 GMT) local time.

A resident of Gorakhpur city in India's Uttar Pradesh — more than 350km from the epicentre — wrote on the EMSC's website that they had felt the tremors.

"The building was shaking. I'm on the 9th floor," they wrote.

Local media reported that tremors were felt in India's capital, New Delhi, located 400km (250 miles) west of the epicentre.

Nepal is still rebuilding after two major earthquakes in 2015 killed almost 9,000 people, destroyed whole towns, including centuries-old temples and more than 824,000 homes, and caused an estimated \$6bn in economic damage.

Justice Chandrachud

is the son of the longest serving CJI Y V Chandrachud, who held the top judicial post from February 22, 1978, to July 11, 1985. This is the first instance of a father and son occupying the highest seat of justice.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Justice Chandrachud wishing him a fruitful tenure as CJI.

"Congratulations to Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud on being sworn in as India's Chief Justice. Wishing him a fruitful tenure ahead," the prime minister tweeted.

Vice President and Rajya Sabha chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and Kiren Rijiju were among other dignitaries present at the oath taking ceremony

After taking a round of the apex court premises, Justice Chandrachud went inside his chamber and bowed to the Indian tricolour there.

He entered the CJI's courtroom around 12.10 PM for hearing the matters listed for the day.

Apologies for keeping the members of the Bar wait for so long. I will try to make it a no-stress court for everyone, he said after settling on the CJI's chair.

Lawyers including Solicitor General Tushar Mehta greeted the CJI and wished him the very best for his two-year-long tenure.

The CJI then took up the listed cases including the plea of Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan who had moved the top court against his disqualification as an MLA of Rampur assembly seat in UP due to his conviction in a hate speech matter.

He dismissed an appeal of the Tamil Nadu government against an order of the Madras High Court granting relief to a sweeper by extending him the benefit of regular appointment.

"A man served the school for 22 years. At the end of those 22 years, the person goes home without a gratuity, pension. This is the lowest strata of our society. How can the government go against a poor sweeper? The might of the government against a Safai Karamchari ! Sorry. Dismissed, he said.

The CJI led-bench, which also comprised justices Hima Kohli and J B Pardiwalla, could not hear all the matters listed for hearing.

"I could not take up some cases today since we assembled late. I hope it is only once in my career that I am late since I was sworn in, the CJI said while rising for the day.

Minister Rijiju also met the new CJI and congratulated him.

"I am looking forward to work in close coordination, and to provide support in ensuring speedy delivery of justice to the citizens," he tweeted after the meeting.

Counted as a judge who enriched the verdict docket of the apex court, Justice Chandrachud, who has played a pivotal role in digitisation of the judiciary, is viewed as sharp, articulate and forward looking.

Expected to advance judicial frontiers, he was a member of benches that delivered judgements on decriminalising part of Section 377 of the IPC that criminalises consensual unnatural sex between consenting adults and on allowing entry of women of all ages into the Sabarimala temple in Kerala.

The list of important judgments in which Justice Chandrachud was a part and which settled many a debate is long.

Justice Chandrachud, born on November 11, 1959 and considered a Delhi University product who studied in St Stephen's College and the Campus Law Centre before going to Harvard, was elevated to the top court on May 13, 2016.

He was also part of an important verdict expanding the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act and the corresponding rules to include unmarried women for abortion between 20-24 weeks of pregnancy.

Justice Chandrachud, a former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, was among the two judges of the apex court collegium who recently objected to the method of "circulation" adopted for eliciting the views of its members on the appointment of judges to the top court.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a bench led by Justice Chandrachud passed several directions to address the miseries faced by people while terming the second wave a "national crisis". The bench, for instance, directed the Centre to ensure supply of oxygen to hospitals across the nation

for proper treatment of patients.

Known as a doer, he presided over a bench that worked five hours beyond regular working hours on September 30 this year to hear 75 cases to clear the board before the onset of the Dussehra vacation.

Early Snowfall

them as road conditions remain uncertain during inclement weather."

Meanwhile, the Srinagar-Leh highway and Mughal road were closed for vehicular traffic on Wednesday due to fresh snowfall, officials said.

A traffic official said that the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) road was closed after snowfall in areas around Sonamarg.

Army's Operational

"Had a productive interaction with the Indian Army Commanders at the Commanders' Conference in New Delhi today. Complimented the Armed Forces for their high standard of operational preparedness and capabilities," he said.

The Army said Singh also referred to the stellar role played by the Army in guarding the borders and fighting terrorism apart from providing assistance to the civil administration whenever called for.

He complimented the forces for the high standard of operational preparedness and capabilities which he has always been experiencing first hand during his visits to forward areas, according to the Army.

"He commended the Army's efforts to develop niche technologies in collaboration with civil industries, including premier educational institutions and thereby progressing towards the aim of 'modernisation through indigenisation' or 'Atma Nirbharta'," it said in a statement.

The Army Commanders' Conference is an apex-level biannual event that is held in April and October/November every year.

The conference is an institutional platform for conceptual-level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army.

The commanders are also undertake a review of India's military preparedness along the 3,400-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in view of the military standoff with China in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh, officials said.

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the overall situation in the Union territory are also being deliberated upon extensively at the conference, they said.

5 NIT Students

students following India's defeat to the West Indies in the T-20 World Cup

semi-final, leading to a closure of the NIT for days.

CBI Arrests Two

deposited in the account, the spokesperson said. It was further alleged that the accused stealthily removed the imported and indigenous machinery of pulp section and other parts from the factory without the knowledge of the bank, a statement from the agency said.

It was also alleged that the accused illegally sold machinery parts as scrap and arranged fake invoices to cover up the illegal sale, the CBI said and added that the accused allegedly diverted funds from the loan account.

Infant 'Abductor'

view the circumstances, the cops obtained a warrant from the authorities concerned and Shabnum was detained under PSA.

Shabnum is currently lodged in the district jail in Kathua.

PM Lauds New

workforce would lead to an effective healthcare delivery system in the Union Territory," the statement 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," it added.

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

3 Killed In Kathua

SSP Samba Dr Abhishek Mahajan confirmed the death of the three people and said that seven among the injured have been shifted to GMC Rajouri for specialized treatment. Police have registered a case and started investigations into the incident, he added. (GNS)

BSF Shoots Down

The drone was recovered Wednesday morning by a joint team of the BSF and local police, he said.

3 JeM Operatives

transporting to Kashmir the weapons sent by a Pakistani handler from across the border.

According to the police, the driver of the oil tanker, Mohd Yaseen, and his associates -- Farhan Farooq and Farooq Ahmad -- were first booked Tuesday night after they got into a scuffle with a police team on being told not to park their truck on road. The police team was managing traffic on the highway.

All three are residents of Pampore area in south kashmir's Pulwama district.

The trio were taken to the Bahu Fort

police station and a signal was sent to the police stations from where the accused hailed regarding their involvement in any other case, the spokesperson said.

"It came to the notice that the driver (Yaseen) is involved in a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act registered at Awantipora police station and is associated with JeM.

"After sustained interrogation, the driver disclosed that they have come to Jammu to pick up weapons at the behest of Shahbaaz, a JeM handler who is in Pakistan," the spokesman said.

He said they were assigned the task to transport and hand over the weapons to a terrorist in Kashmir.

"Yaseen also confessed that he had concealed a consignment of arms and ammunition in the oil tanker. Upon this the tanker was again searched in the presence of a magistrate and the recoveries made thereof include three AK-56 rifles, one pistol, nine magazines, 191 rounds of ammunition and six grenades, the spokesman said.

NIA Charges

the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was filed in a special NIA court here, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

The agency registered the case suo motu on November 18 last year.

"During investigations, it emerged that the accused (Bhat), who is associated with Pakistan-based handlers and operative commanders of LeT/TRF, had radicalized, motivated and instigated vulnerable youths to join terrorist groups such as TRF in Kashmir," the spokesperson said.

The NIA said the accused entered into a conspiracy with active terrorist commanders in Kashmir Valley to train youths in fabricating improvised explosive devices (IEDs) using locally available chemicals.

"He, along with other co-accused and Pakistan-based handlers/operatives of LeT/TRF, actively participated in acts in support of LeT and received funds from Pakistan-based operatives of LeT. He also facilitated the transfer of weapons in Kashmir for furtherance of terrorist activities in India," the spokesperson said.

Army Rescues

vehicle under Company commander and they reached the location within a short time frame," they said.

With the assistance of the local population, the rescue team was able to recover the vehicle and shifted the injured passengers to the district hospital in Kulgam for treatment.

Meanwhile, locals of the area appreciated the efforts made by Army in rescuing the passengers.

T20 World Cup: India Gear Up Against England To Break Knock-Out Jinx

Press Trust of India

ADELAIDE: Only two steps away from the ultimate glory, India cannot afford to put a foot wrong as they square off against a formidable England on a tricky Adelaide Oval track in the T20 World Cup semifinal on Thursday.

While India have had better performances in the group stage compared to England, a high stakes, 'winner takes it all' contest like this always starts on an even keel.

England's premier all-rounder Ben Stokes has already admitted that they have not played their best cricket and the Indian team needs to ensure that a Jos Buttler and Stokes himself don't choose the semifinal to bring their A game to the fore.

History is also a bit against India when it comes to results at the business end of the ICC events.

Post 2013, Indian teams have struggled to cross the final two hurdles on multiple occasions -- 2014 T20 World Cup final, 2016



T20 World Cup semifinals, 2017

Champions Trophy final and 2019

ODI World Cup semifinal.

Even though Rohit Sharma played in all those games, he wasn't leading the side back then and hence doesn't carry any baggage of disappointment as he enters the most critical phase of his full time captaincy.

Rohit (89 runs in 5 games) would like to forget the physical pain of being hit in the forearm as he wouldn't shy away from playing one pull shot too many if a fit Mark Wood or his likely replacement Chris Jordan digs it short. The India skipper needs an innings of substance in the competition and there couldn't be a bigger match than a semifinal to shut his detractors.

Virat Kohli would have a battle at hand against his old nemesis Adil Rashid, while Suryakumar Yadav's skills against Sam Curran's cutters will be an enticing match-up.

Stokes' all round abilities will find its match in Hardik Pandya, who has done his bit with the bat and ball in various games.

The intrigue of sub-plots

embedded in the main narrative makes up for a heady build up as world No.1 India meets its ideal match in second-ranked England.

The fans across the globe want an India versus Pakistan final at the MCG on Sunday but skeptics would immediately point at history where both India and Pakistan lost their respective ODI semifinals in the 1987 World Cup.

SQUADS:

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Hardik Pandya, R Ashwin, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Shami, Deepak Hooda, Harshal Patel, Rishabh Pant (wk), Yuzvendra Chahal

England: Jos Buttler (captain, wk), Ben Stokes, Alex Hales, Harry Brook, Phil Salt, Dawid Malan, Sam Curran, Mark Wood, Moeen Ali, Adil Rashid, Tymal Mills, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Chris Woakes, David Willey.

Match Starts: 1.30 pm IST.

A-Division League Enters Semi-Final Stage

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The A-Division Football League Tournament 2022 has entered its semi-final stage after the final four teams were confirmed with the conclusion of the set of second round (quarterfinal) matches on Tuesday.

The first Semi-Final of the tournament will be played between AL-Hilal FC and Ali Jana (B) on Friday 11th November at 2:30 PM at TRC Synthetic Turf.

The second Semi-Final will

take place between Alamdar FC and Muslimeen United on Saturday 12th November at 2:00 PM at TRC Synthetic Turf.

Both the matches shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes, with a half time interval of 10 minutes. In case of draw at the end of the 90 minutes, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winners.

The tournament is being organised by DFA Srinagar in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council.



DPS Student Wins Silver At Wushu Women's League



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mysha Tariq, a student of DPS Srinagar, has won the silver medal in the 30 kg sub-junior category at the Khelo India Wushu Women's League (North Zone) held recently at SKICC Srinagar.

More than 700 participants from eight States and UTs participated in the competition held from 4th to 7th November.

DPS Principal Shafaq Afshan congratulated the medallist, and said, "We are delighted at Mysha's win, which is a reflection of her budding talent. We wish her the best in the future."

DPS Chairman Vijay Dhar too congratulated the medallist, and said, "We have always been committed to cultivating talent at grass root levels and this victory is a testimony to it. Congratulations to her."

IPL Auction To Be Held On December 23 In Kochi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The players auction for the next year's Indian Premier League (IPL) will be held in Kochi on December 23, a BCCI official said on Wednesday.

The Turkish city of Istanbul, Bengaluru, New Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad were also in contention to host the auction but, the BCCI eventually opted for the coastal Kerala city.

"Logistically, and considering the dates, Kochi turned out to be the most suited option," a BCCI official told PTI.

Unlike the last auction, this



year's will be a mini auction. The 10 IPL franchises have already been asked to submit their list of retained players by November 15.

Also, the salary cap is likely to be increased from Rs 90 to Rs 95 crore for the 2023 season.



Pakistan Enter T20 WC Final With Win Over New Zealand

Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: A rejuvenated Pakistan lifted their game when it mattered the most and stormed into the T20 World Cup final with a convincing seven-wicket win over New Zealand here on Wednesday.

Batting first, New Zealand managed 152 for 4, riding on Daryl Mitchell's unbeaten 34-ball 53 and skipper Kane Williamson's 46 off 42 balls.

Pace spearhead Shaheen Afridi snapped two wickets, while Mohammad Nawaz took one.

Pakistan achieved the target with five balls to spare with Babar Azam (53 off 42) and Mohammad Rizwan (57) sharing a 105-run stand for the opening wicket.

Trent Boult (2/33) managed to grab two wickets, while Mitchell Santner (1/26) too accounted for one batter.

This will be Pakistan's third appearance in the T20 World Cup final. They had finished runners-up to India in the inaugural edition in 2007 before claiming the title two years later. The win over New Zealand, last edition's

runners-up side, also kept the prospect of a mouth-watering India-Pakistan final in Melbourne on Sunday alive, provided Rohit Sharma's men beat England in the second semifinal in Adelaide on Thursday.

Brief Scores:

New Zealand: 152 for 4 in 20 overs (Kane Williamson 46, Daryl Mitchell 53 not out; Shaheen Afridi 2/24).

Pakistan: 153 for 3 in 19.1 overs (Babar Azam 53, Mohammad Rizwan 57; Trent Boult 2/33).

I Would Like To Play Against India In Final: Pakistan Mentor Hayden



Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: Pakistan team mentor Matthew Hayden wants to play the World Cup final against India purely for the sake of "big spectacle".

An India-Pakistan clash generates much interest, mostly to the level of obsession, which was evident in the Group stage when Virat Kohli earned plaudits for orchestrating his team's much talked-about victory under pressure.

Pakistan stormed into the final with a comfortable seven-wicket win over New Zealand and now await the winner of the second semifinal between India and England.

"I would like to play India in

the final purely because of the big spectacle," he said when asked which opponent he will choose for the final.

Pakistan were on the verge of an early exit after defeats against India and Zimbabwe but luck smiled on them when Netherlands knocked South Africa out of the tournament to open up an opportunity for Pakistan. Babar Azam's side then beat Bangladesh to qualify for the semifinal.

The former Australian opener sounded a warning to their next rivals, saying his bowling attack is yet to produce its best.

"Tonight was very special. That fast bowling attack you saw did an unbelievable job. I don't think we have seen our

best yet, which is probably the scariest part for whoever faces us (in the final)," Hayden said.

He also felt that playing at the MCG would suit his batters. "Could be a truer surface and nicer batting track in Melbourne. Sky is the limit. You can never beat down class. Both these guys (Babar, Rizwan) have done it for a number of years. (Mohammad) Haris has smashed every bowler in the nets.

"The bowlers had to adapt to this pitch and bowl slower balls and they did so well. Haris Rauf is bowling consistent 150s. "If Pakistan on their day turn up, they are unstoppable. Shadab is a great fighter. To win any tournament you got to fight."

Senegal's Sadio Mané A Doubt For WC With Injury

Agencies

MUNICH: Senegal forward Sadio Mané is in doubt for the World Cup after Bayern Munich said Wednesday he would miss the last league game before the tournament with a leg injury.

Bayern said the two-time African player of the year had an injury to the head of the fibula bone in his lower right leg. Bayern didn't specify how serious the injury might be, saying only

ern said in a statement.

Mané was in clear discomfort after a blow to the right leg early in Bayern's 6-1 win over Werder Bremen on Tuesday and was substituted in the 20th minute.

Mané scored the winning penalty to beat Egypt in a shootout in the final of the African Cup of Nations in February. He joined Bayern from Liverpool in June in a deal which could end up being worth 41 million euros (\$41.3 million),



that Mané would not be available to play Schalke on Saturday.

"Further examinations will follow in the coming days. FC Bayern is also in contact with the medical staff of the Senegalese Football Association," Bayern

depending on performance-related bonuses.

Senegal plays its opening match the World Cup on Nov. 21 against the Netherlands in Group A. Host nation Qatar and Ecuador are also in the group.

South Korea's Son Says He Is Fit For Qatar WC



Reuters

SEOUL: South Korea and Tottenham Hotspur forward Son Heung-min confirmed on Wednesday he be available for selection for the World Cup in Qatar after undergoing surgery earlier this month to stabilise a fracture around his left eye. Son, 30, sustained the injury in Tottenham's 2-1 Champions League tie at Olympique de Marseille last week following an aerial clash and required lengthy treatment on the pitch before being substituted and walking unsteadily down the tunnel.

"Playing for your country at the World Cup is the dream of so many children growing up, just as it was one of mine too. I

won't miss this for the world," Son wrote on Instagram. "I can't wait to represent our beautiful country, see you soon."

South Korea's hopes at the World Cup, which begins in less than three weeks, rest heavily on captain Son, who has scored 35 goals in 104 appearances for his country. They will kick off their campaign on Nov. 24 against Uruguay and also face Ghana and Portugal in Group H.

Meanwhile, England and Chelsea right-back Reece James says he is "devastated" to miss out on England's World Cup squad.

The Chelsea defender is recovering from a knee injury sustained last month and on Wednesday confirmed he will not be going to Qatar.



Caringly yours



Make your existing health policy more comprehensive by adding



HEALTH PRIME RIDER



Preventive Health Check-up

(45+ Test Parameters at Network Centres)



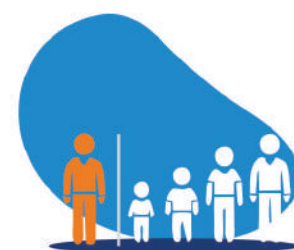
24x7 Unlimited Tele-Consultation

Individual and family members



90,000+ Doctors

(35+ Specialisations for Tele-Consultation)



Rider for both Individual & Family Floater Basis*

*Based on the variant opted in your health plan

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

To know more:

Contact your nearest J&K Bank Branch

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd., Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road, Yerawade, Pune - 411006. IRDAI Reg No.: 113. | CIN: U66010PN2000PLC015329 | Health Prime (Rider) UIN: BAJHLIA22169V012122 | Health Prime Rider (Group) BAJHLGA22166V012122
For more details, log on to : www.bajajallianz.com or call at : Sales - 1800 209 0144 / Service - 1800 209 5858 (Toll Free No.) | For more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale. | BIAZ-O-JK-0016/25-May-22

*T&C apply

J&K Bank Ltd. is a licensed Corporate Agent [bearing License No.: CA0029] of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd. [IRDA registration No. 113]. The benefits/features of products are indicative and for more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale.