

कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग
भारत सरकार

देश के विकास में नई ऊर्जा का संचार

भारत सरकार में **10 लाख** नियुक्तियों के लिए **रोजगार मेला**



हमारी सरकार हमारी युवाशक्ति के लिए
नए अवसर उपलब्ध कराने के लिए कई प्रयास कर रही है,
ताकि उन्हें अपनी प्रतिभा दिखाने और विकसित भारत
के निर्माण में योगदान देने का उचित मंच मिल सके।
— नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

प्रधानमंत्री
नरेन्द्र मोदी

द्वारा
देशभर में 45 स्थानों पर
71 हजार

नव-नियुक्त युवाओं को
नियुक्ति पत्र का वितरण

22 नवम्बर 2022, प्रातः 10:30 बजे

(वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से)



रोजगार मेला के तहत प्रधानमंत्री जी द्वारा 22 अक्टूबर 2022 को 75 हजार युवाओं को नियुक्ति पत्र दिए गये



एक साल में 10 लाख युवाओं को मिलेगी भारत सरकार
में नौकरी



विशेष ऑनलाइन सिस्टम से खाली पदों एवं भर्ती प्रक्रिया
की निगरानी



सभी नियुक्तियां यूपीएससी, एसएससी, रेलवे भर्ती बोर्ड
जैसी एजेंसियों के माध्यम से की जा रही हैं



महिलाओं, दिव्यांगजन और आकांक्षी जिलों के अभ्यर्थियों
को होगा विशेष लाभ



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चयनित युवाओं के ऊर्जावान सोच और कौशल से राष्ट्र
निर्माण के संकल्प को मिलेगी मजबूती



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2

The One Cheese Gut Health Experts Want You to Eat More Often

Anthea Levi, MS, RD, CDN

Head to any Middle Eastern restaurant and you'll likely find labneh listed in the mezze section of the menu, somewhere near the hummus. The creamy spread is a culinary staple in countries like Lebanon and Israel. It also happens to be one of the healthiest cheeses around.

Yes, cheese can be nutritious. "Dairy gets a bad rap, especially when it comes to gut health," says Jessie Wong, RD, a registered dietitian at Joy Nutrition Consulting. "There's a lot of misinformation out there about dairy being inflammatory when we know that long-term epidemiological studies have found it's actually [linked to a] reduced risk for osteoporosis, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and diabetes."

Below, gut health experts explain what labneh is, how it's made and why you should eat it more often for a healthy gut microbiome.

What Is Labneh?

Labneh is a fermented dairy product that takes on a spreadable, cheese-like consistency thanks to the way it's made.

Sometimes called "yogurt cheese,"

labneh tastes tangy much like traditional yogurt but is significantly thicker in texture due to the fact that it's strained over a long period of time.

How Is Labneh Made?

Labneh can be made from many types of yogurt, including kefir, a fermented milk that doubles as drinkable yogurt.

Before we learn how labneh's made, it's important to understand how its base, kefir, is produced.

Traditionally, kefir is made simply by combining kefir grains with milk. Confusingly, kefir grains aren't actually grains at all. Rather, kefir grains are a white, curd-like substance that's naturally flush with a diverse mix of good bacteria and yeast. The microorganisms in kefir grains act as fermentation agents, or a starter culture.

The process of fermenting the kefir grains and milk typically takes about 24 hours. The final product is probiotic-rich kefir.

"Kefir contains dozens of species of beneficial microbes, including bacteria and yeast mostly from the Lactobacillus and Saccharomyces genera," says Colleen Webb, RD, a registered dietitian and gut health nutrition expert.

These days, commercial kefir products typically utilize industrial starter



cultures to produce kefir, rather than the kefir grains themselves, according to an October 2021 review in *Oxidative Medicine and Cellular Longevity*.

OK, back to labneh. While many types of yogurt can be used to make labneh, whole milk kefir is an optimal base because of its natural probiotic properties. And making labneh from kefir is quite simple — all it takes is combining whole milk kefir and salt and then allowing the mixture to strain through a cheesecloth for about

a day.

When all of the liquid has been strained out, the curds left behind in the cheesecloth take on a thick, spreadable consistency. Enter: Labneh, aka kefir cheese.

Labneh Nutrition Facts

A 1/4 cup of labneh contains the following, according to the USDA:

Calories: 90
Total fat: 6 g
Saturated fat: 4 g
Sodium: 160 mg

Total carbs: 4 g
Protein: 6 g
Vitamin A: 20% Daily Value (DV)
Calcium: 9% DV
Health Benefits of Labneh

Labneh delivers many of the same benefits as yogurt or cheese. But experts say labneh has a nutritional edge — here's why.

1. It's a Source of Protein

Just like Greek yogurt and Icelandic skyr are heavily strained and therefore higher in protein, so too is labneh. A 1/4 cup of labneh has 6 grams of protein while a 1/2 cup serves up about 12 grams of protein, per the USDA.

Friendly reminder: Protein is critical for building and maintaining muscle mass, keeping our immune systems strong and promoting satiety.

2. It's Low in Lactose

Kefir is low in lactose thanks to its conversion into lactic acid during the fermentation process, per an October 2014 study in *Food Science and Technology*.

"Labneh is very low in lactose, so most people with a lactose intolerance can tolerate labneh without issue," Webb says. "It's a great option for those who struggle to eat softer cheeses, which usually are higher in lactose."

3. It Can Be a Great Source of Probiotics

Unlike other cheeses like cheddar or brie, kefir cheese offers up gut-friendly probiotics. Just make sure the labneh label says it contains live and active cultures.

"One of the things that's so amazing about biology is the fact that we are not alone," says Bruce Hirsch, MD, a gut health expert, infectious disease doctor at Northwell Health and member of the Peggy Lillis Foundation's scientific advisory board. "The human body is a community of organisms and our relationship with the other life forms that exist within our body is extremely important."

Dr. Hirsch says he encourages people to think about the body as its very own ecosystem. "Living with healthy germs both in and on us is an extremely important component of wellbeing," he says. And the foods we eat can help those beneficial bugs thrive.

"Kefir has been shown to positively influence the balance of the gut microbiota, which has the potential to improve GI transit time, strengthen the gut barrier function and reduce inflammation," Webb says. "More specifically, research suggests it might reduce constipation and help to eradicate *H. pylori* infection."

Novel Artificial Enzymes Could Help 'Kill' Covid Virus: Study

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have developed artificial enzymes programmed to target the genetic code of SARS-CoV-2 and destroy the virus, an advance that may lead to a new generation of antiviral drugs for COVID-19 and its variants.

Enzymes are naturally occurring biological catalysts, which enable the chemical transformations required for our bodies to function — from translating the genetic code into proteins to digesting food.

Although most enzymes are proteins, some of these crucial reactions are catalysed by RNA, a chemical cousin of DNA, our genetic material, which can fold into enzymes known as ribozymes.

Some classes of ribozyme are able to target specific sequences in other RNA molecules and cut them precisely.

In 2014, Alex Taylor and colleagues from the University of Cambridge, UK, discovered that artificial genetic material known as XNA — in other words, synthetic chemical alternatives to RNA and DNA not found in nature — could be used to create the world's first fully-artificial enzymes, named XNAzymes.

These artificial enzymes can cut long, complex RNA molecules and are so precise that if the target sequence differs by just a single nucleotide — the basic structural unit of RNA — they will recognise not to cut it.

This means they can be programmed to attack mutated RNAs involved in cancer or other diseases, leaving normal RNA molecules well alone, the researchers said.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, demonstrated the use of this technology to successfully 'kill' live SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Creating new XNAzymes can be done in far less time than it normally

takes to develop antiviral drugs, according to the researchers.

Taylor teamed up with Nicholas Matheson to show that these XNAzymes were active against live SARS-CoV-2 virus.

"It's really encouraging that for the first time and this has been a big goal of the field we actually have them working as enzymes inside cells, and inhibiting replication of live virus," said Pehuen Pereyra Gerber, who performed the experiments on SARS-CoV-2 in Matheson's lab.

"What we've shown is proof of principle, and it's still early days," added Matheson.

Taylor checked the target viral sequences against databases of human RNAs to ensure they were not present in our own RNA. Because the XNAzymes are highly specific, this should in theory prevent some of the 'off-target' side-effects that similar, less accurate molecular therapeutics may cause, such as liver toxicity, the researchers said.

SARS-CoV-2 has the ability to evolve and change its genetic code, leading to new variants against which vaccines are less effective.

To counter this problem, Taylor not only targeted regions of the viral RNA that mutate less frequently, but also designed three of the XNAzymes to self-assemble into a 'nanostructure' that cuts different parts of the virus genome.

"We're targeting multiple sequences, so for the virus to evade the therapy it would have to mutate at several sites at once," he said.


"In principle, you could combine lots of these XNAzymes together into a cocktail. But even if a new variant does appear that is capable of getting round this, because we already have the catalytic core, we can rapidly make new enzymes to keep ahead of it," Taylor added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Registration no: JK04E 2018, Engine no:BBYWK01882. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of ARTO Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Owner Name: Riyaz Ahmad SheerGojri
S/O: Late Ab. Rashid Sheer Gojri
R/O: Bugam Batpora
Tehsil: Chadoora
District: Budgam.

fsf



: coap13@jkpolice.gov.in Fax: 0194-2303579
HEADQUARTERS JKAP-13TH BATTALION HUMHAMA.

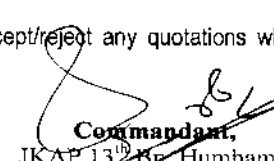
QUOTATION NOTICE

Quotations are invited from authorized/leading booksellers of Srinagar city for supply of CBSC Textbooks/other academic material to Police Public School Bemina for the forthcoming Academic Session 2022-2023.

The details of books prescribed for the forthcoming session/other information related to the subject may please be had from the office of Commandant JKAP Bn (Nodal Officer J&K Police Public School Bemina, Srinagar) within three (03) days from publication of this notice.


The quotations (inclusive of all taxes) should reach to the office of undersigned by or before 26.11.2022.

Undersigned reserve the right to accept/reject any quotations without assigning reasons.


Commandant,
 JKAP 13TH Bn, Humhama
 (Nodal Officer PPS Bemina Sgr)

DIPK-13878/22
dated 21-11-2022

No: CS/AP13th/PPS/22/2093
Date: 22-11-2022



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Recovery Branch
Corporate Headquarters
M.A.Road, Srinagar - 190 001
Tel : +91(0)194-2481930-35
Email : iarb.chq@jkbmail.com

CAUTION NOTICE

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank through its Branch Office Pantha Chowk, Srinagar has financed various loan facilities in favour of M/s GRAVITY CONCRETE SOLUTIONS PVT LTD having its Registered office at: Ahmad South City, Nowgam, Bypass, Near Shuhul Automobile Srinagar, Kashmir through its Promoters/Directors namely i) Mr. Parvez Ahmad Dar S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar R/o Kuroo Raj Bagh, Srinagar; ii) Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat S/o Mr. Mohammad Sidiq Bhat R/o Frestabal Pampore, Kashmir iii) Mr. Janak Raj Gupta S/o Sh. Banarasi Lal Gupta R/o R.S.Pura, Jammu iv) Ch. Jagar Singh S/o Lt. Sh. Khola Ram R/o H.No.25 C/C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The accounts are presently Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and the total balance outstanding in the loan accounts up to 30.09.2022 is Rs.41,51,14,742.19 (Rupees Forty One Crore Fifty One Lakh Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Two And Paise Nineteen Only), exclusive of law/other charges and interest from 01.10.2022. The Bank has already initiated action under SARFAESI Act for enforcement of its security interest in the properties detailed hereunder:

| # | Property description | Revenue details | Area |
|---|--|--|------------------------|
| 1 | Land along with boundary walls standing in the name of Mr. Janak Raj Gupta situated at Gaglan near Jamkash Vehicleads, R. S Pura Jammu. | Khasra no.185, Khata no.688 Khewat no.115 | 01 Kanal |
| 2 | Land along with building thereupon standing in the name of Mr.Janak Raj Gupta situated at village Gaglan, R.S.Pora, Jammu. | Khasra no.186 , Khata no. 829 Khewat no. 151 | 03 Kanal & 15 Marlas |
| 3 | Property comprising of land with double storeyed house standing thereupon in the name of Mr. Parvez Ahmad & Mr. Javid Ahmad situated at Mouza Kursoo Padshahi Bagh Srinagar. | Khasra no.396, 397,398 Khata No. 205,201 Khewat no. 51 | 02 Kanal & 16.5 Marlas |
| 4 | Residential house along with land underneath standing in the name of Mr. Parvez Ahmad Dar situated at Gulberg Colony Hyderpora Srinagar. | Khasra no.186 , Khata no. 475 Khewat no. 61 | 01 Kanal |
| 5 | Land along with Stone crusher standing in the name of Mr. Parvez Ahmad Dar situated at Ladhu Pampore, Kashmir. | Khasra no.3520 Khata no. 529 Khewat no. 376 | 09 Kanal & 16 Marlas |
| 6 | Land along with three storied residential house stands in the name of Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat situated at Frestabal Pampore, Near Charyaar Masjid. | Khasra No. 1976 Khata no. 1145 Khewat no. 957 | 18 Marlas |
| 7 | Land stands in the name of Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat situated at Frestabal Pampore, Kashmir. | Khasra no. 552 Khata no. 460 Khewat no. 372. | 01 Kanal & 11 Marlas. |
| 8 | Land with Stone crusher thereupon in the name of Mr. Rahul Gupta S/o Mr. Janak Raj and is situated at Kanna Chargal, Jammu. | Khasra no. 2147, 1239 Khata No. 450 Khewat No. 96. | 10 Kanal |
| 9 | Land stands in the name of Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat situated at Noorani colony Frestabal Pampore, Kashmir. | Khasra NO. 108 khata No 459 Khewat NO. 371 | 16 Marlas |

| Details of hypothecated vehicles: | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------|------------------|-------------|------------|--------|
| Vehicle no. | Make | Model | Mfg. Year | Chassis No. | Engine No. | |
| i) | JK01U6032 | TATA | SK 1613 (Tipper) | 2013 | E06454 | 109074 |
| ii) | JK01U6626 | TATA | SK 1613 (Tipper) | 2013 | E06451 | 108414 |
| iii) | JK01U6625 | TATA | SK 1613 (Tipper) | 2013 | D05139 | 107925 |
| iv) | JK01U6629 | TATA | SK 1613 (Tipper) | 2013 | D04518 | 107280 |
| v) | JK01U6630 | TATA | SK 1613 (Tipper) | 2013 | D04511 | 107227 |
| vi) | JK01U6623 | TATA | SK 1613 (Tipper) | 2013 | E06447 | Y10878 |
| vii) | JK01U6627 | TATA | SK 1613 (Tipper) | 2013 | E06435 | 109078 |
| viii) | JK01U6628 | TATA | SK 1613 (Tipper) | 2013 | D04509 | 107247 |

Through of medium of this notice Public in general and Borrowers, Mortgageors and Guarantors in particular are cautioned not to deal with the properties as detailed in this Caution Notice without satisfying charge of the Bank and without first obtaining NDC from the Bank.

Dated: 20.11.2022 (Branch Manager)

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DIPK-NB-5103/22

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH

(Office of the Registrar General at Jammu)

Advertisement Notice No: 04 of 2022/RG

Dated: 19.11.2022

Subject: Advertisement for filling up of the posts of Adhoc Civil Judge (Junior Division)/Munsiff.

- Date of Commencement for submission of online applications = **20.11.2022**
- Last Date for submission of online applications = **19.12.2022**
- Last date for submission of online fee of **Rs. 300/-** = **19.12.2022**

Total Number of posts advertised = 65

Online applications are invited from the candidates who fulfil the following eligibility conditions, for participating in the selection process for the posts of **Adhoc Civil Judges (Junior Division)/ Munsiffs** in the UT of J&K and Ladakh, as mentioned in **Annexure-"A"** to this Notification:

- The candidate must be a domicile of UT of Jammu and Kashmir as defined in Rule 3 of the Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rule, 2020 or resident of UT of Ladakh as defined in Clause (4) of the Union Territory of Ladakh Resident Certificate Order 2021.
- The candidate must possess a degree of 'Bachelor of Law' of a University established by law in India; or a Barrister of England or Northern Ireland or a member of the Faculty of Advocates in Scotland or any other equivalent law degree recognised by the Government of India.
- The candidate must not be more than 32 years of age as on 01.01.2022.

Note:

- The term of adhoc appointment shall be for a maximum of two years or till such time regular appointment is made which-ever is earlier.
- The reservation for various categories would be determined as per the provisions of **S.O. 127 dated 20.04.2020**.
- In case the number of applications received is more than three times to the number of posts advertised, the High Court may shortlist the number of candidates for interview on the basis of marks secured by the candidates in the qualifying examination.
- Applications will be received only through online mode on recruitment portal of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, link of which will be activated on 20.11.2022 on the website of the High Court: <https://www.jkhighcourt.nic.in>.
- No application shall be accepted / entertained after the last date.
- The print-out of the application and required copies of documents shall be kept ready to be submitted at the time of interview.
- The eligible candidates shall have to appear in the viva-voce / Interview on the date(s), to be notified separately, which shall be the selection process. No separate call letters shall be issued individually; however, wide publicity shall be given through print / electronic media and official website <https://www.jkhighcourt.nic.in> of the High Court about the venues of interview for the information of eligible candidates. No claim of being unaware of the dates/schedule for interview shall be entertained.
- No TA/DA shall be paid to the candidates for Viva-voce/Interview.
- Qualification acquired after the last date of submission of application shall not be taken for consideration.
- Before applying online, the candidates are advised to carefully go through the guidelines for online submission of forms. These guidelines will be available on the online portal of the High Court.

By Order.

(Sanjeev Gupta)
Registrar General

No.:40617-28/RG/GS
DIPK-13841/22 dated 21-11-2022

Annexure-"A"

| Adv. Notice No. | Post | Pay scale | No. vacancies | of | Breakup of posts category-wise |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------|----|---|
| 04 of 2022 /RG dated 19.11.2022 | Civil Judge (Junior Division) / Munsiff (Adhoc) | Rs.27700-44770 | 65 | | OM = 33 SC = 06 ST= 06 RBA= 07 EWS= 06 PSP= 03 LAC= 02 Social Caste: 02 Total : 65 |

Pashtun-Style Celebration Puts Gun Licenses Under Scanner In Kashmir

Auqib Javeed

A recent trigger-happy action of a Kashmiri man has renewed focus on the gun license scam currently being investigated by a federal investigation agency.

A video that surfaced on 12 November shows a man firing from his licensed pistol during a marriage ceremony in Allochi Bagh area of Srinagar.

The stunt shocked sundry, drawing parallels with the Pashtun-style wedding celebrations.

Cops swiftly arrested Moin

Khan of Peerbagh for “endangering lives of others” and forwarded his handcuffed picture to Srinagar newsrooms.

Khan's case might be an exception, but the act has put the syndicate of gun licenses under scanner in Kashmir all over again.

These licenses are granted, renewed and cancelled under the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 2016, a top security official told Kashmir Observer.

“Depending on a threat perception, a person approaches his concerned police station with a plea for the authorized firearm,” the official informed.



THE MAN ARRESTED FOR HIS WEDDING STUNT WAS GIVEN the license over four years ago, The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has already asked all JK deputy commissioners not to provide or renew fresh license to anybody.”

“The application is then forwarded to the Superintendent of police (SP) office. And after a

proper verification, it is sent to the Deputy Commissioner's office.” But while this remains a

standard issuance procedure, many officials that Kashmir Observer contacted for the story said that no such license has been sanctioned in the erstwhile state since 2018.

And yet, Jammu and Kashmir tops the list of states/union territories where arms licences with all India permission were issued during the past three years.

Among the total 22,805 fresh gun licenses issued across the country between 2018 and 2020, over 78 per cent—17,905—were issued in J&K alone, a Ministry of Home Affairs reveals in a report.

“A total of 2,435 licenses were cancelled throughout the country between January 1, 2018 and September 15, 2020 while only three were canceled in J&K,” the report notes.

However, a senior police officer said that the government has banned issuing of firearms licenses in JK since 2018.

“The man arrested for his wedding stunt was given the license over four years ago,” the officer said. “The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has already asked all JK deputy commissioners not to provide or renew fresh **| More on P10**

JVC ‘Baby Swap’ Newborn’s Body Exhumed For DNA Sampling



Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Days after a family from Budgam district alleged that their newborn boy was swapped with a female baby at the SKIMS Bemina (JVC) here, the authorities on Monday exhumed the body of the newborn for DNA sampling to ascertain the truth.

“The body was exhumed in order to conduct DNA sampling and match that with those of the family members. The samples have been taken and it is going to take some time” SHO Bemina Ravinder Pal, told Kashmir Observer Monday.

Last week, a family from Patlibagh village of Budgam alleged that their newborn son was exchanged with a dead girl by the staff at the SKIMS (JVC). Following the serious charges, police had registered a case and started a probe to verify the allegations.

The family, however, had buried the newborn at their ancestral graveyard in Budgam.

According to the SHO, the body was exhumed in presence of the police party, officials from the health department and a Magistrate from Budgam.

However, Pal declined to give further information.

Medical Superintendent SKIMS Bemina (JVC) Shafa Deva told Kashmir Observer that the hospital administration is also carrying out an internal enquiry to probe the allegations.

On being asked if the doctors from JVC were present at the time of exhumation, she said the hospital administration was not informed about it.

“It is a police case and they are dealing with it, their way” She added.

Make Accountability Core Part Of Governance: LG

‘It’s Prime Duty Of Administration To Empower People, Make System And Process Transparent’

Observer News Service

Jammu: Asserting that it is the prime duty of the administration to empower people, make the system and process transparent, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday directed the revenue department to remove encroachments from state land and plan for its land use.

“Close liaison should be maintained by the revenue department with civil administration, police authorities to detect any attempt to encroach upon the state land and safeguard it from unauthorized construction. Officials on the ground must ensure that the poor should not be harassed,” Sinha said.

The LG passed these directions while chairing a high-level meeting to review the working of the Revenue Department at the Civil Secretariat here on Monday, an official spokesperson said.



During the meeting, the LG was briefed by the officials on progress made by the Revenue Department on the directions passed in the previous meetings to streamline the delivery of revenue related services and other achievements.

Sinha asked the department to adopt a multidimensional approach in its endeavour for bringing transparency in the system.

“Directions passed in previous meetings should be implemented in a time-bound manner to ensure ease of living to citizens. It is the prime duty of the administration to empower people, make the system and process transparent,” the LG said.

On the steps taken to evict encroachers from State Land, the LG issued directions to take appropriate action as per the law

for removal of encroachments and planning for its land use.

In the meeting, the LG was also briefed on the implementation of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

“Every landowner must have computerized and easily accessible records to avail multiple benefits of the government. Make **| More on P10**

EVERY LANDOWNER MUST HAVE COMPUTERIZED and easily accessible records to avail multiple benefits of the government. Make accountability core part of the revenue department. Officers to be held accountable for any lapse, illegal entries in revenue records.”

Centre Sets Up Panel To Identify Gaps In J&K’s Urban Planning

CS-Led Panel To Frame Action Plan For Implementation Of Its Recommendations

Agencies

Srinagar: With the Government of India setting up a high-level panel for identifying gaps in urban planning in Jammu & Kashmir, the administration of J&K on Monday constituted a committee headed by the chief secretary to coordinate with the central panel and implement its recommendations.

In a significant move, the Government of India has constituted a high-level committee for identifying gaps in urban planning in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

As a sequel to the Centre's move, the administration of J&K UT today constituted a high-powered committee headed by CS to coordinate with it.

According to an order, the CS-led panel has also been mandated to frame the action plan for implementation of the remedial measures/ recommendations of the central high-level committee for strengthening urban planning in J&K.

The committee comprising bureaucrats and experts from urban affairs will be serviced by the Housing & Urban Development Department.

The CS-led committee comprises of administrative secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, divisional commissioner Kashmir/ Jammu, chief town planner Kashmir/ Jammu, representatives of World Resource Institute(India), representatives of the Indian **| More on P10**

AIDS Clock Ticking As J&K Records 5,896 HIV +Ve Cases

1262 Patients Have Died So Far, 524 Left Follow Up, Say Officials

Agencies

Srinagar: The cases of HIV AIDS are increasing with each passing year as 5,896 patients have been tested HIV positive across Jammu and Kashmir so far.

Officials said that so far 1,362 HIV positive patients have died while 3,313 patients are alive on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) while 524 patients have left follow-up.

They said that because of social stigma, people aren't coming forward for the HIV tests and over the years the number of patients infected by HIV has shown a rising trend.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir Aids Control Society (JKACS) data, a copy of which is in possession with KNO till



October 2022, total number of PLHIV registered with HIV care has reached to 5,896 and among them 1,332 have died, 524 have left follow up and 3313 are alive on ART.

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a chronic, potentially life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). By damaging your immune system, HIV interferes with your body's ability to fight

infection and disease.

HIV is a sexually transmitted infection (STI). It can also be spread by contact with infected blood or from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or breast-feeding, multi person usage of needles. Without medication, it may take years before HIV weakens your immune system to the point that you have AIDS.

Officials said that a person suffering from AIDS is unfortunately often regarded as a stigma in the society and such people often become victims of ostracism, rejection and discrimination.

They said that J-K is at a greater risk of HIV AIDS because of being a tourist destination as tourists **| More on P10**

India Can Use G20 Presidency To Engage With Pak: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: As India assumes the G20 presidency for a year from next month, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Monday said the country can use this opportunity to engage Pakistan to address Kashmir issue and also help the world end the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said he was tired of advocating dialogue with Pakistan to be dubbed as “anti-national”.

“I am happy that we (India) are assuming the presidency of G20 and I hope that Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) will be successful in ending the Russia-Ukraine war that had badly hit the economy of the world,” Abdullah told reporters here.

He said it would be better for the global population if India is



able to defuse the crisis.

“Secondly, we have a problem with our neighbouring country (Pakistan over Kashmir). There can be a possibility to seek a solution (to the issue) to end our hardships,” Abdullah said.

India will assume the G20 presidency for a year on December 1 and chair over 200 meetings that aim to secure global economic **| More on P10**

S H O R T T A K E S

Man Found Dead In Bus Stand



A man from the border area of Uri was found dead on Monday at the bus stand in Baramulla district of North Kashmir. Momdin Shangoo, son of Bullah Shangoo of Salamabad village of Uri was found dead at the bus stand Baramulla on Monday afternoon by the locals, following which police was informed, reports said. **| More on P10**

Electric Shock Kills PDD Worker

A power development department (PDD) daily wageer died on Monday after receiving an electric shock in Kulgam district of South Kashmir. Mohammad Ramzan Sofi of Chinigam village was repairing a transmission wire in Chanpora village of Frisal on Monday morning when he got electrocuted, reports said. Sofi, who received critical injuries in the electric shock, was removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead, reports said. Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident.

Heart Attack Kills DySp On Umrah

Deputy Superintendent of police from South Kashmir's Kulgam district, who had gone to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, died of a cardiac arrest on Monday afternoon. Rukhsar Ahmad, a DySP rank officer from Chandian Pajan area of Kulgam died of cardiac arrest in Saudi Arabia today afternoon. He said Rukhsar, who was posted at IR 10th Battalion, had gone to Saudi Arabia a week ago to perform Umrah along with his family members. “He fell unconscious and was shifted to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead,” he said—(KNO)

Labourer Hammers Colleague To Death

Police have arrested a Bihari labourer for killing his counterpart from the eastern state in Rajouri district by hammer over the suspicion of him having illicit relations with his wife, official said. Addressing a press conference, SSP Rajouri Mohammad Aslam said that on November 18, an information was received that an unidentified body is lying under mysterious circumstances in a drain in Ward No.02 of Nowshera near Bella Colony. The body was taken into possession and injury marks were found on body after **| More on P10**

2 Members Of Burglary Gang Held

Police on Monday claimed to have busted a burglary gang by arresting two people from Baramulla district of North Kashmir. In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that in the recent past, incidents of burglary and vehicle theft were reported within the jurisdiction of Police Station Kunzer following which cases under FIR numbers 40/2022, 72/2022, 76/2022, 87/2022, 89/2022 and 102/2022 under relevant sections of law stands registered and investigation was initiated. “During investigation **| More on P10**

‘Mentally Unsound’ Boy Found Dead

Body of a 9-year-old ‘mentally unsound’ boy was found along banks of Pohru river in Kulangam area of Handwara in North-Kashmir's Kupwara district. Reports said that body of one Haris Ahmad, son of Javid Ahmad was spotted by some passersby, following which they informed police. A police team later on reached the spot and took the body for medical examination. Confirming it to a local news agency GNS, a police official said the boy was ‘mentally unsound’. “The body was handed over to the family after medico-legal formalities”, he said, **| More on P10**

Gyanvapi Case: Court To Hear Plea On Carbon Dating Of 'Shivling' On Nov 30

Press Trust of India

PRAYAGRAJ: The Allahabad High Court today fixed November 30 for hearing a revision petition challenging the Varanasi district judge's order by which the lower court had refused the demand of carbon dating of a 'Shivling' claimed to have been found in the Gyanvapi mosque complex.

Justice J J Munir passed the order on the revision plea filed by Laxmi Devi and others.

On October 14, Varanasi District Judge A K Vishvesh had turned down the plea seeking scientific investigation and

no damages could be caused.

On behalf of the Anjuman Intezamia Committee which manages the Gyanvapi mosque, it was said that a 'vakalatnama' was to be filed in the meantime. 'Vakalatnama' is a written document signed by a client to allow his advocate to plead a case in a court on behalf of him.

Four of the five Hindu parties had sought carbon dating of the 'Shivling' found during a court-mandated videography survey of the mosque premises close to the "wazookhana", a small reservoir used by Muslim devotees to perform ritual ablutions before offering Namaz.



carbon dating of the 'Shivling', citing Supreme Court directives for its safe keeping so that no tampering can be done.

When the matter was taken up in the high court on Monday, counsel for Archaeological Survey of India submitted that an application has been moved for extension of time for the survey. However, the court commented that there should be no damage to the 'Shivling'. Then the ASI's counsel said that there are more ways to determine the age and

The revision petition has sought appropriate survey or excavation to find out the nature of construction beneath the 'Shivling' discovered on May 16, 2022.

The Hindu parties have also sought scientific investigation by carbon dating to determine the age, nature and other constituents of the 'Shivling' in accordance with the provisions of The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

All You Need To Know About Adani Group's Rs 493-Crore Open Offer For NDTV



Press Trust of India

Adani Group's open offer to acquire an additional 26 per cent stake in the media firm New Delhi Television (NDTV) from the market would start from Tuesday.

The offer, for which a price band of Rs 294 per share has been fixed, will open on November 22 and closes on December 5, said a notice by JM Financial, the firm managing the offer on behalf of Adani Group firms.

Markets regulator Sebi on November 7 granted its approval to the proposed Rs 492.81 crore-open offer.

The conglomerate, run by India's richest man Gautam Adani, in August acquired a little-known company that lent over Rs 400 crore to NDTV's founders more than a decade ago in exchange for warrants that allowed the company to acquire a stake of 29.18 per cent in the newsgroup at any time.

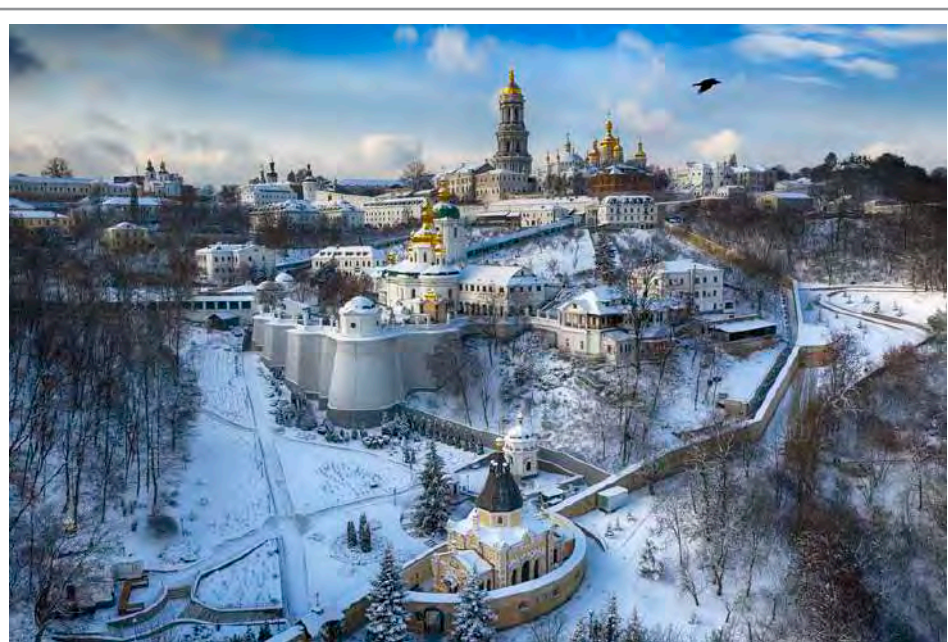
Post that, VCPL - the firm that the Adani group bought out -

announced that it would launch an open offer on October 17 to buy an additional 26 per cent stake from minority shareholders of NDTV. However, the offer was delayed since Sebi had not given its approval to the open offer.

VCPL, along with AMG Media Networks and Adani Enterprises Ltd, had proposed to acquire an additional 26 per cent or 1.67 crore equity shares at an offer price of Rs 294 per share.

If fully subscribed, the open offer will amount to Rs 492.81 crore at a price of Rs 294 per share. "The decision to acquire NDTV was arrived at in furtherance of the Adani Group's objective to set up a credible next-generation media platform with an emphasis on digital and broadcast segments, and that NDTV is a suitable broadcast and digital platform to deliver on this vision," Adani Enterprises had said in a regulatory filing in October.

On Monday, shares of NDTV closed at Rs 382.20 on BSE, down 5 per cent, touching a lower circuit.



THE 1,000-YEAR OLD CAVES MONASTERY, one of the world's holiest sites for Eastern Orthodox Christianity, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

EFREM LUKATSKY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cold and dark: Kyiv readies for 'worst winter of our lives'

Associated Press

KYIV: When the power is out, as it so often is, the high-rise apartment overlooking Ukraine's war-torn capital feels like a deathtrap. No lights, no water, and no way to cook food. And no elevator by which to escape from the 21st floor should a Russian missile strike. Even when the electricity comes back, it's never on for long.

"Russian strikes are plunging Ukraine into the Stone Age," says Anastasia Pyrozhenko. In a recent 24-hour spell, her 26-story high-rise only had power for half an hour. She says the "military living conditions" have driven her and husband from their apartment. "Our building is the highest in the area and is a great target for Russian missiles, so we left our apartment for our parents' place and are preparing for the worst winter of our lives," said the 25-year-old.

The situation in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, and other major cities has deteriorated drastically following the largest missile attack on the country's power grid on Tuesday. Ukrainian state-owned grid operator Ukrenergo reported that 40% of

Ukrainians were experiencing difficulties, 'due to damage to at least 15 major energy hubs across the country.

Warning that electricity outages could last anywhere from several hours to several days, the network said that "resilience and courage are what we need this winter."

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko, too, stressed the need to be ready and resilient in the face of a potential blackout: "Worst case scenario. Actually, I don't like to talk about that, but I have to be prepared if we (do not) have electricity, blackout, no water, no heating, no services and no communication," Klitschko told the AP on Friday. Ukrenergo said in a statement that "thousands of kilometers of key high-voltage lines are not working," affecting the entire country.

It published a picture of a transformer station that was destroyed by a Russian missile, leaving around 400,000 people without power. According to the report, "there are dozens of such transformers in the power system now. This equipment cannot be replaced quickly."

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said after last week's

strikes that more than 10 million Ukrainians were left without electricity; by Sunday, he said some areas had seen improvements.

"The restoration of networks and technical supply capabilities, the de-mining of power transmission lines, repairs — everything goes on round the clock," Zelenskyy said in his nightly address. Blackouts were scheduled Sunday night in 15 regions and the city of Kyiv, he said. Ukrenergo said there would be scheduled outages in every region on Monday.

A sharp cold snap and the first snow have significantly complicated the situation in Kyiv. The cold forces people to turn on their heaters, which drastically increases the load on the grid and makes power outages longer. In light of the dropping temperatures, the Kyiv authorities announced they were setting up communal heating points.

In the city of 3 million people, 528 emergency points have been identified. Here, residents will be able to keep warm, drink tea, recharge their phones and get any necessary help. The heating points will be equipped with autonomous power sources, as well as special boiler rooms.

ANTI-CONVERSION LAW

MP Govt To Move SC Against Interim Relief From Action Given To Interfaith Couples

Press Trust of India

JABALPUR: The Madhya Pradesh government is going to move the Supreme Court to challenge the high court's interim order restraining it from prosecuting interfaith couples who enter wedlock without informing the district magistrate.

The high court, in an interim order, directed the state government not to prosecute under section 10 of the MP Freedom of Religion Act (MPFRA) adults who solemnise their marriage on their own volition.

A division bench of Justices Sujoy Paul and PC Gupta on November 14 observed

that section 10, which makes it obligatory for a citizen desiring (religious) conversion to give a (prior) declaration in this regard to the district magistrate, is "in our opinion ex facie, unconstitutional in the teeth of aforesaid judgments of this court."

"The state government is going to move the Supreme Court to challenge the high court's interim order, which restrains it from prosecuting under section 10 of the MPFRA adults who solemnise their marriage on their own volition," Advocate General Prashant Singh told PTI on Sunday.

The MPFRA forbids conversions by misrepresentation,

allurement, use of threat of force, undue influence, coercion, marriage or by any other fraudulent means.

"We are going to file a plea in the honourable Supreme Court shortly," Singh said.

The high court's interim direction came on a bunch of seven petitions challenging provisions of the MPFRA, 2021. The petitioners sought interim relief to restrain the state from prosecuting anyone under the Act.

The court had granted three weeks' time to the state government to file its para-wise reply to the petitions, and said that the petitioners may file rejoinder within 21 days thereafter.

Gujarat Assembly Polls: 'Son' Rise In 20 Seats As Bjp, Cong Field Dynasts

Press Trust of India

Though frowned upon and favoured in equal measures by parties of different hues, dynastic politics is a traditional feature of electoral contests in the country and the next month's Gujarat Assembly polls are no exception.

The ruling BJP and opposition Congress have together fielded sons of sitting and former MLAs in at least 20 of the total 182 constituencies.

The opposition Congress has fielded 13 such candidates and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

gress' Sangramsinh Rathwa, the son of former Railways minister Naran Rathwa, both making their poll debut. Sitting MLA from Sanand seat in Ahmedabad district Kanu Patel is the son of former Congress MLA Karansinh Patel. The Patel senior joined the BJP in 2017, paving the way or his son to contest from Sanand again.

The BJP has repeated Kanu Patel from the same seat. BJP's candidate from Thasra, Yogendra Parmar, is the son of two-time MLA Ramsinh Parmar, who had won on a Congress ticket in 2007 and 2012 before quitting the



to seven. Gujarat will vote in two phases on December 1 and 5. The counting of votes will be taken up on December 8.

According to analysts, political parties are at times compelled to give tickets to dynasts either due to the strong 'winnability' factor or in the absence of an alternative in the constituencies where these leaders wield clout.

When tribal leader and ten-time Congress MLA Mohansinh Rathwa severed his decades-old ties with the parent party and joined BJP last month, the ruling party rewarded him by fielding his son Rajendrasinh Rathwa from Chhota Udepur seat.

The segment reserved for Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates will witness a straight contest between Rajendrasinh and Con-

party in 2017 but was defeated by a BJP candidate.

Shailesh Parmar, a two-time MLA of Congress from the Dhanilimda seat in Ahmedabad, is the son of former MLA Manubhai Parmar.

The Congress has once again reposed its faith in Shailesh for the upcoming elections. Another such contestant is former two-term MLA Mahendrasinh Vaghela, the son of former Gujarat chief minister Shankersinh Vaghela.

Mahendrasinh re-joined Congress last month and was fielded by the party from the Bayad seat. He represented the constituency as a Congress MLA between 2012 and 2017, switched over to BJP in 2019, and returned to his parent party-Congress-last month.

'Bharat Jodo Yatra' Set To Enter Madhya Pradesh On Nov 23



Press Trust of India

The Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra led by party leader Rahul Gandhi will enter Madhya Pradesh on November 23 morning, a state party functionary said on Sunday.

Congress General Secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh also told reporters in Maharashtra on Sunday that the yatra will take a break on November 21 and 22 in the western state and proceed to Madhya Pradesh on November 23.

The party had earlier said the yatra would proceed to MP on Sunday and take a night halt in Burhanpur.

As per the Congress's earlier schedule, the yatra's rest day was Monday.

Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to visit Gujarat on Monday for the election campaign there.

As per the available schedule now, the Bharat Jodo Yatra will start in Madhya Pradesh on November 23 morning after entering from neighbouring Maha-

rashtra," MP Congress Committee (MPCC) media department chairman KK Mishra told PTI.

The yatra will start from Bodarli village of Burhanpur district at 6 am on November 23, he said.

Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee general secretary Rajiv Singh said the yatra will reach Burhanpur city on November 23 evening and enter neighbouring Khandwa district on November 24.

Earlier, AICC in-charge of Madhya Pradesh Congress J P Agrawal had on November 6 informed that the foot march was scheduled to enter the state's Burhanpur district on November 20 and proceed to other districts on November 22 after a day's rest.

The foot march, a mass contact initiative of the Congress, began on September 7 at Kanayakumari in Tamil Nadu.

It will pass through 12 states before culminating in Jammu and Kashmir after spanning a distance of 3,570 km over nearly 150 days.

NEWS MAKERS

Water Tank 'Purified' With Cow Urine After Dalit Drinks Water

Agencies

NEW DELHI: After a Dalit woman drank water from a community drinking water tank in the Heggotara village in Karnataka's Chamaraajnagar, 'upper caste' residents of the village reportedly drained out the tank and 'purified' it by washing it with gomutra (cow urine).

According to a report in the New Indian Express, the initial incident took place on Friday, November 18, during a wedding between members of the Dalit community. After the wedding, a woman, thought to be one of the bride's relatives who had travelled to Heggotara from a village in the neighbouring Mysore district, reportedly drank water from the tank in question.

This reportedly led to a local man from the area gathering others and berating the woman for doing so. After the woman left, the locals reportedly emptied out the tank and 'cleaned' it with cow urine.

The next day, the revenue inspector and other government officials visited the village and took note of a complaint by a local resident who belongs to the SC community.

On Sunday, Chamaraajnagar Tehsildar Basavaraj and deputy director of the Social Welfare Department, Mallikarjun led a group of youths, accompanied by the police, around the village, where they drank water from all such reservoirs, denouncing the practice of untouchability.

This group also painted signs

on all such reservoirs making clear that any person is allowed to drink from them.

Further, the police reportedly took cognisance of a complaint filed by one Giriappa against the reported accused, Mahadevappa. The police reportedly said that a case will be registered and the accused will be charged under provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (SC/ST Act).

Thereafter, Karnataka infrastructure development minister V. Somanna, who is also the minister in-charge of Chamaraajnagar district, also visited the district on Sunday and said that he directed the deputy commissioner to probe the matter further and apprehend those guilty.

"I Have No Aukat, Let's Discuss Gujarat": PM Modi Challenges Congress

Agencies

SURENDRANAGAR, GUJARAT: As the campaigning in Gujarat gains momentum, Prime Minister Narendra Modi challenged Congress to "a face-off" on the issue of development rather than discussing "aukat".

"They talked about showing me my 'aukat'...called me many names...I have no 'aukat'," PM Modi said referring to the Congress leaders' criticism of him.

Apparently targeting Congress leaders, he said, "You belong to the royal family, I hail from an ordinary family, I have no problem. I am a servant and a servant with little to do. You called me ugly, low caste, death dealer, dirty sewer worm and now you ask to show aukat." "I have no aukat. Let's discuss the issue of development and make Gujarat develop. Come to the field. Let this be a face off," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a scathing attack on the Congress during a public address in the Dudhrej area of Gujarat's Surendranagar.

In a veiled attack on Rahul Gandhi for walking with Medha Patkar, PM Modi said that their leader travels by putting his hands on the shoulders of the people who made Gujarat "thirsty".

PM Modi during his rally in Dhoraji on Sunday as well in an apparent swipe at Rahul Gandhi said that during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Congress leader walked with a woman who tried everything to derail the Narmada Project.

"You should ask them with what face are they coming to seek votes from you. They did everything to stall the Narmada project for decades together and ensured that no money including that from World Bank was able to come over to Gujarat. They were constantly maligning the reputation of Gujarat," PM Modi said on Sunday as on November 19, Rahul Gandhi was joined by activist Medha Patkar, in his Bharat Jodo Yatra, who spearheaded the Narmada Bachao Andolan to prevent the displacement of locals due to the water of the Dam.

'Rasna' Founder Dies Due To Cardiac Arrest

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Areez Pirojshaw Khambatta, the founding chairman of the popular drink Rasna, passed away in Ahmedabad due to a cardiac arrest, the company said on Monday.

The 85-year-old industrialist, who was suffering from a prolonged illness, passed away on November 19. He is survived by his wife Persis, and children Piruz, Delna, and Ruzan, his daughter-in-law Binaisha, and grandkids Arzeen, Arzad, Avan, Areez, Firoza and Arnava.

Decades back, his father Phiroja Khambatta started a modest business which Areez took to being the largest concentrate manufacturer in the world, with a presence in over 60 countries.

He created affordable soft drink packs of Rasna in the 1970s as an alternative to soft drink products sold at high costs. It is sold at 1.8 million retail outlets in the country.

Rasna, which is now the world's largest gentle drink focus producer, still enjoys a high recall and the brand's "I love you Rasna" campaign of the 80s and 90s still resonates in the minds of people.

Talk On 'Persian Literary Traditions' Held

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A talk on Persian literary traditions of Kashmir was held at Kani home, Zakura on Sunday afternoon. The talk was delivered by Prof. Mufti Mudasir Farooqi who is a faculty member at the department of English, University of Kashmir. The event which was held in the lawns of Kani home was attended by a wide range of literary personalities.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Mufti Mudasir said the beginnings of Persian language in Kashmir can be traced back to 14th century A.D. with the establishment of Shahmiri rule.

"The influx of Missionaries and Sufis who came to Kashmir from Persia, primarily, for the spread of Islam in the region are important aspects responsible for the establishment of Persian language. Most of the religious literature was in Persian," Mufti said.

When Amir-e-Kabir Mir Syed Ali Hamdani during the reign of Sultan Qutub-din came here, he came along with 700 people who were very well versed with a lot of things and spoke Persian which gave impetus to the language.

Allama Iqbal calls Mir Syed Ali Hamdani Seyyedus Sadaat Salaar-e-ajam *Daste ou maemaare taqdeer-e-Ummam* "His hands were the architects of the destiny of nations"

Thereafter, Persian flourished in Kashmir" he said.

Prof Mufti said that broadly speaking in terms of Kashmir, history we can identify certain traditions like *tareekh tradition, tazkira tradition, poetic tradition, theological traditions*, although all these overlap but these can be seen as literary traditions in the larger context.

Mufti said the most important of them was the tazkira tradition. Tazkiras are hagiographies where someone decides to write about the lives of saints



and is not particular to any religion.

"When writers started to write things in Persian they started to record these lives belonging to different orders soharvarhis and kubarvis"

"However, hagiographies should not be seen as objective histories. Those who have written these hagiographies have projected it as the embodiments of virtue"

In some hagiographies Rishis and Sufis have been put in the same framework. For example in the case of Mir Mohammad Hamdani and Sheikh ul Aalam which led to Mir Mohammad Hamdani giving him Khat ul Irshad, which is in Arabic and at present is at Khanqah-e-Moula.

Meaning that Sufi of a qubravi order is now permitting a Kashmiri rishi to take disciples in that Order (silsila).

The anxiety which was there regarding the 'unislamic' nature of 'rishis' was overcome in this manner.

He noted that Power has always played a role and in Kashmir Persian was a language of power. It was the lan-

guage of court and administration. It became a language in which poets and theologists.

The tareekh writing is seen as a very conscious effort by historians (morikhs) as an act that can be conceived in the framework of Islam.

"They begin with invoking God's name and Kashmir has special place, it is place where Islam is meant to flourish"

Tareekhs have a lot to say about those times and eminent people those days were rulers or saints.

During the chakh period we have a Persian poet Sheikh Yaqoob e Sarfi who was a versatile genius, a poet and a jurist and among his works is panj-gung which was written in the imitation of nizami and also a dewan of ghals and rubiaat.

"Sarfi and Hubbi are the important poets of the Chakh period and a genuine lover of Ahlubait (a.s)" he said.

As far as the Mughal period is concerned, it turned out to be the golden period for Persian poetry. Influx of poets

from Iran to India began. They looked for a place near Iran, so they came to India.

Gani Kashmiri has a name in sabk e hindi and has surprisingly among other things written about the 'harshness of winter'.

During those times many poets called Kashmir home: Kaleem Kashani, Toghra Mashhadi, Saleem Tehrani, and Mir Elahi.

And many Kashmiri poets were born during the Mughal period, Mirza Darab Joya, Mirza Akmaluddin Kamil and Mohammad Aslam Salim.

Afghan period starts in 1753 upto 1819 and then Sikh period from 1819 to 1846.

The Afghan and Sikh periods are known for their oppression but poetry continued in the form of masnavis during the Afghan period.

Abdul Wahab Shaiq is one of the poets who wrote Shahnama-e-Kashmir and is based on 60,000 verses and Mulla Taufeeq continued it. Mulla Shahabadi is another important poet who saw both Afghan and Sikh rule and two years of Dogra rule.

With the coming of Dogras Persian started to lose its eminence.

Mufti further defined Persian as a cosmopolitan language which spread from Ottomans in Turkey to Mughals in India and in the midst of all this, Kashmiris got an opportunity to make use of that.

He said for the revival of the language, there is no other way than to learn the language.

Among those who attended the event were Ghulam Nabi Sheikh Ladhaki, writer and former IAS officer, Author and columnist Mohammad Maruf shah, Rashid Aziz, Faculty Dept. of Urdu, Kashmir University, Prof Altaf Anjum Dept. of Distance Education Kashmir University and activist Ishaq Nehvi. The event was moderated by Faizan Bhat.

Exhibition Of Special Literary Collections, Manuscripts Kicks Off

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An Exhibition of Special Literary Collections including Manuscripts, Rare Books and Miniature Paintings kicked off at SPS Library Complex on Monday.

The two-day Exhibition is being organized by the Oriental Research Library (ORL) Srinagar on the side-lines of the J & K UT-Level Library Advisory-cum-Purchase Committee (UTLLACPC) meeting which started here this morning.

The main attractions of the exhibition are the oldest manuscripts like Qarabai-Din, Sadh Pand Luqman and Shahnama Firdous. Some of the rare books including Rajtarangni by Kalhana, Tareekh-e-Rasheedi, Gazetteer of India and Kashur - a history of Kashmir are also displayed at the exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director, Libraries & Research said the rich repository of all the Manuscripts, Rare Books and Miniature Paintings of ORL which were earlier housed in Allama Iqbal Library, University of Kashmir, have been recently relocated to SPS Library Complex to ensure their conservation, management and productive use.

He said the Department has approached the National Mission on Manuscripts (NMM) to get their technical and professional guidance for effective conservation and preservation of these historic

documents. He said simultaneously a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared through the Mechanical Engineering Department Kashmir for installation of fire-proof optimizers at SPS Library Complex to ensure safety of these manuscripts, rare books and paintings.

Speaking about the exhibition, the Chief Librarian, Oriental Research Library Srinagar, Ishrat Majeed said that the Oriental Research Library (ORL), Srinagar established in 1904, is a repository of around 6000 centuries old rare manuscripts in 17 languages encompassing varied fields. The library also has around 5000 rare books and miniature paintings.

Ishrat said the manuscript collection of ORL is a treasure-trove of religious, philosophical, historical, literary and scientific writings.

The collection, she said, is rich in classical languages like Persian, Sanskrit and Arabic. These languages have left a deep impression on Kashmiri language by conditioning its growth in terms of forms and scope, she said and added that the Sanskrit, language of court and culture in 9th and beginning of 10th century in Kashmir contributes a number of religious, aesthetic and poetic articulations and are preserved in ORL.

A sale Counter has been also established at the Exhibition for the sale of exclusive books published by the Oriental Research Library Srinagar.

Tarigami Questions Delay in Completion of SSCProject

Observer News Service

Srinagar: CPI (M) leader Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami Monday expressed deep concern over the inordinate delay in the completion of Smart City Mission.

The various projects to be taken under the much hyped mission might stymie due to the availability of inadequate funds as the mission involves a 50:50 finance model with states/UTs, Tarigami said in a statement.

He said the Srinagar Mu-

nicipal Corporation (SMC) is unable to pay the pending salaries of their employees and it calls into doubt if the UT could release its share of 50 percent funds.

"The citizen consultations are an important aspect of the Smart City Mission while executing various projects but unfortunately no such consultations are taking place. Such consultations are imperative to know where the citizens want to spend the money or the projects to be taken up," he said.

Admin. Retrieves Over 75 Kanals Of Land From Encroachers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Administration Srinagar On Monday launched a massive anti-encroachment drive in various parts of the district and retrieved over 75 Kanals of State land at prime locations worth crores of rupees.

The District Administration also raided the illegal mining site at Chandpora Nallah in Tehsil North of the district during midnight and seized three tippers and one JCB, and an FIR was also lodged against the contractor.

A team of Revenue and Police Officers/ Officials headed by Teshildar Eidgha, Ishfaq Ahamd Khan conducted an anti-encroachment in Sangam area and retrieved 6 kanals of Government land. In this regard, proceedings under 107 crpc were also initiated against 30 encroachers.

Similarly, anti-encroachment drives were launched in Danihama and Haripora Harwan areas of North Tehsil of the district during which about 70 kanals of state land was retrieved from the land grabbers. The Teams headed by Tehsil-

dar North, Kaiser Mehmood removed 20 kanals of state land at Danihama, while 50 kanals of state land was also retrieved at Haripora, Harwan.

Besides, in order to control the process of illegal mining in the district, the special teams on the directions of the District Magistrate Srinagar also conducted a surprise raid at illegal mining site at Chandpora Nallah in Tehsil North of the District in the midnight and seized three tippers and one JCB. In addition an FIR was also lodged against the contractor in this regard.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

| PRAYERS | |
|---------|-------|
| FAJR | 5:41 |
| ZUHR | 12:14 |
| ASR | 3:50 |
| Magrib | 5:30 |
| ISHA | 7:50 |

This Day In History

- 498 - St Symmachus begins his reign as Pope replacing Anastasius II
- 845 - First King of all Brittany, Nominoe defeats Frankish King Charles the Bald at the Battle of Ballon, near Redon
- 1220 - Frederick II crowned Holy Roman Emperor in Rome by Pope Honorius III
- 1346 - Street fights in Utrecht, Hollandsgezinde Gunterlingen statements
- 1497 - Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama rounds Cape of Good Hope on way to first voyage from Europe to reach India
- 1683 - Purcell's "Welcome to All the Pleasures" premieres in London
- 1699 - Treaty of Preobrasjensku Denmark, Russia, Saksen and Poland divide Sweden
- 1707 - Prince Johan Willem Friso sworn in as viceroy of Friesland
- 1714 - King Karel XII leaves Turkish captivity to return to Sweden
- 1794 - Strasbourg Alsace-Lorraine, prohibits circumcision and wearing of beards
- 1809 - Peregrine Williamson of Baltimore patents a steel pen
- 1830 - Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey, becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- Charles Grey
- 1864 - American Civil War Battle at Griswoldville, Georgia, ends after 650 casualties
- 1864 - Union General O Howard orders plunderers be shot to death
- 1872 - Franz Grillparzer's "Die Judin von Toledo" premieres in Prague
- 1884 - T Thomas Fortune starts NY Freeman (NY Age) newspaper
- 1886 Victoria Street Cable Tram route begins in Melbourne, Australia
- 1899 - Battle at Willow Grange, Natal (British vs Boer army)
- 1900 - Paul Kruger, exiled President of the Boer Republic of South Africa, is given a popular welcome when he lands at Marseilles, France
- 1905 - British, Italian, Russian, French and Austro-Hungarian fleet attacks Lesbos
- 1906 - Peter Stolypin, Prime Minister of Russia, introduces agrarian reforms allowing peasants to withdraw from the communes and take their share of land for private ownership
- 1908 - 1st US-Japanese baseball game Reach All-Americans defeat Waseda U, 5-0
- 1914 - Indian troops take Basra in Mesopotamia.
- 1924 - Britain orders Egyptians out of Sudan.
- 1930 - Elijah Muhammad forms Nation of Islam in Detroit. .
- 1960 - French National Meeting decide to build own nuclear weapons.
- 1967 - UN Sec council passes resolut 242-Israel must give back occupied land

From KO Archives

SPOs Rape 2 Women At Gunpoint In Lolab

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: A pair of special police officers assaulted two Dardpora women in Lolab forests last night. The perpetrators, who stalked the victims in the forest where they had gone to collect fire wood, have been identified as Nazir Ahmad Tantray, son of Ghulam Rasool Tantray and Manzoor Ahmad Lone, son of Jabbar Lone, both from Dardpora, Lolab, - the victims' na-tive village. They have been arrested by the police.

A NAFA report said in Srinagar that two pro-government gunmen had entered a Warpora household with the intention of robbery. Finding the two women alone in the house - the rest of the family was away at a wedding - the Ikhwans assaulted them at gun point and later carried them to the nearby forests to repeatedly subject them to the heinous act. The village was seething with rage after the two traumatized women returned this morning and recounted what had befallen them.

ONS in Baramulla identified the victims as Shafiqua, daughter of Ghulam Nabi Mir, and Atiqua wife of Fayaz Ahmad. NAFA, however, said that both were married and Shafiqua was the wife of Ghulam Nabi Mir.The report said the victims as well as the criminals belong to Warpora. The criminals have been arrested by Lalpora police and two AK rifles recovered from them, it said.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 22 NOVEMBER, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Tuesday | 22-11-2022

Srinagar
Revamp Plan

The government is set to give Srinagar a Rs 980 crore makeover. The 4000 year old city is getting better urban mobility and water transport, pedestrian-friendly pathways and intelligent traffic management. Beginning March next year, Polo View is getting a facelift, “a colonial-era look.” The market which was established by the former Prime Minister of J&K, Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad in 1954 has always been a tourist haunt and the new makeover is designed to further enhance its aesthetic appeal. It will become the first market in the city with a pedestrian-friendly pathway.

Recovering from the turmoil of the past three decades, Srinagar continues to live amid the echoes of the immediate past and the call of an uncertain future. Not that the change has not visited it. It has. But it has been primarily of a physical nature. There are scores of large shopping complexes coming up in the city. Along the major streets of Residency Road, Gogji bagh, Karan Nagar and also along Hyderpora, Sanat Nagar and the other areas, a brand new facade has lent a new gloss to the city.

There have been some bigger cosmetic changes like remaking of a large portion of the Jhelum embankment into a Chinar shaded riverside park which has kind of restored the famous boulevard along the river to its past colonial glory. Bund, as the boulevard is locally called, is a famous Jehlum side feature of the city, a darling of the tourists. It is the mooring site of the first houseboats in the Valley and in its heyday was seen as the oriental challenge to Venice

Srinagar has witnessed acres and acres of new colonies sprouting on its outskirts which have transformed its appearance. This has spawned an unprecedented real estate boom. The local developers have jumped into the fray in a big way, building flats and residential colonies, to cater to the large-scale migrations into the city from the countryside. The city’s demography has been altered in the process. Without asserting itself in any conspicuous way, a shiny new Srinagar is coming up away from the downtown city and aspiring to become the new political and commercial hub.

The contemplated new changes in many ways are a search for the vintage old Srinagar when all was so serene. And for once, through a renewal of scenic resemblance with the past, it represents a bid for the restoration of the familiar old geography of peace.

OTHER OPINION

FIFA world cup in
Qatar and the west’s
cultural imperialism

“If you can’t drink beer for three hours, I think you can survive. There are many countries that ban alcohol in stadiums, like France, but since it’s a Muslim country [Qatar], that’s a problem.”

The French, heavy drinkers like most Europeans, felt it necessary to ban alcohol in stadiums because it leads to rowdy behaviour and violence.

Why should Qatar allow such conduct to erupt in its midst when it probably does not even have the capacity to deal with rowdy western crowds?

Further, it is certain that if punch drunk westerners were prevented from smashing glass and engaging in fist-fights with fans of an opposing team, there would be loud protests in western media outlets about “intolerant” Arabs.

Regarding people’s sexual orientations, again this is largely a western obsession.

While homosexuality is banned in Qatar, FIFA president Infantino insisted that all World Cup visitors would be welcome regardless of sexual orientation.

Is the world cup about promoting homosexuality or about playing soccer (or football, according to some)?

Finally, the complaint about Qatar not paying fair wages to expatriate workers is correct.

The west, however, is hardly in a position to complain.

After all, western companies made a killing in charging inflated prices for building the \$200-billion infrastructure.

Nobody complained about that.

If the west really cares about low wages because they sympathize with workers from third world countries, how about allowing the desperate refugees arriving in rickety boats on their shores?

Many including children have drowned in a desperate bid to get ashore.

Western regimes have set up cages for these desperate people on remote islands and locked them up as animals.

It is time to call out the west’s hypocrisy.

Crescent International

A Tale of Forlorn
Garbage Bins

Non-operational District Swachh Bharat Missions

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

In my previous articles, I have explained how services for waste management are not only the prerogative of people living in urban areas but this work has to be taken up in rural areas as well. The Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin explains this in detail. However, work is not being taken up on the ground. In fact, some months back, the Rural Development Department had tried to launch a rural waste management programme in J&K but this work has not been done on scientific lines as mandated under Municipal Solid Waste Rules 2016 (MSW Rules).

Before launching the programme, it was important to sensitise all about the work. Yet, the Government preferred to skip this entirely and instead jumped to supplying a large number of steel trash bins instead. The fate of these bins is interesting to note. Some have fulfilled their destiny of holding waste but no service has been put in place to actually empty them. Now, these trash bins – empty or filled – lie scattered or stolen.

Consequently, it now seems like this entire exercise is turning out to be a failure.

Through my social media campaigning, when I highlighted the grotesque images of these huge dustbins overflowing with trash through videos; some village panchayats did not install them at all (Photos from Gogge Pathri in Nagam block of Budgam district are a case in point). This has happened because employees of the Rural Development Department and members of panchayat have an apprehension that once filled, people will take pictures of these trash-filled and deserted trash bins and share them on social media. With no mechanism in place to actually empty them out, the best way, according to them, is to not provide dustbins at all. The ground level employees of the Rural Development department like Panchayat Secretary, Gram Rozgar Sevak (GRS) plus members of Panchayat (Sarpanch and Panchs) are now worried about what to do, as they are not trained to handle solid or liquid waste. Truly a situation quite keeping with the phrase, ‘between the devil and the deep blue sea’.

Had the officials of the Rural Development Department properly studied the 2017 guidelines of SBM Gramin or its operational guidelines, there would not have been any chaos or confusion in implementing the Rural Waste Management programme in Jammu & Kashmir.

Moreover, the Government has also failed to constitute the District Swachh Bharat Mission (DSBM) committees at district level headed by Chairpersons of Zilla Parishad who are known as Chairpersons of District Development Council in J&K under Panchayati Raj Act 1989.

Swachh Bharat Mission

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched in 2014 to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage. The programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 2nd October 2014 and under this national flagship programme, all villages, Gram Panchayats, Districts, States and Union Territories in India declared themselves “open-defecation free” (ODF) by 2nd October 2019; a feat which was celebrated on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Government claims that over 100 million toilets in rural India have been constructed. The official report of SBM Gramin reads:

“To ensure that the open defecation free behaviours are sustained, no one is left behind, and that solid and liquid waste management facilities are accessible, the Mission is moving towards the next Phase II of SBMG i.e ODF-Plus. ODF Plus activities under Phase II of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) will reinforce ODF behaviours and focus on providing interventions for the safe management of solid and liquid waste in villages”

District SBM Gramin (DSBMG)

The operational guidelines of Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin clearly

mention the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in implementing Solid & Liquid Waste Management under SBM Gramin. From district to village panchayats, the roles and responsibilities have been explained in detail but unfortunately these guidelines are not being explained to PRI members. The operational guidelines issued by the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation explains the role of District Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin - DSBM(G). The guidelines 8.5, page 36 throw light on the constitution of district mission. It reads:

“DSBM(G) shall be headed by the Chairman of Zilla Parishad. The District/Deputy

Commissioner/Magistrate/CEO Zilla Panchayat shall be the Executive Vice

Chairman. The members would be – all MPs/ MLAs and MLCs of the district and Chairperson of the concerned Standing Committees of the Zilla Parishad or their representatives; CEO/AEO of the Zilla Parishad. District Officers of Education, Health, Panchayati Raj, Social Welfare, ICDS, PHE, Water Resources, Agriculture, Information and Public Relation. NGOs can be identified by the DSBM(G) and co-opted into the Mission as members. CEO of the District Panchayat/ Parishad; the Executive Engineer of PHED/District Engineer of the ZP/ any other officer approved by SSBM(G) shall be the Member Secretary “

The guidelines make it mandatory that the DSBMG headed by Chairman DDC (Zilla Parishad) shall meet at least once a quarter. During these meetings, the district mission is supposed to plan and advise on implementation of the SBM (G) in the district with appropriate Information Education and Communication (IEC) strategies and convergence mechanisms with all line departments. In Jammu & Kashmir, however, bureaucrats are bypassing all this. Not one meeting has been convened by District SBM Gramin nor have these committees (District Missions) been constituted formally through a written order. Even the members of the mission including Chairpersons of DDC or its members, BDC Chairpersons have not been sensitized about SBM Gramin Phase II (solid and liquid waste management) nor have they been told what their role is to undertake the Rural Waste Management programme.

DSBM Management Committee

Under the District Swachh Bharat Mission Committee headed by Zilla Parishad Chief (DDC Chairman) is another committee called District Swachh Bharat Mission Management Committee (DSBMMC). This is chaired by the District Collector/Magistrate and comprises all district level officers of relevant departments. Under it, all the Block Development Officers- BDOs/ Block level officers in charge of sanitation, shall be formed and shall meet once a month to plan and monitor the implementation of the mission. The Committee is to carry out regular Block and Gram Panchayat level reviews. The Deputy Commissioner or CEO Zilla Panchayat (ADDC in case of J&K) is to be the nodal officer responsible for the implementation of the mission. Remuneration of all government employees in the Mission would be borne by the State. The DSBMMC can engage technical experts as consultants to be supported under the programme.

Had these technical people been hired by the District Committees in J&K there would not have been chaos and confusion as the entire process of waste management would have been streamlined. The garbage bins won’t have been overflowing with waste and other such bins won’t have been dumped inside the Panchayat building premises.

In absence of proper training to PRI members and officials of the Rural Development Department; and non-implementation of operational guidelines of SBM Gramin phase II, waste management work is not being undertaken in J&K. In many villages, compost pits and soakage pits have been constructed but they are built haphazardly.

The Junior Engineers, BDO, Panchayat Secretaries, DDC members and Chairpersons need to be sensitized about their roles and responsibilities.

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



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Response to Chai and Corruption Op-ed

This refers to the article by Dr Tauseef Parray & Danish Bashir published in Kashmir Observer on Nov 16th titled The Other Chai: Corruption & Why It Must End. The authors of this article have beautifully explained the concept of Chai with regard to Kashmiri society. The corruption has gained social acceptance in our society and this has polluted all the three branches of Government i.e Legislative,

Judiciary and Executive. The legislative and executive are most infected and it seems corruption will never come to an end.

The authors have referred to Anti-Corruption Bureau’s awareness programme during Vigilance Awareness Week (Oct 31st to Nov 6th). In this regard I want to say that such programmes should not be restricted to vigilance week only. The ACB must hold such events every month

in each district and I would suggest the Director ACB, to use the services of religious leaders to spread the message of corruption and its negative impact on society. People are fed up with corruption but they see no role models in society.

The PMGSY,R&B, PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control, Geology & Mining Agriculture, Horticulture, Revenue and Police departments are the most corrupt Govt organisations in

J&K and Govt has failed to check the assets of the employees working in these departments. The Tourism Development Authorities, Municipal Institutions are also fleeing people and allowing illegal constructions. Corruption is a social problem and has to be tackled socially and religiously.

Sajad Hussain Mir

Book Reading Culture in Kashmir in the Age of the Internet

PART-II

Fading, Flourishing or Fluctuating?

Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray*
Rehana Imtiyaz Wani**

Use of Internet and Smartphones have proved both a boon and ban for the book reading culture in Kashmir

This is in continuation to our previous column, published on Sunday (20th November, page 6). Below are presented a few more viewpoints on this issue and concern.

VIEWPOINT-3: Internet made inaccessible books accessible to a common man; Internet has made Reading prerogative of the privileged and the subaltern alike

Contrary to the opinions presented in viewpoint-2 (that 'internet and smartphones have affected badly the readership qualities, especially among the youth') many believe that the internet is a blessing for the readers, for many reasons. Amir Suhail Wani (a Srinagar based columnist with many newspapers, including Kashmir Observer) is optimistic and sees this change as a positive sign as far as book reading culture in Kashmir is concerned. Refuting the claim that book reading culture has faded or declined, he says: "Many people believe that the book-reading culture is ebbing, but a simple survey of Amazon book sales and the data collected from local bookshops defies this judgment. On the contrary, e-books, online journals and research papers and gadgets like palmtops and Kindle have diversified the reading culture into electronic mode. People across all age groups and from different walks continue to cherish their reading habits. There is only one ill concern that social media platforms have transformed learning into an activity of boasting and useless debating and that's in a sense defeating the purpose of education which is 'formation, not mere information'."

A similar opinion is shared by a senior academician who views the existence of, and establishment of new booksellers (in the Srinagar city, like Kashmir Book Depot, Gulshan Books, Ali Mohd. and Sons, Bestseller, Password and others) as a sign and signal of the "thriving book reading culture". For him, it is of secondary importance what and how much a reader (be it a student or a common person) reads; what is important, and interesting to note, is that people read, he remarks.

It is interesting to add here that a class 12th student (namely Obaid Wani) from Sopore shared a similar opinion. Viewing use of the internet as a helpful tool in book reading, in his opinion, "there is no decline in book reading culture". He also believes that in some cases, "there may be (a decline), but overall there isn't. The internet, as everyone knows, has made our lives better and easier; so is the case with the book reading culture. It takes less time nowadays to read books, due to the internet, as we easily get access to the podcasts and summaries of the books we need to read".

Similarly, Mugees Ul Kaisar (a Philosophy pass-out from JNU, New Delhi and a regular columnist with many newspapers, including KO) is of the opinion that "internet or a smartphone can never replace or compensate the knowledge available in the (physical) books". Agreeing with our query, he is of the opinion that "all the people I know, who are very well-read, are in their 40s or older. In comparison, the number seems to (have) decreased now in our youth because of digital revolution in past decade and a half. That is, our elders seemed to have lesser distraction. If they wanted to know about something, they had almost no other option but to buy books." Appreciating the fact that internet has provided an easy and quick access to the information, he is not miscalculating its harmful effects: "We do not deny that internet makes huge amount of information quite accessible to wider audience, and we can learn a lot from it, but the information in the form of articles and YouTube videos are neither properly structured nor comprehensive. They may act as partial beginner introductions to things. Only books properly and comprehensively cover subjects. Moreover, classics of all sciences are always the most important, which are best accessed through books, whether hard copies or soft copies."

In the opinion of Asif Tariq Bhat (a young Kashmiri language novelist), "Readers never die. However, in today's rapidly developing technology environment, readers experiment with new ways to slake their hunger for reading, whether it is through documentaries or audiobooks. The content thus reaches the reader via many paths and media. It is absurd to blame the internet for this. Speaking of the culture of reading books, voracious readers cannot have this thing taken from them".

Based on his own experiences as an avid reader and writer, Dr Shah Faisal (IAS), shared



a mixed response to our query, for he highlights the harmful effects of the internet and at the same time appreciates its benefits. For him, "book reading culture has taken a hit because of internet. My personal experience has been that whenever I don't have access to internet, I immediately return to (physical) books. And the moment, I am back online, I find myself so distracted. There is so much happening in this world. Breaking news is a part of life now. We also find it hard to read books because we are used to reading 280 character tweets. Social media makes it so difficult for us to get those quiet moments when we can pick up a book and get absorbed in it." However, he does not overlook the positive side of use of the internet and smartphones, for it has made available "many online resources": "PDF books, which can be read and shared without any charges, have made knowledge more accessible." Therefore, for him, "it ultimately depends on the judicious use of the internet and social media, as we can read much more than we used to read before the age of internet."

Echoing a similar viewpoint, Prof. Ishfaq Hussain Bhat (Assistant Professor, English at GDC Sogam), and viewing the internet as a "double-edged sword", he is of the opinion that it has no doubt "revolutionized the world insofar as making books available/ accessible to people belonging to different walks of life, but it has badly affected reading habits". "Digital addiction", in his opinion, "is one of the major threats to reading habits because the users/readers live in a constant FOMO (fear of missing out)" and it leads to "distraction". He also is of the opinion that we should not consider the increase in the number of booksellers in Srinagar or in the whole Kashmir valley as "a yardstick" for flourishing book reading culture. At the same time, he (being a teacher) cautions that "if the trend continues, we might soon see, with some exceptions, books being used as mere decoration items." Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Kumar (Assistant Professor, Kashmiri, GDC Sogam) also shared similar viewpoint on this question, adding that the "passion for reading has tremendously dwindled in the young generation due to various reasons—judicious use of smartphones, mostly for entertainment purpose, being the primary one".

Danish Bashir (a BSc 6th semester student at our college and a budding writer and good orator) is of the opinion that no doubt "internet is beneficial for us as it provides us easy access to the study material that we need as well as gives quick fix solutions to our problems" but its use "ultimately leads the user to distraction" even if a user is reading a book. In contrast to this, "reading from a physical book not only helps us in concentrating on the topic we are reading, but also in absorbing and accumulating what one reads."

M. Azhar Ul Haq (a voracious reader who is currently pursuing PG in English at Central University of Kashmir) also views internet both as boon and ban for book publishing and reading. He says that it is true that "the IT revolution changed everything around us, including how and how much we read. I believe that the internet affected printing more than publishing and reading. Similarly, it facilitated access to quality literature produced across the world. Reading ceased to be a prerogative of the privileged: now, the subaltern can read."

"In general, the trend of studying today is more towards the digital world and Kashmir is no exception to it, as students here prefer to read books, magazines, newspapers and literature on various topics (of their interest) on the internet", says Mujtaba Farooq (MANUU-Hyderabad based PhD scholar and a regular Urdu columnist with local and national dailies). On the issue of diminishing reading culture, he is of the opinion that there are two main reasons; that (1) easy access and availability of the required study material (in digital format) for the students as per their need, literary taste and interest; and (2) spending a lot of time by using social media for entertainment, watching reels and short clips and playing games. These rea-

sons, for him, "have had a significant negative impact on the study trend." He substantiates his viewpoint from the feedback received from some reputed booksellers of Srinagar (during a conversation). He further states that "one experiences an aesthetic feeling by reading a physical book, which cannot be attained by reading a book in digital format. Thus, it is imperative to turn back to read (physical) books."

Faiza Aijaz (who is pursuing PG in English Literature at Central University of Kashmir), as a counter-argument, raised the question (which is similar to the viewpoint highlighted by Dr M. Maroof Shah) "did Kashmir ever have a reading culture?" and answers it in negative saying that "the book reading culture never thrived in Kashmir." She further argues that any "intellectual activity, including book reading, has largely been a vocation of the privileged section of the society" in Kashmir but the "penetration of internet to the center and hinterland alike" has resulted in a "kind of democratization of book reading." "Kashmir, too, has begun to inculcate the habit of reading books", she remarks.

VIEWPOINT-4: Art of Reading (a Book) not taught; Book Reading Habit not Inculcated and Encouraged at School or College Level(s) and Less Use of Library (by Students)

Notwithstanding the fact that in recent years we have come across a number of news reports of school going students publishing a book, the general trend is students are neither encouraged to read books nor are there any contents or schemes in the curriculum or pedagogy which could inculcate or refine reading habits among students. Saniya Zehra Dar (a class 9th student at AGS Shariefabad, Budgam) as quoted above, has made a confession that as a student she has not witnessed any "inclination among the students towards reading books" which she substantiates with the point that the "main topic of discussion is the social media" and "hardly any student talks about books." This is further validated by the opinion of a teacher who has observed that "students are not encouraged to spend their leisure time in the library".

Eyram Hamid Khan (a research scholar in the Life Sciences and a columnist who has written on this topic as well) answers our question as "simply Yes", because he believes that "everyone is addicted to the digital world, whether they are workers, students or professionals" and thus "not only have children [students] lost interest in reading books, but even adults are also hardly seen reading books anymore." Khan, however, considers "broken educational system" as the "root cause of this issue", believing that "students reading habits are scarcely being instilled in them." For him, "Books are not something fascinating for the people anymore", and "intellectual endeavor has all but disappeared from their lives."

Resonating a similar standpoint, Dr Zaira Ashraf Khan (Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies at GDC Pulwama and an author) is of the opinion that "the depreciation in the reading culture trend starts from schools where reading isn't encouraged as source of intellectual development rather a means to crack exams and this trend continues all through life of a student at college too. They prefer easy to read and memorize notes/ booklets instead of a text. Reading feels more like an obligation for a student who looks for an escape." She also believes that teaching not the "art of reading a book" is also one of the reasons having resulted in the decrease of "the percentage of book lovers."

For Dr Bilal Ahmad Sheikh (who teaches History at GDC Sogam), one cannot deny the fact that "in the age of technology, the internet is consuming a good amount of time and people are left with too little free time to be spent on reading printed books. The people, particularly students, are largely dependent on internet for entertainment and information than books, which has decreased the importance of tradi-

tional libraries." "Because of growing influence of internet and social media", he opines based of his observations, "that though college libraries are rich in their collection", these days "students rarely have a regular habit of book reading" which is "greatly affecting the quality of educated youth in colleges and universities."

VIEWPOINT-5: What Booksellers (of Kashmir) Say on Book Reading Culture?

In January 2021, Muhammad Nadeem in the Mountain Ink published a feature story related to the book reading culture in Kashmir: "Is 'Book Business' Devouring Reading Culture in Public Libraries of Kashmir?" In this story, he mentioned, on the basis of inputs received from "some bibliophiles" that "Kashmir's reading culture is both falling and fading".

In a recent interview with Sani Yasnain of Bestseller, "one of the oldest bookstores in Srinagar" by Insha Latief Khan ("Bestseller attracts book lovers across Kashmir", Rising Kashmir, 9th November 2022, p. 8), it was mentioned that (1) Bestseller is "a major attraction among the book lovers across Kashmir" and to "create a reading culture among the younger generation, the bookstore offers sales on the best-selling books"; (2) Sani, an avid Urdu literature reader himself, believes that "even though the youth is inclined towards books, yet the reading culture is diminishing because of the high price of the books, which students find difficult to afford"; (3) Sani believes that "Students not reading the books would not be a reason for the reading culture to die. It's because the price of books has gone up from some years which doesn't let students afford the book"; (4) Sani believes that "even though the gadgets have eased lives but when it comes to reading, a hard copy is still preferred over the PDFs"; for him, the "physical appearance of the book and the feel it offers is different from the one you can get from soft copies".

Similarly, the owners of the online book store, LALCHOWK.IN, which claims to be "Kashmir's largest and favorite online bookstore" with diverse choice of subjects and genres—including "academics, fiction, literature, competitive or Islamic books"—believe that while "we cannot specifically say that the reading culture is on decline, but generally speaking, internet has affected the common reader base in Kashmir and elsewhere", and the reason is simple: "great share of reader base has shifted towards e-books and audiobooks nowadays as they find it more portable and less time-consuming than a physical book reading session". For them, "the availability of news outlets (magazines/ current affairs) on the social media", is another factor responsible for diminishing reading habits of people, as it has "put a stop on reading full time physical newspapers (and magazines)". They further state that "the reading culture is in decline everywhere (including Kashmir) due to the fast moving and news dissemination through the internet."

Crux of the Discussion/ BOTTOM LINE: From the opinions, viewpoints and comments of different stakeholders, it becomes evident that:

- 'Reading section' or 'avid readers' are always present in a society, but there presence has been, and will always be, marginal; they will not be affected much by the socio-political, intellectual or technological developments and advancements taking place around the world.
- Use of the internet as well as smartphones has proved both a boon and ban for the book reading culture in Kashmir; the internet has no doubt made books accessible and available for a common reader, but reading a book on digital.
- Digital age has no doubt revolutionized the world but it has its harmful effects as well, and reading habits too have been affected by it (tremendously).
- Reading culture is not instilled and inculcated among the students at school or college levels.
- Even though the (electronic) gadgets have eased lives but when it comes to reading (a book), a hard (physical) copy is still preferred over a digital (PDF) copy; and the reading culture is declining everywhere (including Kashmir) as we are living in the 'digital age'.

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Jitendra Singh To Inaugurate E-Governance Conference On Nov 26

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh will inaugurate the 25th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) at Katra in Jammu and Kashmir on November 26.

The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in association with the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir will organize the 25th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) on 26th – 27th November, 2022 in Katra, Jammu & Kashmir. The theme of this Conference is “Bringing Citizens, Industry and Government closer”.

The Conference will be inaugurated by the Chief Guest Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of State of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Government of India.

26th November is celebrated as the Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. As part of the celebrations Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh will administer reading of the Preamble to the Constitution with all participants on 26th November, 2022 in the Inaugural Session of the 25th NCeG.

The National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) will be presented under 5 categories of the NAeG Scheme - 2022 to 18 e-Governance initiatives at Central, State and District levels, Academic & Research Institutions and Public Sector Undertaking. This includes 9 Gold and 9 Silver Awards.

The Valedictory session will be presided over by Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir on 27th November, 2022 in the 25th NCeG.

Chief Minister of Haryana will

be attending the Valedictory Session which will witness Launch of digital J&K initiatives and Signing of MoUs by the J&K Government.

Digital innovation will play an important part in the next decade for governance to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. This will necessitate conversations around topics and technologies which would shape Digital Governance in the future to enhance the delivery of Government services to citizens. This conference will be a platform for discussion on some of these technologies by inviting distinguished speakers to share their knowledge and insights on the subject.

The Conference would provide considerable momentum to the e-Governance initiatives across the country, providing opportunities for civil servants and industry captains to showcase their successful interventions in e-Governance in improving end-to-end service delivery.

Delegates from Central Ministries/Departments and 28 States and 8 Union Territories have confirmed their participation in the Conference. Over 1000 delegates are expected to attend this Conference in Jammu. An Exhibition will also be organized during the event to showcase India's achievements in the field of e-Governance, along with a Wall of Fame/ photo exhibition on the award winners.

Senior Secretaries from the Government of India including V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances; Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Amar Nath, Additional Secretary, DARPG and Ms Purna Puri, Commissioner/Secretary, IT, Government of Jammu & Kashmir would also address the Conference. Vote of Thanks will be given by NBS Rajput, Joint Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.

Hurt By Criticism Of Nehru, Indira Gandhi: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah slammed the critics of former prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi and said he was hurt by "derogatory remarks" against the towering national leaders.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said he had a lot of respect for the two Congress stalwarts despite the fact that Nehru jailed his father and National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and Gandhi dismissed his government in 1984.

"The role of Nehru during and after freedom struggle is praise worthy. He led the country in the freedom struggle and later when

we were even dependent on a small needle from outside, he laid the foundation of the industrial revolution and made the country atomic power.

"We used to import wheat from America which was not even good for animals. But Gandhi revolutionized the agriculture sector and we started exporting the surplus grains," he said.

Abdullah said the contribution of the two leaders in nation building is exemplary. "What India is today is because of Nehru and Gandhi."

"Nehru jailed my father, while Gandhi dismissed my government...But I have a lot of respect for them because of their contribution to the country," he said.

Free Medical Camp Held At Police Hospital

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As a welfare measure aimed at mitigating the health issues of police personnel and their families, a free medical camp was conducted at Police Hospital Srinagar under the directions of Dilbag Singh-IPS, DGP J&K and S J M Gillani-IPS, ADGP Armed J&K.

The free medical camp was held on two days i.e. 19th and 20th November, 2022.

Eminent neurologist Dr. Sushil Razdan, DM and his team of specialist doctors which included Dr. Rajni Koul and Dr. Anil Dhar (neurosurgeon) consulted and

treated patients of all age groups who are suffering from various neurological disorders and related ailments.

Approximately 380 patients which included police personnel, their immediate family members, and general public from across Kashmir valley were benefitted.

The free medical camp witnessed an overwhelming response and has been appreciated by the beneficiaries. The management, doctors and paramedical staff of Police Hospital Srinagar played a vital role in managing and supporting the free medical camp.

MeT Predicts Dry Weather Till November End In J&K

Pahalgam Coldest At Minus 3.5°C In J&K, Drass Shivers At Minus 11.5°C



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Meteorological department on Monday predicted mainly dry weather throughout Jammu and Kashmir till the end of the present month.

"Currently weather is clear throughout J&K. Mainly Dry weather is expected till the end of November," an official of the MeT department said, reiterating that there is no forecast for any major snowfall till the end of the month.

Regarding the temperature, the MeT official said, Srinagar recorded a low of 3.7°C against 3.2°C on the previous night. The temperature was 3.1°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the

year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 3.0°C against 4.6°C on the previous night. The temperature was 2.2°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 3.5°C against 2.3°C on the previous night and it was 1.5°C below normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of 3.4°C against 4.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.8°C above normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 3.4°C against minus 1.8°C on the previous night, the official told GNS. It was 1.9°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, the official said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at minus 0.3°C against 1.8°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 0.1°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 8.9°C against 9.2°C on the previous night. It was 3.4°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 6.2°C (3.2°C above normal), Batote 4.7°C (0.6°C below normal), Katra 9.1°C (1.4°C below normal) and Bhadarwah 2.6°C (0.2°C above normal).

In Ladakh, Kargil recorded a low of minus 6.8°C, Leh minus 9.6°C and mercury in Drass, the world's second coldest place after Siberia, settled at minus 11.5°C, the official said.

Rijiju, Karan Singh Discuss J&K, History

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and senior Congress leader Karan Singh met here on Monday and discussed Jammu and Kashmir and history.

The meeting between the two came days after Rijiju had attacked Singh over the events preceding Kashmir's accession. Rijiju has been critical India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru over the Kashmir issue.

"I had a worthwhile discussion with former Regent, Sadar-i-Riyasat and Governor of



Jammu and Kashmir Dr Karan Singh.

"At 36, Dr Karan Singh became the youngest Cabinet Minister in 1967," Rijiju tweeted sharing pictures of their

meeting.

"We spent some quality time having tête-à-tête about his life, Jammu & Kashmir and history," the minister said.

The Lok Sabha member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from Arunachal Pradesh had earlier this month hit out at Hari Singh's son Karan Singh, saying he presented a "sanitized history, resorted to poor wordplay, and, that too, in a roundabout way to somehow extricate Nehru" on the then prime minister allegedly delaying the accession of Kashmir.

Kashmir Now Opening Up To World Of Cinema: Actor Zain Khan Durrani

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Actor Zain Khan Durrani on Monday said Kashmir is opening up to the world of cinema as a lot of production houses are coming up which not only provide job opportunities to the locals, but develop work culture.

Durrani, who was in Srinagar to promote his spy thriller series "Mukhbir The Story of a Spy", also said Kashmiri filmmakers have to bring about a change if they want the country to see the stories from the Valley with a new perspective.

"Kashmir is now opening up to films. Many people are into production now. A lot of production houses have come up, people are working in them. It not only provides job opportunities, but also develops work culture. People from outside come and work here, we get to learn from them. It leads to change in the work culture," he said.

The actor, a Kashmiri himself, said while it would take time for the cinema to evolve in the region, "if we want to narrate or showcase our own stories,



we have to open production houses, nurture local talent like they do in the south".

"If we want the whole country to see the stories from Kashmir, and that too with a new perspective, we have to bring a change ourselves. We have to show different stories from here, the stories about those topics which have not been explored so far.

"Right now, people outside have a micro view and see only those things for which Kashmir remains in the news. There are so many different stories related to our culture and history. It is our responsibility to get those stories out," he added.

Durrani, who made his feature film debut with Onir's "Kuchh Bheeg Aafaaz", said

"Mukhbir" provides an intimate look into the sacrifices that spies make for the country without ever being named or celebrated.

"The main purpose of this web series is to highlight that aspect. Kashmir is a small angle of the story. As such, the story is not based in Kashmir.

"While there are references about Kashmir in the series, the real story is about a person, his journey of becoming a spy, and his sacrifices. It is also about those people whose lives he touches and what impact that makes," he said.

The eight-episode web series, currently streaming on ZEE5, was extensively shot in Mumbai, Amritsar, Patiala and Manali.

"Mukhbir" presents the untold story of an Indian secret agent who led the country to evade several aggressive advances from the enemy country by providing intelligence and by helping India win the 1965 War.

Directed by Shivam Nair and Jayprad Desai and produced by Victor Tango Entertainment, the series also stars Prakash Raj and Adil Hussain, among others.

Govt Issues Circular To Improve Assessment Rating Under BRAP, 2022

Asks All Admin Secretaries To Ensure Monitoring Of Integration Process With J&K Single Window System

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a bid to ensure better assessment rating under BRAP, 2022, the government on Monday issued a circular, directing all the Administrative Secretaries to ensure monitoring of the integration process and the progress of approvals of the respective services to achieve 100% feedback of users on Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Ease of Living (EoL) in Jammu and Kashmir.

A circular issued by Secretary to the Government, Piyush Singla, reads that "Attention of all Administrative Secretaries of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is invited towards initiatives of the Government under taken for simplifying regulatory burdens on businesses under Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) of Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India."

"It has been observed that one of the key requirements under BRAP exercise is to integrate J&K Single Window Portal with other Departmental Portals/Online Systems whereunder, Government to Business (G2B) and Government to Citizens (G2C) services are being

provided. The integration of such services would require on boarding of these platforms with J&K Single Window Clearance System under BRAP, 2022," the circular issued under number 44-JK(GAD) of 2022, dated 21-11-2022, said.

"The integration of all portals which are providing G2B and G2C services under BRAP would redirect the applicants to a single platform of J&K Single Window Clearance System and departments would continue to use their respective service portals to approve or otherwise the applications within stipulated timelines notified under J&K Public Services Guarantee Act, 2011," it added.

"Accordingly, it is enjoined upon all the Administrative Secretaries to ensure monitoring of the integration process in consultation with Industries and Commerce Information Technology Department and NIC, J&K alongwith Department, monitoring the progress of approvals of the respective services to achieve 100% feedback of users on Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Ease of Living (EoL) in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, so that better assessment rating could be achieved under BRAP, 2022," the circular added--(KNO)

BDOs To Register Births & Deaths At Shopian

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The District Administration Shopian Monday asked the general public to approach their respective BDO offices for the purpose of new registration of births and deaths, instead of SHO offices.

The decision was taken in

consonance with the recent Govt order as per which BDOs have been notified as Registrars of Births and Deaths for institutional/ domiciliary in rural areas.

This release has been necessitated in view of instances of people approaching SHO offices rather than BDO offices for the purpose of registration.

PMEGP Scheme

DC Kupwara Issues Directions For Proper Implementation

'No Collateral Security Or Guarantor Required For Bank Loan Of Rs 10 Lakh'



Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray, who is also Chairman DLRC Kupwara, on Monday issued a circular direction where under Banks and financial institutions were asked to implement the RBI guidelines regarding sanction of loan without collateral security or guarantor up to Rs 10lakh, in letter and spirit.

The circular reads as "The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises vide Office Memorandum bearing No. PMEGP/Policy/09/2021, Dated:- 13-05-2022 has conveyed approval for continuation of PMEGP Scheme for five years from Financial Year 2021-22 to Financial Year 2025-26.

It is clearly mentioned in the circular of PMEGP guidelines that "No Collateral Security will be insisted upon by banks in line with the guidelines of RBI for projects involving loan upto Rs. 10.00 Lacs in respect of projects forwarded to them by the agencies.

The circular further reads

that RBI Master directions- lending to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME Sector); "Banks are mandated not to accept collateral security in case of loans upto Rs. 10.00 Lacs extended to the units in the MSME sector. Banks are advised to extend Collateral-free loans upto Rs. 10.00 Lacs to all units financed under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) administered by KVIC"

The DDC further in the circular directions said that In view of the above mentioned guidelines, it is impressed upon all the Heads of Banks/ Financial Institutions to follow the guidelines in letter and spirit and extend collateral free loans without any requirement or guarantor upto a limit of Rs. 10.00 Lacs for PMEGP cases.

Any casual approach or reluctance on the part of any Bank Branch Manager shall be dealt with seriously and necessary disciplinary action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the delinquent Officer / Official.

Div Com Reviews Arrangements For JKSSB Exam

'No Electronic Gadgets To Be Allowed, Independent Observers Shall Be Deployed'

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar Monday convened a meeting to review the preparations for forthcoming written examination to be conducted by J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for various posts.

Chairman JKSSB, Rajesh Sharma; Additional Commissioner, Pankaj Katoch; SSP Jammu, Chandan Kohli; Joint Director Information, Sapna Kotwal; Secretary JKSSB, Sachin Jamwal; Deputy Director Planning, Munish Dutta

and other concerned officers attended the meeting in person while Deputy Commissioners Samba & Kathua and SSPs of Kathua, Samba, Jammu and Udhampur participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The meeting discussed measures to be taken at different levels to ensure fair and smooth conduct of the exams.

While giving details of the forthcoming exams, the Chairman JKSSB informed that the Board has initiated the process for conducting written examination for selection against different posts through Computer Based

Test (CBT) from November 29, 2022. "For the purpose dedicated centres have been identified in 4 districts of Jammu Division i.e Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua & Samba," he informed.

It was further informed that the test for Horticulture Technician Grade IV and Junior Stenographer have been scheduled from November 29, 2022, while the exam for Junior Engineer Civil (Jal Shakti Department) Exam would be conducted from December 5 to December 6, 2022 and the examinations for the post of Sub Inspector (Home Department) is scheduled to

be held from December 7 to Dec 20.

Giving details of steps taken, the meeting was informed that the Board has resorted to Third Party Audit of Computer Centres and installation of jammers in the exam centres for free and fair conduct of the test(s).

Maintaining that the credibility of centers was the vital factor in ensuring conduct of fair and transparent examinations, the Div Com directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to thoroughly scrutinize the conduct and past history of the identified centre well before the start of

examinations.

He also asked the DCs and SSPs to inform JKSSB about the adverse report against the identified centres, if any. He stressed on putting in all possible measures for foolproof security, maintenance of law and order, provision of logistic support for successful conduct of examinations.

The SSPs were directed to deploy an adequate number of men and women police personnel for frisking and other arrangements at various centres.

The Div Com also directed DCs concerned to make available proper ar-

rangements of uninterrupted power supply, water supply and other amenities in the examination centres during the examinations and ensure that the candidates are not put to any discomfort.

The Div Com stressed that no electronic gadgets be allowed in the examination halls. He asked the KSSB to issue instructions for the information of candidates and also ensure wide publicity of these instructions.

The Div Com directed DCs to nominate observers/magistrates besides computer expert observers for each centre after checking the credentials.

Govt Says Number Of Beneficiaries Under PM-KISAN Has Crossed 10 Crore



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday said the number of beneficiaries under the PM-KISAN scheme has crossed 10 crore, increasing more than three-fold from 3.16 crore farmers covered under the first instalment period in early 2019.

The statement came hours after Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge attacked the government over the scheme, alleging that the number of beneficiaries has gone down with every instalment.

Under the scheme, announced in February 2019 but made operational with effect from December 2018, the Centre provides an income support of Rs 6,000 per year in three equal instalments to all land holding farmer families.

"The release of benefits for any instalment period under PM-KISAN has now crossed 10 crore farmers from 3.16 crore for the first instalment period -- more than 3 times increase in over 3 years," the Union Agriculture Ministry said in a statement.

"PM-KISAN through a span

of over 3 years has successfully provided assistance of more than Rs 2 lakh crore to crores of needy farmers. Of this amount, more than Rs 1.6 crore has been transferred since the lockdown due to the COVID pandemic," it added.

The fund is being directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

So far, the Centre has released 12 instalments of funds under the scheme.

"Truly, PM-KISAN has been a game changer in reaching out directly to the farmers in the country, every four months, and in time of their need," the ministry said.

The definition of family for the scheme is husband, wife and minor children. The state government or the UT administration concerned identifies the farmer families which are eligible for support as per the scheme guidelines. Certain categories of higher economic status are excluded from the scheme.

The ministry described the ambitious scheme as one of the largest DBT schemes in the world.

Govt Announces New Norms To Curb Fake Online Reviews Of Products, Services

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: E-commerce players like Amazon and Flipkart will have to voluntarily disclose all paid consumer reviews of products and services offered on their platforms, with the government bringing in new norms to curb fake reviews and help buyers make informed decisions.

However, the government has barred publication of reviews that "have been purchased and/or written by individuals employed for that purpose by the supplier or third party concerned".

The BIS standards, prepared after extensive stakeholder consultations and to be effective from November 25, will be voluntary but the government will consider making them mandatory in case the menace of fake reviews continue on the online platforms.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh on Monday said the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has formulated a new standard 'IS 19000:2022' for Online Consumer Reviews -- Principles and Requirement for their Collection, Moderation and Publication'.

The standards will be applicable to any organisation which



publishes consumer reviews online, including suppliers of products and services that collect reviews from their own customers, a third party contracted by the supplier or an independent third party.

Singh said the BIS will come out with a certification process within the next 15 days to check whether an organisation is complying with these standards. E-commerce players can apply for the certification of this standard with the BIS.

"We are probably the first country in the world to formulate standard for online reviews," Singh said, adding that many other countries are also struggling on how to handle the fake reviews.

"We don't want to bulldoze the industry. We want to take the standard route. We will first see the voluntary compliance and then, if the menace continues to grow, we will, may be, make it mandatory in the future," he said.

J&K Bank Share-Price Rises To 52-Week High

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant spike today J&K Bank share touched its 52 week-high price at Rs 45.45 on NSE & BSE. The scrip eventually settled at Rs 44.25 on BSE and Rs 44.20 on NSE registering over 5% growth while witnessing total trading of over 30 million shares during the day. Notably, the share has registered a return in excess of 40% since the declaration of Sep'2022 quarterly / half-yearly results outperforming the sectoral and broader indices.

Celebrating the price-rise at the Bank's corporate headquarters, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash called it a big moment for the Bank and thanked all the stakeholders especially governments of twin UTs (J&K and Ladakh) for their continued support, Bank's Board of Directors for their valued guidance and above all Bank's valuable customers and clients for their unflinching trust and loyalty. All the Bank's Vertical Heads, Divisional Heads, GMs, DGMS, Zonal Heads, Cluster Heads attended the brief celebratory function through video-conferencing on the occasion.

While addressing the Bank's staff on the occasion, MD & CEO said, "Our share has touched the 52-week high price with Bank's



market capitalization crossing the milestone of Rs 4000 Crore to make it a memorable day for all of us. I believe, it is the fructification of individual efforts that each one of you are putting in everyday to achieve the business goals of the Bank that includes improving the Asset quality by reducing NPAs and managing SMAs", adding, "Riding on the back of healthier financial numbers, planned organisational transformation and improving work-culture; our market perception is on a rising curve with the value proposition being acknowledged by the market players. We must ensure that the scrip maintains the upward trend by delivering improved results on a sustained basis."

"And I assure all the stakeholders that we won't allow anything to impede our journey towards growth and glory",

MD asserted.

Besides expressing his pleasure on the enthusiastic participation and contribution of staff towards achieving the business goal of Rs 2.22 Lac Cr by the end of this fiscal, he further said, "Since our dreams and aspirations are associated with this institution, I am sure that we will continue to work together as a cohesive team to accomplish all the business goals through our tried and time-tested institutional resolve."

On the occasion, expressing their faith in and appreciation for his strong leadership and prudent guidance, the participants congratulated MD & CEO Baldev Prakash for the Bank's improving performance and perception. "Together, we have done it and together we shall accomplish all the organisational goals in future as well", echoed the participants in unison.

Mool, The Village Academy Host Event On Climate Change And Sustainable Development

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The impact of climate change is well recognized. It is critical that immediate steps are taken to implement the recommended long term policies and actions to mitigate its adverse impact and the consequential economic downturn. This must include work for awareness, mitigation and preparedness.

Youth are among the most impacted stakeholders and are also a huge resource who can be inspired and trained to act and build sustainable businesses and social systems.

Towards this end, on November 21, 2022, Mool Sustainability Research and Training Center (Mool) and The Village Academy hosted a joint event on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Central University of Kashmir (CUK) at Sagg Eco Village, Ganderbal. Supported by Kargil Development Project (KDP), a charity based in Ladakh, the event brought together scholars and students from diverse fields of study including from Business Studies, Natural Sci-

ences and Social Sciences, faculty, and the team from Directorate of Research and Development (R&D) at CUK.

In the form of a panel discussion followed by an extensive QnA session, the event helped bring grassroots understanding and practicable knowledge on climate change, sustainable development, and the role of youth to engage the audi-

introductions by Dr. Shaheena Parveen, Executive Director - Mool Sustainability Research and Training Center. This was followed by presentations by the panel.

Fayaz Ahmad Dar deliberated on Climate Change and Sustainable Development and the Role of Youth. Mr. Dar stressed upon the imperative and uncompromising role of the choices we make



ence. The panel comprised of Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Ecological Entrepreneur and Founder - Mool and The Village Academy, Dr. Mir Insha Farooq, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, CUK, and Dr. Khalid Wasim Hassan, Assistant Professor, Department of Politics and Governance, CUK.

The program began with a welcome address and brief

in our daily lives and how those can go a long way in bringing a desired change including in our environment and ecology or quality of life in general. He encouraged students to delve deeper into three important questions - who am I, where do I need to go, and when. And build a vision for their lives with goals to achieve to beat conformity and bring the

Dulloo Reviews Dairy Development In J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU- Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Monday, chaired a meeting to review physical and financial progress under National Programme for Dairy Development being implemented by JKMPCL (EIA) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Kashmir Milk Producers Cooperative Limited (JKMPCL), Gaurav Sharma, gave a Power-

tra High Temperature processing plant at Satwari, Jammu and enhancement of milk processing at Chashma Shahi, Srinagar.

Dulloo reviewed various issues like allotment of land to JKMPCL at Jammu and Kashmir divisions and introduction of enterprise resource planning (ERP) solutions. He also took stock of status of General Body meetings being organized at the village level.

Regarding status of Lumpy Skin disease, ACS was informed that 10 lakh tablets and 1 lakh



point Presentation informing that around 45 thousand milk producer members have been associated with them through 985 Dairy Cooperative Societies as on October 2022.

He further informed that tenders have been floated for automation of dairy villages and enhancement of milk chilling infrastructure. Besides, total Chilling Plant Capacity of 200 thousand litres per day and Dairy Plant Capacity of 150 thousand litres per day has been achieved by the cooperatives. He also shared information regarding progress on 50 TLDP UI-

tablets for de-worming of cattle have been given to associated farmers by the JKMPCL on free of cost basis.

ACS called upon the officers to work hard towards formation of around 3 hundred cooperatives in the next two months with an average enrolment of 3 thousand members every month in J&K. He also encouraged them to increase plant capacity, daily average milk procurement and incremental growth in production of milk and its products.

He assured that the land issues at Budgam and Jammu would be addressed on priority.

SKUAST-J Will Soon Be One Of The Premier Agricultural Institutions Of Country: CS



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The five day long Krishak mela 2022, organized by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Jammu, concluded here on Monday with Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, chairing the valedictory ceremony.

The Chief Secretary interacted with the farmers, entrepreneurs, startups and the visitors of the event. He appreciated the efforts of the University for organizing such a mega event which was a blend of ideas, knowledge, innovation and entertainment.

Chief Secretary, while addressing the gathering, was optimistic that SKUAST Jammu will be one of the leading and premier agricultural institutions of the country in the coming years. He termed the event as youthful live mela with active involvement of students not only from SKUAST Jammu but from the nearby colleges and schools.

Dr Mehta appealed the students and scientists for taking the technology generated in the laboratory to the farmer's fields for enhanced productivity. He motivated the farmers' to adopt technologies generated by the university to increase their income.

Chief Secretary informed that the target of rejuvenating 75 Amrit Sarovars in every district has been successfully achieved in a record time. He felicitated the panchayats which have rejuvenated the community ponds of their area besides honouring the best maintained lawns, parks and roof gardens of Jammu.

He also felicitated Barbi panchayat of Jammu district, Smailpur panchayat of Samba district, Gara panchayat of Kathua district and Mari panchayat of Reasi/ Udhampur district as best in the category of community ponds. He also awarded Gaint, Kiank Jagir of Jammu, Badhori and Patti of Samba, Merath and Rasoh of Kathua, Lehnua and Panthal of Reasi/Udhampur.

SHORT TAKES

Markets Fall For 3rd Day; Sensex, Nifty Decline Nearly 1%

MUMBAI: Market benchmarks fell for the third day running on Monday and ended nearly 1 per cent lower amid weak trend in global equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 518.64 points or 0.84 per cent to settle at 61,144.84. During the day, it tumbled 604.15 points or 0.97 per cent to 61,059.33.

The broader NSE Nifty fell 147.70 points or 0.81 per cent to end at 18,159.95.

From the Sensex pack, Reliance Industries, HDFC, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Wipro and Tata Steel were the major laggards.

Bharti Airtel, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, Hindustan Unilever and Power Grid were among the winners.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower, while Tokyo settled higher.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading in the negative territory in the afternoon trade. Wall Street had ended higher on Friday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.91 per cent lower at USD 86.82 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth Rs 751.20 crore on Friday, as per exchange data. **PTI**

Implementation of UMEED Scheme Reviewed

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur Monday chaired a meeting of officers to review the implementation of 'UMEED' Scheme under J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM).

The meeting was attended by Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Chib; Additional Mission Director Jammu, Mridhul Slathia; Additional Mission Director Kashmir Riyaz Ahmad Beigh, SPMs and other concerned.

MD JKRLM, Indu Chib delivered a presentation about the overview of 'UMEED' Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir. Commissioner Secretary was informed that an average of 8-10 women of 18 to 60 yrs are federated into one Self Help Groups (SHGs) eight SHGs in one VO & eight GPs in one CLF.

It was given out that with regard to capitalization (RF, CIF, VRF), after every quarter SHGs are graded for Panch-Sutras with SHGs in grade 'A' only are given capitalization and linked with banks while as after 3 months Revolving Fund (RF) at Rs 15000 per SHG is provided; and after 6 months Community Investment Fund (CIF) at Rs 40000 + (25000/SHG if), is provided to each SHGs through CLF, for livelihoods.

While presenting financial progress of UMEED Scheme, it was given that of the approved outlay plan of Rs 20018.73, Rs 8588.21 is expended during the year 2022-23. **ONS**

JKEDI's 10 Day EDP Concludes At Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: The 10-Day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP), under Mission Youth's Tejaswini Livelihood scheme, concluded on Monday at the district center Udhampur of Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

The training program was based on simulations and lasted for 10 days. The trainees were provided basic business training to help them establish small business ventures like retail outlets, DTP centers, ready-made garment shops, boutiques, salons, and provisional stores, dairy and poultry farms.

The trainees were from different areas of the district including Panchari, Lander, Pakhlai, Jib Thathi, Childi, Garhi and Badali.

A field visit to the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Udhampur was also part of the training program.

The Officials from J&K Bank, District Employment and Counseling Centre, State Taxes Department, Animal Husbandry Department, and Labour Department delivered guest lectures.

An interaction and experience-sharing session with a successful entrepreneur was also organized to motivate aspirants towards self-employment. **ONS**

FM Sitharaman Kicks Off Pre-Budget Consultations

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday kicked off pre-budget consultations, holding meetings with industry chamber heads and infrastructure experts about their expectations from the upcoming Budget.

The meetings were held virtually and Union Ministers Of State For Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, and other senior officials also attended the meeting.

"Union Finance Minister Smt. @nsitharaman chairs her 1st #PreBudget2023 consultation with the first group of captains from Industry & experts of #Infrastructure and #ClimateChange, in New Delhi, today," the Ministry of Finance said in a tweet.

"The 2nd #PreBudget2023 meeting is being attended by MoS Finance Shri @mppchaudhary and Dr @DrBhagwatKarad ; Finance Secretary Dr T.V. Somanathan; Secretaries of DEA, @SecyDIPAM, DoR, @DFS_India, CEA Dr Anantha Nageswaran & Senior Economic Advisor @FinMinIndia," it added.

The participants gave suggestions on the 2023-24 Budget, which will be presented in Parliament by the Finance Minister on February 1.

Sitharaman will hold pre-budget consultations with her state counterparts on Friday. **PTI**

Average Housing Prices Up By 5% In 8 Cities: Report

NEW DELHI: Average housing prices appreciated nearly 5 per cent across eight major cities in the first nine months of this year on account of rise in input costs and a strong revival in demand, according to property brokerage firm PropTiger.com.

The weighted average prices of residential properties in primary markets across eight cities stood at Rs 6,600-6,800 per square feet at the end of September quarter, as against Rs 6,300-6,500 per square feet at the end of the December quarter, PropTiger.com said in a statement.

REA India, part of Australia's REA Group and US-based News Corp, owns three real estate portals - Housing.com, PropTiger and Makaan.com.

"We are witnessing a modest price increase in the primary housing market. This is mainly because of the sharp rise in prices of key raw materials like cement and steel," the company's Group CFO Vikas Wadhawan said.

Apart from rising input costs, he said a strong revival in demand after the second wave of the COVID pandemic has put an upward pressure on prices.

"Housing prices are expected to further rise in the coming quarter on the back of robust demand, which is still strong despite the hike in the interest rates on home loans by around 2 per cent since May. Prices of key construction materials have eased but are still high as compared to the previous year," Wadhawan said. **PTI**

CBC Exhibition At IFFI Captures Depiction Of Freedom Movement In Cinema

Observer News Service

Mumbai: While the Technology Exhibition is the new initiative of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) this year, another Exhibition "Freedom Movement and Cinema" put up by the Central Bureau of Communication is attracting people with its unique immersive experience.

The multi-media digital exhibition at the Campal Football Ground was inaugurated today by the Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur. The Minister said the Exhibition tells the complete story of India's Freedom struggle using many technological innovations. It is an inspiration for everyone who visits and particularly for the students, who can gain so much of information about our inspiring leaders".

The Exhibition conceived by CBC team under the overarching theme of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' sports a facade in the form of camera- lens. As one enters the Exhibition hall, a large 12 x 10 feet LED screen displays clips of the popular Doordarshan series 'Swaraj' which profiles life and contributions of various freedom fighters against colonial rule.

Moving forward, rare footages related to the Freedom Movement covering 1857 War of Independence, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Kalapaani, Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad are displayed. Most of these footages



have been sourced from the rich archive of the Films Division.

A Digital Flip-book displays Chronological journey of Indian Freedom Struggle in the form of posters curated by CBC. Songs which became the voice of freedom struggle can be

listened to, even as the adjacent Sound Shower lets you listen to the speeches of the Indian Independence leaders.

Kadam Badhaaye Ja'-March with Netaji is an Augmented Reality experience, where one can March with India's

inspirational leader in Azad Hind Fauz uniform and get his or her image captured.

An Immersive Theatre on 1857 War of Independence is a unique experience that is to be seen and felt, even as the virtual reality set helps you witness the Kakori Train

Action in a new way.

A flip poster exhibition depicts the films that were inspired by the Freedom struggle and that contributed in nation building. Udaykaal, Upkaar, Mother India, Bose, the Forgotten Hero are some of the examples.

The CBC Exhibition also displays the Azadi Quest game and the newly launched Netflix animation series on freedom fighters.

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contributed in nation building. Udaykaal, Upkaar, Mother India, Bose, the Forgotten Hero are some of the examples.

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Farmers from J&K and north-eastern states get 4 lakhs lavender plants, training of its cultivation

Bhaderwah: To further expand 'purple revolution', CSIR-IIIM on Monday distributed four lakh plants of lavender among 200 farmers of Jammu and Kashmir and 15 others who came here from north-eastern states.

Farmers of Ramban, Udhampur, Reasi and Doda districts and those from Meghalaya and Nagaland came here to attend an awareness-cum-training programme at Bhaderwah campus of Jammu University.

Senior scientists of CSIR-IIIM Jammu along with a team of lavender growers led by Touqeer Bagban explained the

nuances of lavender farming and motivated the participants to switch from traditional agricultural practices to growing of aromatic plants for better future.

"The distribution of lavender plants is primarily aimed at catalysing rural empowerment through cultivation, processing, value addition and marketing of aromatic plants (for north-eastern region and J&K farmers) under CSIR Aroma Mission Phase 2," said V P Rahul, senior scientist at CSIR-IIIM Jammu.

Referring to the lavender cultivation in the region, Chairman,

District Development Council (DDC) Doda, Dhanantar Singh Kotwal said lavender is an avenue of employment generation and will help the farmers in doubling their income.

The visiting farmers were upbeat about the lavender cultivation and expressed their gratitude to the ministry of science and technology for giving them the opportunity to be a part of the 'purple revolution' in India. Bhaderwah is considered as the birthplace of the 'purple revolution' as over 1,000 farmers switched from traditional farming practices to lavender cultivation.

Bangladesh Suspends Five Policemen After Two Death Row Convicts Whisked Away From Court Premises

Press Trust of India

Dhaka: Authorities in Bangladesh on Monday suspended five policemen, including a court inspector and ordered a manhunt to recapture the two death row militants, who were whisked away from a court premises here under dramatic circumstances a day earlier.

Two Islamist militants, who were sentenced to death for killing prominent Bangladeshi-American secular blogger Avijit Roy and his publisher, escaped dramatically from the premises of a crowded court here on Sunday with the help of unidentified bikers who sprayed some chemical substance on police and created a smoke

screen before whisking away the convicts.

"Five policemen including the court inspector have been suspended for their apparent failure while investigations are underway," Dhaka metropolitan police's detective branch chief Mohammad Harunur Rashid told the media.

He said an investigation was underway to unearth the reason behind the incident and identities of those who whisked away these two convicts.

The Home Ministry on Sunday ordered a probe, while the police constituted a four-member panel to investigate into the incident while elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) launched a separate review.

Bangladesh Police have also announced a 2 million Taka (approx USD 19,428) for tip-offs leading to the convicts' recapture.

Police and court officials said Moinul Hasan Shamim and Abu Siddiq Sohel -- who were among four operatives of the outlawed terrorist group Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) being escorted to transition prison room following an indictment hearing in a different case -- escaped the court premises with the help of some unidentified motorcycle-borne men.

"Within moments the miscreants appeared in the scene from nowhere and sprayed some chemicals on police guards that temporarily blinded

them before whisking away the convicts," a police official said.

CCTV footage aired by TV channels showed two motor bikers wearing helmets carrying the two militants through a narrow road in front of the Dhaka Metropolitan Judges Court complex, while a plainclothesman was seen chasing them.

"The prisoners were just handcuffed, their legs were not shackled, a usual protective measure for dangerous criminals or militants," a court official said.

Hours after the incident, home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told reporters that a nationwide alert has been issued to recapture them and an investigation launched to ascertain how the event took place.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Pashtun-Style Celebration

license to anybody."

Compiling the order, not a single license has been issued since 2018, a senior official in DC Srinagar said. "Most of the licenses, however, were earlier issued in the Jammu region."

The restrictions were imposed after the federal agency started investigating a 2017-case involving 2.78 lakh fake gun licenses that were allegedly issued to non-natives between 2012 and 2016.

Since the beginning of the probe on May 17, 2018, the CBI has collected documents pertaining to the issuance of said armed licenses allegedly spread over 22 districts of J&K.

According to the Enforcement Directorate, around Rs 40 crore were generated through grant of illegal arms licenses in JK.

In March 2020, the CBI arrested two IAS officers—Kumar Rajiv Ranjan and Itrat Rafique—for issuing thousands of licenses during their tenure as the district magistrates of Kupwara.

On 25 July 2021, the agency carried out raids across 40 locations across Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi, including the residence of senior IAS officer Shahid Iqbal Choudhary in Srinagar.

Three months later, the federal sleuths showed up at the residence of Baseer Ahmad Khan. The high-profile incident came a week after Khan was relieved as advisor to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The case was earlier unearthed by Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of Rajasthan Police. The secret 'Operation Zubeida' initiated at that time led ATS to an inter-state racket engaged in making arms licenses from Jammu and Kashmir for people spread all across India.

Make Accountability

accountability core part of the revenue department. Officers to be held accountable for any lapse, illegal

entries in revenue records," Sinha said.

The LG was also informed that the Digitization of Jamabandis has been saturated.

The spokesperson said that Shaleen Kabra, Financial Commissioner, Revenue gave a detailed briefing on the measures taken by the department to address the issues and challenges to ensure an efficient and transparent system.

He said that Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Revenue Department gave a comprehensive action taken report on implementation of directions issued by the Lt Governor in the previous meetings.

"He further briefed the chair on the steps taken for Digitization of Cadastral Maps and Geo-referencing of Maps, establishment of IT Cell in the office of Financial Commissioner, Installation of CCTVs with two way audio in Registration offices, etc.

Admin Issues

dispensed, the pharmacist must record the: name, address, patients DoB, name of medicine supplied and quantity supplied, prescription date and dispensing date, name and address of the prescriber," the spokesperson said.

When storing or archiving records and data, he said, pharmacies should ensure they are able to locate and retrieve individual documents or information when needed.

The spokesperson said that the advisory directs chemists not to dispense medications if prescription is incomplete, has alteration(s) without any countersign by the doctor; also not to dispense tramadol, buprenorphine, tapentadol, codeine, methylphenidate for any online prescriptions.

"Also, not to dispense psychotropics to minors not accompanied by guardians and not to dispense a prescription when you have reasonable cause to believe that prescription has been

forged or obtained fraudulently and if forged, retain the prescription and forward it to the authorities," he said.

Moreover, he said, the advisory directs not to dispense medications if the chemists do not have required license-for drugs like Schedule X.

In-charge Divisional Control Room Tahir Magray said that this is the part of initiatives taken under Nasha Mukth Bharat by the govt including the toll free help line no 18001807202.

"Besides, govt is ensuring strict adherence to standing acts and laws related to Schedule X, H&H1 drugs so that any diversion of such drugs into unsafe hands and antisocial elements is averted," the spokesperson added.

Centre Sets Up

Institute of Human Settlements, representatives of National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), representatives of JANAAGRAHA, Bangalore and representatives of Indian Institute of Public Administration, Delhi.

As per the order, the chairman of the committee is empowered to nominate any person with strong academic and professional background in the field as a member of the committee.

AIDS Clock Ticking

across the world visit J-K.

They added that most of the patients who have been tested positive for HIV AIDS in J-K have contracted the disease from outside J-K.

"Drug addicts are at higher risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and if they are married or are sexually active, they transmit this to their partners as well," they said.

Notably the first HIV positive case in Kashmir was detected in 1986, a Kashmiri businessman who had gone to Germany and possibly contracted the infection—(KNO)

India Can Use G20

growth and prosperity. Together, the

G-20 countries represent more than 80 per cent of the world's GDP, 75 per cent of international trade and 60 per cent of the world's population.

Asked whether he favours dialogue with Pakistan, the National Conference leader said, "When I bat for dialogue with Pakistan, Home Minister says that they will talk to children (of J&K) but not Pakistan."

"Our fight is with them (Pakistan) and not with our children...now I am tired of asking for dialogue with Pakistan as they dub me as anti-national (for my statements)," he said, adding one day "they (central government) have to hold talks (with Pakistan) but how it is going to happen, I do not know".

On increase in radicalization which is evident with the daily arrest of hybrid militants in Kashmir by security agencies, Abdullah said "there is nothing like radicalization...we are fighting a low intensity war and there is no other way".

Abdullah, who is also an MP, said the National Conference does not know when the Assembly elections are going to take place in Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is the decision of the government and the Election Commission when they are going to hold the assembly elections in J&K. It is my responsibility to come here, meet the public to know their problems and highlight their issues in the Parliament," he said.

Man Found Dead

A team of cops, reports said, later shifted the body to the nearby Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla for conducting medico-legal formalities.

Labourer Hammers

which police accordingly registered a murder case at police station Nowshera and started investigation.

The scene of crime was immediately preserved and forensic team was

called for examination and collection of evidences, he said.

Weapon of Offence "Hammer" was recovered from wild growth nearby the site of incident and other material evidences were lifted from the spot through FSL team, he said.

The deceased man was identified as of Vishal Kumar son of Balister Mahato of Kasdora, Bangra, District Siwan, Bihar; at present W.No.2, Nowshera.

After post mortem, he said, the body was handed over to legal heirs for last rites and police team during investigation rounded up over a dozen suspects who had been in contact with the deceased before his murder while footages of CCTV cameras installed at multiple locations in Nowshera Town were examined in identifying these suspects.

SDPO Nowshera, Tussif Ahmed, SHO Nowshera, Rajesh Jasrotia assisted by PSIs Arun Singh, Manish Singh and Vishal Kumar and other officials of PS Nowshera rounded up suspects for questioning and zeroed in on one suspect namely Satyendra Mahato son of Lagan Mahato of Belsand, District Gopalganj, Bihar who had committed this heinous crime, he said.

"The accused admitted his commission of crime and disclosed of having suspicion that deceased had illicit relations with his wife," he said, adding, "The accused further admitted of having committing the murder by using "Hammer" as weapon of Offence."

Police Team has also recovered mobile phone of deceased on confessional disclosure of accused, he added. (GNS)

2 Members Of

of these cases, strenuous efforts were put forth by the investigating officers by using modern techniques and human resources, names of some suspects surfaced which includes one namely Abdul Majeed Lone son of Ghulam Ahmad Lone resident of Checkthan Chanpora Tangmarg, a

well-known burglar of Tangmarg area. In order to evade his arrest, the said accused person was hiding at different locations," police said.

"On 06-11-2022, information regarding movement of the said suspected person in village Gulabdjai area was received by Police Station Kunzer. Acting swiftly, the accused person was arrested by the police party of Police Station Kunzer from the area. During questioning, the accused confessed that he along with another person identified as Basharat Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Ahmad Bhat resident of Gund Hassi Bhat Srinagar are involved in these burglary & theft incidents, who was subsequently arrested," police said.

Police said that the duo during questioning also disclosed that in order to hide their criminal activities and to dispose-off the stolen property without being exposed; they have opened a workshop at Diver Crossing in Mirgund area of Pattan.

"At the workshop they dis-assemble the stolen vehicles into parts and break the engines and cut pieces of vehicles by using cutters and then sell these pieces as scrap and use other parts in the vehicles which come to them for repair. They were also selling stolen M-Oil and spare parts to customers from the said workshop," police said.

The investigating team also recovered stolen property worth lacs of rupees which include spare parts, parts of stolen vehicles, copper utensils, M-Oil etc on their disclosure. The investigation is in progress & further arrests are expected, police said.

Meanwhile, people appreciated the efforts made by the Police for solving the cases. "Our efforts should assure community members that Police is resolved to act tough against the individuals involved in criminal activities," police said.

'Mentally Unsound'

adding a case has been taken under 174 CrPC into the incident.

2022 FIFA World Cup: England Down Iran 6-2; Argentina Face Saudi Arabia Today

Agencies

DOHA: Bukayo Saka and Marcus Rashford put last year's European Championship loss behind them, combining to score three goals in England's 6-2 rout of Iran on Monday at the World Cup.

Both players missed penalties in the shootout loss to Italy in the Euro 2020 final and were then subjected to racist abuse. A year later, Saka scored twice at Khalifa International Stadium and Rashford came off the bench to add another with his first move of the match.

It has been a difficult buildup for England, but this was a performance that will provide encouragement to coach Gareth Southgate, who has recently endured the most troubled period of his England tenure.

He was booed after a 4-0 loss to Hungary in June and was humiliated by his own fans when they chanted, "You don't know what you're doing."

Hundreds of fans missed the start of the match because of an issue with digital tickets. When they eventually made their way to their



seats, they witnessed an utterly dominant display from England. Jude Bellingham scored the first goal in the 35th minute — his first international goal. Saka then got his first of the

match in the 43rd and Raheem Sterling added another in first-half stoppage time. Saka scored his second shortly after the hour, but Mehdi Taremi pulled one back for Iran in the 65th minute.

Rashford struck six minutes later to extend England's lead to 5-1, and Jack Grealish also stepped off the bench to add a sixth in the 90th. Taremi added another for Iran from the penalty spot deep in injury time after John Stones was penalized for holding Morteza Pouraliganji's shirt in the box.

The game was delayed for several minutes in the first half when Iran goalkeeper Ali Beiranvand clashed heads with a teammate. He was eventually taken off the field on a stretcher with the score still 0-0.

His replacement, Hossein Hosseini, was left with the unenviable task of facing England's potent attack.

The match had a total of 29 minutes of injury time, 15 minutes in the first half and 14 in the second.

ARGENTINA PLAY SAUDI ARABIA TODAY

Lionel Messi begins his legacy-defining World Cup with a game against likely the weakest opponent the Argentina star will face in Qatar.

On a 36-match unbeaten run, Argentina opens the group stage Tuesday against Saudi Arabia — the second lowest-ranked team at the tournament.

It seems like an ideal chance for Messi to push his international goals tally toward a century — he currently has 91 — in what's surely a forlorn attempt to catch the leading men's mark of 117, owned by great rival Cristiano Ronaldo.

The Saudis might have come through Asian qualifying relatively comfortably, but they tend to struggle on soccer's highest stage, reaching the last 16 only once in their five appearances at the World Cup.

By playing against Saudi Arabia, Messi will become the first Argentine player to play in five World Cups — one more than Diego Maradona and Javier Mascherano.

The match starts at 3:30 PM IST.

Other matches scheduled for today include:

- USA vs Wales (12:30 pm)
- Denmark vs Tunisia (6:30 pm)
- Mexico vs Poland (9:30 pm)

NZ vs IND 3rd T20: Will Umran Malik Get A Chance?



Press Trust of India

NAPIER: A drastic change in approach is need of the hour for India but question remains if the likes of Umran Malik and Sanju Samson will be tested in third and final T20 against New Zealand here on Tuesday.

India were expected to try out a bunch of players after another World Cup debacle but if the team combination for the second T20 was any indication, they seemed reluctant to start with a clean slate.

"I don't know (about changes

for the next game). I'd like to give everyone in the squad a chance but it's just one more game, so it's a bit tough," said Hardik, who is seen as the next full captain in the shortest format.

However, the biggest disappointment was the non-inclusion of Umran Malik in the first game. It has been proved that there is a pressing need for an out and out pace bowler in T20 cricket and the New Zealand series is crucial to the development of the Jammu and Kashmir-based tearaway pacer.

Match starts 12 pm IST.

Pakistan Names Mystery Spinner For England Tests

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has named uncapped mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed and fast bowler Mohammad Ali in its 18-member squad for next month's three-Test home series against England.

The 24-year-old Ahmed is in top form in the ongoing domestic first-class tournament, where he has picked up 43 wickets at an impressive average of 21.95.



Ali has made his way into the test squad after grabbing 56 wickets in the last two domestic seasons and his tally of 24 wickets this season are the most by any fast bowler in the tournament.

England will play a test series in Pakistan 17 years after last touring the country in 2005.

England will be arriving later

Squad: Babar Azam (captain), Mohammad Rizwan, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Azhar Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Haris Rauf, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Wasim, Naseem Shah, Nauman Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Saud Shakeel, Shan Masood and Zahid Mehmood.



REAL KASHMIR FC Head Coach Mehraj-u-Din Wadoo and player Jerry Onesemas Pulamte with Gokulam Kerala FC Head Coach Richard Towa and player Shijin T during a prematch press conference in Srinagar on Monday. Real Kashmir will take on Gokulam Kerala in I-League 2022-23 at Synthetic Turf TRC today. The match kicks off at 2 pm.

Alleged Match-Fixing: CBI Seeks Cooperation Of Indian Football Clubs



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The CBI has registered a preliminary enquiry into alleged match-fixing in football matches in the country, officials said Monday.

During the enquiry which started about 15 days back, the CBI has sought and collected documents from the Delhi-based All India Football Federation on several Indian football clubs, they said.

Under the scanner, is the role of an alleged match-fixer based in Singapore in rigging the results of matches, they said.

The officials refused to give any details about the suspects named in the preliminary enquiry and details of allegations as it could hamper the probe which is at a nascent stage.

They said the agency has received some documents while some are still awaited.

The agency has also sought

cooperation of several Indian football clubs in joining the investigation, they said.

The CBI cannot conduct searches, arrests or question through summons under the preliminary enquiry, they said citing the law.

The central probe agency depends on cooperation of stakeholders during the preliminary enquiry and registers an FIR when it has prima facie material indicating a crime, they said.

Tamil Nadu Batter Breaks World Record For Highest-Ever List A Score

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Tamil Nadu batter Narayan Jagadeesan on Monday broke the world record for the highest ever individual score in List A cricket by hammering a 141-ball 277 against Arunachal Pradesh in Vijay Hazare Trophy here.

The 26-year old bettered the record of Alistair Brown's previous high of 268 for Surrey against Glamorgan in 2002. The

Indian record for highest List A score of 264 by Rohit Sharma in an ODI against Sri Lanka was also obliterated in the process.

By reaching 200 off 114 balls, he also made the fastest ever double ton in List A history. The right-handed batter also made a new mark by scoring his fifth consecutive List A century.

He also went past Prithvi Shaw (227 vs Puducherry in 2021) for the highest score ever in Vijay Hazare Trophy.

The Tamil Nadu wicketkeeper also became the sixth batter to hit a double ton in India's premier one-day competition.

Jagadeesan's opening wicket partnership of 416 with B Sai Sudharsan, who made 154 (102 balls, 19 fours, 2 six), is also a record for the highest partnership for any wicket in List 'A' cricket.

Jagadeesan was recently released by Chennai Super Kings ahead of the IPL auction next month.

Iran Players Opt Not To Sing National Anthem At WC



Agencies

DOHA: The Iranian footballers chose not to sing their national anthem against England in their World Cup group stage match on Monday.

Asia's top ranked team has head into the tournament amid a backdrop of mass protests against the regime at home, following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody in September, after she was arrested for allegedly wearing her headscarf inappropriately.

All the starting 11 players were silent as the anthem was played at the Khalifa international stadium in Doha.

Earlier, Iranian Captain Alireza Jahanbakhsh had said the team would decide 'collectively' whether to refuse to sing in support of anti-government protesters.

Iran's players have previously shown support for the demonstrations, covering the country's symbols with black jackets during a friendly this year, while some have chosen to not celebrate goals.

Iranian national sides in other sports have refused to sing the national anthem at recent events, and while Jahanbakhsh had said the team have discussed the issue, he did not confirm what, if any, protest they have planned.

WC Teams Ditch Armbands Seen As Rebuke To Qatar

Agencies

DOHA: FIFA's threat of on-field punishment for players forced to wear armbands carrying the heart-shaped multi-colored logo of the "One Love" campaign, which promotes inclusion and diversity in soccer and

are a violation of FIFA rules.

The captains of seven European nations had vowed to wear armbands carrying the heart-shaped multi-colored logo of the "One Love" campaign, which promotes inclusion and diversity in soccer and



to host nation Qatar's human rights record.

Just hours before the first players wearing the armbands in support of the "One Love" campaign were set to take the field, FIFA warned they would be immediately be shown yellow cards — changing the calculus for the seven European teams, which may have expected to merely be fined. The displays

society. That set up the prospect of viewers worldwide seeing a symbol of disapproval with the host country and defiance of FIFA on the arms of England's Harry Kane, the Netherlands' Virgil van Dijk and Wales' Gareth Bale on Monday.

The captains of Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and Denmark had also pledged to wear the armbands in the coming days.



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