



Study Shows Increase In Lung Cancers During Last 5 Years In Kashmir

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: In a shocking revelation it has come to the fore that over 10 percent of critically ill patients in Kashmir suffer from lung cancer, making it the most common cancer reported in the valley in the last 5 years.

Experts have termed the revelations of the new research as an "imminent disaster" that will require a renewed focus on prevention to combat terminally ill diseases in Kashmir.

The study by five Kashmiri medics, gives a detailed look at the threats posed by different profiles and patterns of cancers.

6 COMPARED WITH THAT, THE TOP FIVE CANCERS reported from our center in 2012 were esophagus and gastroesophageal junction (17.2%), lung (11.9%), stomach (9.7%), colorectal (7.1%), and breast (6.5%)."

It concludes that there is a change in the pattern of cancers. Lung and breast

have emerged as the most commonly occurring cancers in men and women,

respectively, whereas there was a slight downward trend in the incidence of esophageal cancer.

The data for the study, published in the Indian Journal of Medical and Paediatric Oncology, was taken from audited records of 22,188 patients including 12,695 male and 9,493 female patients | [More on PIO](#)

Sub-Zero Temperatures Prevail In Kashmir

Agencies

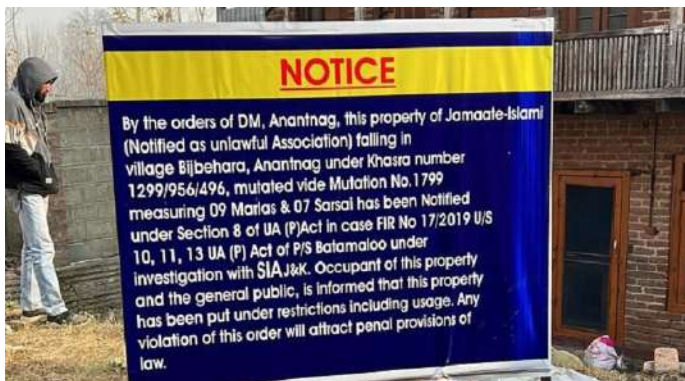
Srinagar: People in Srinagar woke up to a freezing and misty morning as minimum temperature continued to hover below sub-zero in Kashmir Valley on Saturday.

A Meteorological department official said that Srinagar witnessed mist this morning and recorded a low of minus 1.0°C against minus 1.4°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.1°C below normal during this time of the year for the capital city so far, he said.

Qazigund also witnessed a special weather phenomenon of haze and recorded a low of minus 1.4°C against minus 2.2°C on the previous night.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 3.0°C against minus 3.6°C on the previous night and it was | [More on PIO](#)

Jama'at Assets Worth Rs 90 Cr Sealed In Anantnag



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The district authorities in South Kashmir's Anantnag on Sunday sealed at least 11 properties worth Rs 90 crore belonging to the banned Jama'at-e-Islami (JeI).

The properties, including land, houses and shopping complex were notified and subsequently confiscated on the directions of the District Magistrate Anantnag, after a recommendation was made to the court by State Investigation Agency (SIA), a

spokesperson of the investigative agency said Saturday.

The action, he said, was to choke the availability of funds for secessionist activities and to dismantle the ecosystem of anti-national elements and terror networks hostile to India's sovereignty. The spokesperson said that the premises/structures have been barred and entry and usage has been prohibited.

"Besides 'Red entry' to this effect has been made in the relevant revenue records" he said. The properties, | [More on PIO](#)



A GROUP OF WOMEN WALK OVER the fallen leaves of the majestic Chinar trees inside Srinagar's Art Emporium on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Army Commander Reviews Op Readiness

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The army's northern commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday reviewed the operational preparedness of the forces deployed along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Uri sector.

The army commander expressed confidence over the operational readiness of the forces and the strong anti-infiltration grid along the LoC.

"#LtGenUpendraDwivedi, #ArmyCdrNC visited forward areas along #LoC at #Uri, reviewed operational preparedness, interacted with all ranks and expressed confidence over the operational readiness and strong anti-infiltration grid," the army's Northern Command said on Twitter. | [More on PIO](#)

Prof. Gani Bhat Grilled For 8 Hours

The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Saturday grilled Hurriyat leader Prof. Abdul Gani Bhat for nearly 8 hours after he was summoned by the probing agency at JIC Jammu in a case related to militant and Hawala funding. Reports said that Bhat was summoned related to a case of militant and Hawala funding in which former minister Jatendar Singh alias Babu Singh was earlier arrested. According to these reports Prof Ghani was questioned for nearly eight hours till evening at JIC Jammu. According to | [More on PIO](#)

LG Inaugurates Constitution Day Celebrations

Asks Officers To Ensure Benefits Of Economic Progress Reach Poorest Of Poor



Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday

that the country's Constitution is the holy book and enshrines eternal values that remain as our guiding principles.

He made these | [More on PIO](#)

Final Electoral Rolls

J&K Parties Studying Details Of New Voters, Want Polls Now

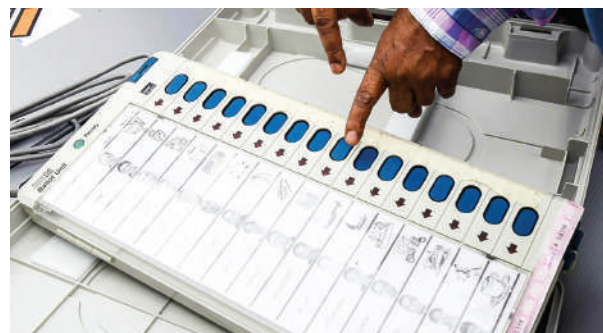
Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A day after the final electoral roll of Jammu and Kashmir was published, political parties in Kashmir on Saturday said while they were studying the details about the addition of new voters, the Election Commission should now announce assembly polls for the union territory.

The final electoral roll of Jammu and Kashmir was published on Friday with the highest-ever net addition of more than 7.72 lakh voters, officials said.

It has a total of 83,59,771 electors -- 42,91,687 males, 40,67,900 females and 184 third gender -- Joint Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Anil Salgotra had said.

National Conference (NC) spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said around seven lakh voters have been added and the



party will have to see as to how many of them were those voters who have turned 18 from the last revision till now.

"We are studying the details of it, constituency-wise," he told PTL.

Sadiq, however, said, now that the whole process is over, the party expects the Election Commission (EC) to come out and talk about assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

"How long should the people of Jammu and Kashmir be deprived of a representative, responsive government? So, this is the first and foremost that the EC should come out and state about how soon will they hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

With the release of the final electoral roll, Sadiq also expressed hope that now the confusion and resulting apprehensions | [More on PIO](#)

3 Districts In Kashmir 'Terrorist Free': ADGP

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Three districts in Kashmir have zero "active terrorists" currently even as two prominent terror organisations, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed, have gone "headless" after security forces neutralised their operatives and commanders, a senior police officer said on Saturday.

He identified the three "terrorist-free" districts as Bandipora, Kupwara and Ganderbal.

The Kashmir region, that comprises 13 police districts, has 81 terrorists at present with 29 being local while 52 are of foreign origin (Pakistanis), Additional Director General of Police (Kashmir zone) Vijay Kumar said.

He was interacting with a group of visiting journalists at the police control room here.

"The security forces have an upper hand now when it comes to containing terrorism and terrorists in the Valley. We



are working to bring the figure of active, foreign and hybrid terrorists to less than 50 in the near future," the officer said.

We are very hopeful of eradicating terrorism from Kashmir in the next two years, he asserted.

Kumar said the LeT and JeM are currently "headless" after the security forces neutralised their ranks in multiple encounters and operations.

Officials said Farooq Nalli, a Hizbul Mujahideen top operative, is the only active commander -- since 2015 -- and he is on the | [More on PIO](#)

SHORT TAKES

Fraudster Held After 3 Year Chase

Police in Doda district on Saturday claimed to have arrested a fraudster from Uttar Pradesh after a three-year long hunt. Mohd Mustafeez of Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh was arrested for posing himself as a travel agent and duping people of Rs 33.50 lacs on the pretext of Haj ticket, a police spokesperson said. "In this connection case FIR No. 184/2019 U/S 420 IPC registered at Police Station Doda but he was evading arrest for the last three years," he said. Giving further details, the spokesperson said that a massive hunt was launched by police in which sources were | [More on PIO](#)

Charges Filed Against 4 OGWs

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday filed a charge sheet against four Hizbul Mujahideen associates in border Rajouri district here, an official said. The charge sheet against the accused, including an active terrorist and Rajouri resident Altaf Hussain, was filed in a local court under the Indian Penal code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Arms Act, the official said. He said the four accused were booked in 2018 after investigators found that they were associated with the proscribed terror group and involved in terror funding through hawala channels. "The investigation | [More on PIO](#)

Two IEDs Diffused In Kulgam



Security forces on Saturday detected and diffused two Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said. The IEDs -- one was a timer device and the other a sticky bomb -- were detected in Frisal Yaripora area of the South Kashmir district, they said. The area has been cordoned off and further searches underway, they said.

BSF Fires At Two Suspects Along IB

The Border Security Force opened fire after noticing suspicious movement along the international border in Punjab's Pathankot district, said an official on Saturday. The movement of two suspects from Pakistan was spotted on Friday evening, he said, adding that the suspects were captured at the thermal camera of the BSF. The BSF troops at Paharpur post in Pathankot fired seven rounds, and hence the two suspects fled back towards the Pakistan side, the official said. A thorough search operation was also conducted on Saturday but nothing was found, he added.

NDRF Joins Search For Missing Man

A special team of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on Saturday joined the ongoing search operation for a man who went missing about 11 days ago in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said. Ranjeet Kumar (29), a resident of Saranoo village, was reported missing last week and is believed to have drowned in the river, prompting police and SDRF to launch a search operation to trace him out, the officials said. Army teams also joined the search parties and also pressed into service sniffer dogs on Wednesday but | [More on PIO](#)

BSF Recovers Pak Balloon In Punjab



BSF troops on Saturday recovered a cartoon character-shaped balloon which entered the Indian territory from Pakistan's side, officials said. The balloon was found near Bahadur Ke border outpost in Guruharsahal by troops of the Border Security Force's 160 battalion, they said. According to the officials, a Pakistani currency note of rupees 10 | [More on PIO](#)



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

‘Diagnostic Biomarker To Detect Rare Brain Condition With Higher Accuracy Found’

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have found a biomarker that identifies a rare brain disease called corticobasal degeneration (CBD) with higher accuracy than traditional diagnostic methods, according to a study. The biomarker that identifies a primary tauopathy increases CBD detection accuracy to 89 per cent compared to traditional methods that are only 25 per cent to 50 per cent accurate, scientists at the Washington University said.

Primary tauopathies are a group of rare brain diseases marked by rapidly worsening problems with thinking and movement, the study published in Nature Medicine said. CBD is a rare condition that can cause gradually worsening problems with movement, speech, memory and swallowing, and is one of the tauopathies.

The biomarker could be developed into a tool to screen potential volunteers for CBD-specific research studies and clinical trials and, eventually, to identify people who could benefit from CBD-specific treatments, the scientists said.

"Before, the only way to find out which primary tauopathy a person had was to wait until they died and then examine the person's brain under a microscope," said co-senior author Chihiro Sato.

"A patient comes in with stiffness, balance problems, slurred speech and memory issues, and it could be CBD, but it also could be progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) or Alzheimer's or other diseases.

"This biomarker can reliably identify people with CBD, which means we can use it to enroll people in clinical trials. And, down the road, it may be key to initiating therapies," said Sato.

CBD is one of about two dozen brain diseases that are considered tauopathies because they share one critical feature: toxic tau aggregates in the brain. Tau tangles



are abnormal accumulations of a protein called tau that collect inside neurons.

In healthy neurons, tau normally binds to and stabilizes microtubules. However, in conditions such as in Alzheimer's disease, abnormal chemical changes cause tau to detach from microtubules and stick to other tau molecules, forming threads that eventually join to form tau tangles inside neurons.

Individual tauopathies involve different subtypes of tau and exhibit different patterns of damage to brain cells and tissues.

The collections of symptoms of the various tauopathies overlap, making it difficult

for doctors to tell one from another. This complicates efforts to study them and find treatments, the study said.

Tauopathies are classed as either primary or secondary, depending on when tau tangles appear in the course of the disease.

In primary tauopathies, tau tangles form in the beginning, seemingly on their own. In secondary tauopathies, tangles form only after other changes have taken place in the brain.

For example, in Alzheimer's disease, the most common secondary tauopathy, the brain protein amyloid beta builds up for years before tau tangles appear.

As part of this study, the researchers used a highly sensitive technique to detect specific fragments of tau in the cerebrospinal fluid that surrounds the brain and spinal cord to search for distinctive forms of tau linked to primary tauopathies.

The team examined brain tissues and cerebrospinal fluid from people who had died with dementia and movement disorders, and whose specific diseases had been confirmed at autopsy.

The study population included people with one of five primary tauopathies — CBD, PSP, frontotemporal lobar degeneration with microtubule association protein tau mutations (FTLD-MAPT), agryophilic grain disease, and Pick's disease — as well as Alzheimer's, and dementia not related to tau.

For comparison, they also examined samples from people without dementia.

Two particular forms of tau — microtubule binding region (MTBR)-tau 275 and MTBR-tau 282 — were unusually high in the brains and low in the cerebrospinal fluid of patients with CBD and a subset of FTLD-MAPT.

Further investigation showed that these forms of tau distinguish people with CBD from those with other primary tauopathies with 84 per cent to 89 per cent accuracy, depending on the disease.

"Even if there's an experimental drug available that specifically targets the kind of tau in CBD, it is very challenging to test it without a biomarker," study author Kanta Horie said.

"The trial might fail even when the drug works if the population is heterogeneous. Drug trials that specifically target the kind of tau in CBD can be improved by enrolling correctly diagnosed patients.

"Having a biomarker opens up a pathway for pharmaceutical companies to improve clinical trials and accelerate research toward therapies for CBD," said Horie.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my wife in my service records has been wrongly written as Maksooma Banoo while as her correct name is Maqsooma Banoo which need to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gh Qadir
Husband Of : Maqsooma Banoo
R/o Kaksar , Kargil UT Ladak
Service No: 12984674A

jnt new

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK01P 3365 registered in the name of my late father namely Abdul Hamid Sheikh. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same and want to file FIR. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in Lal Bazar Police station on Mob No. 9596770871 within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sumaira D/o Abdul Hamid Sheikh
R/o Shaheed Gunj Srinagar

azk_r

از نیابت والکولر پورہ
با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ دیجر اول
مضمون کاغذات درخواست پنجاب
سجاد احمد شاہ و ارشد احمد شاہ و یونیورسٹی جان اولادان
موجودہ عدلیہ سید شاہ سائیکس موضع اوجلی پورہ تحصیل کٹر برادر اعلا جی EWS سرٹیفیکٹ
بقین پھر عدلیہ طاریق لون
اشتبہ برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
محکمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست مائل دفتر پڑا میں دیجر اول ہے اس سلسلے میں پڑا میں ملحقہ رہ پورٹ
پشور پڑا میں ملحقہ کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل اور اس کا والد گزشتہ پندرہ سال سے وہاں میں رہا ہیں
پڑا ہے اور کسی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کی پاس بھولہ مشورہ مکان موجود ہے کئی کئی پیکش
702 مربع فٹ ہے جبکہ زمین کی پیکش 613 مربع فٹ بنتا ہے اس طرح سے مکان زمین کئی پیکش
1315 مربع فٹ بنتا ہے سائل کی ہوا آمدنی تمام بلڈ رائج سے تینا پانچ 6000 روپیہ ہے سائل مذکورہ
ہڈ پائل کاسٹیا ہڈ پائل نائب ایک ادارے سے bb زمزمے میں نہیں آتا ہے کہہ پڑا میں ملحقہ ہے
مساجد کانڈیکٹ 40 سال گھلکام سرورہ کلمہ
سجاد احمد شاہ 25 سال زیر تعلیم پھر
ارشد احمد شاہ 22 سال زیر تعلیم پھر
یونیورسٹی 18 سال زیر تعلیم دفتر
اس کے علاوہ کوئی فرد کہہ نہیں ہے سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی طر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا طر یا
اعتراض سات ہیما در دفتر پڑا میں پیکش کرے سید احمد گزشتہ کوئی طر یا اعتراض تو قبل پیکش نہیں ہوگا
نائب تحصیلدار tlc

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: Technip Energies India Scholarship Program 2022-23

Description: Technip Energies India invites applications from female students coming from Delhi NCR, Bihar, Assam, Rajasthan, Chennai and Mumbai who are currently enrolled in the first-year of B.E./B.Tech. courses.

Eligibility: Open for female students from Delhi NCR, Bihar, Assam, Rajasthan, Chennai and Mumbai (NOTE: Applications from Ghaziabad, Navi Mumbai, and Thane are also acceptable).

Applicants must be currently enrolled in the first-year of B.E./B.Tech. (Chemical, Electrical, Civil, and Mechanical Engineering) courses.

Must have scored 70% or more marks in Class 12.

Annual family income of the applicant must not be more than INR 4,00,000 from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 30,000
Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2022
Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TSPSS1

Scholarship Name 2: Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship

Description: Amazon invites applications from first-year girl students

currently pursuing BE/B.Tech courses in computer science, IT and other allied branches. The scholarship aims to enable access to computer science learning and career opportunities for young girls in India. These girls are usually 'First Generation Learners', from underserved and economically constrained backgrounds.

Eligibility: Indian girl students pursuing BE/B.Tech in Computer Science or allied branches are eligible. They must be currently studying in the first year of undergraduate programme. Annual family income is less than INR 3,00,000. Admission must be taken through a state or national-level entrance exam.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 1,60,000 (INR 40,000 per year until graduation)

The Amazon Future Engineer Scholars will also receive mentorship for tech careers, skill-building as well as networking opportunities, and a chance to appear for Amazon internship.

Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2022

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/AFES3

Scholarship Name 3: Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship and Mentorship Programme for Sportsperson and

Individuals escription: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program aims to provide foundational support to individuals, who are deserving & meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams.

Eligibility: For individuals helping others, the applicants must be graduates and involved in activities like teaching a group of underprivileged children or providing sports training to them.

For sportspersons, applicants must have represented the state/country at the state/national/international level in the last 2/3 years. They must be ranked within 500 in the national ranking/within 100 in the state ranking. They must be aged between 9 and 20 years. The annual family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected scholars can avail scholarship award of INR 75,000 per year for up to 3 years

Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2022

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KSS12

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer

Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal

Tele/fax No.- 0194-2416040 (email :- dshogbl@gmail.com)

****TECH SECTION****

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from registered Insurance companies for insurance of sheep units established under the schemes Integrated Sheep Development Scheme (ISDS) on participatory mode and Infrastructure for Welfare of Tribals in district Ganderbal. The expression of interest mentioning the annual premium per adult sheep in terms of percentage of cost of animal must reach this office latest by 02-12-2022 (3:30 PM).

The expression of interest must include assurance statement from the company for hassle free settlement of the cases/insurance claims of the unit holders including all possible assistance. Miscellaneous expenses (Transportation, cost of insurance tags etc) should be borne by the company unless otherwise stated.

The expression of interest is only an offer issued with no commitment and this office reverses the right to withdraw the EOI at any stage without assigning any reason or disqualify any applicant at any stage should it be necessary.

DIPK-14199/22

No: DSHOG/Tech/2022-23/ 4551-56

Dated: 26/11/2022

Sd/-
District
Sheep Husbandry Officer
Ganderbal

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER HYDRAULIC DIVISION URI

email: urihydraulic@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Fresh e_NIT_No_36/Hyd/Uri_of_2022-23 Dated: 24/11/2022

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Jammu and Kashmir UT Government, for the following works: -
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of Funds: Demanded/Committed

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head	Cost of Tender document (In Rs.)	TENDER-ID
1.	Construction of Drain from banjran peer mollaha to house of Choudhary Iqbal Ward 09.	28.45	56900/-	40 days	AYY/BE E	5475-BADP	1100/-	2022_IFC_197403_1
2.	Construction of Drain from banjran road to irrigation khul via Raja Mohalla Ward 08.	29.28	58560/-	55 days	AYY/BE E	5475-BADP	1100/-	2022_IFC_197403_2
3.	Construction of Drain from House of Bashir Ahmad Mirchal to Newlight School to Sikh Mohalla Onwards to National Highway ward 11 and 12.	38.61	77220/-	60 days	AYY/BE E	5475-BADP	1100/-	2022_IFC_197403_3
4.	Construction of Drain from House of Haji Gh. Hassan Mir to National Highway via house of Javid Ahmad Chalkoo and others.	41.41	82820/-	60 days	AYY/BE E	5475-BADP	1100/-	2022_IFC_197403_4
5.	Construction of Drain from House of Mudasir Ahmad Malik to National Highway via House of Mohd Arif Bandy and Others.	70.75	141500/-	65 days	AYY	5475-BADP	1600/-	2022_IFC_197403_5

The NIT consisting of Qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from:-

1.	Publishing Date	25/11/2022 from 02:00PM
2.	Download Date Start	25/11/2022 from 02:00PM
3.	Tender Submission date Start	25/11/2022 from 02:00PM
4.	Tender Submission date Ends	30/11/2022 up to 04:00 pm
5.	Date of Opening	01/12/2022 at 12:00PM, in the Office of the Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri (H.Q. Chandanwari)

Tenders must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri, payable at Treasury Office.

1. The Tenders for the works shall remain valid for a period of 90 (Ninety) days from the date of opening of Tenders.
2. The Tenders shall be deposited in Electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in
3. The Tender uploaded on the website upto due date and time will be opened on the schedule date and time or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri H.Q Chandanwari, in presence of the Tenderers who wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the basis of the opening of the Tender/date of submission of Hard copies, the same will be on the next working day at the same time and venue.
4. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
Any Tenderer withdraws his Tenders/tender during the period of Tender validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the Tender.
Failure of Successful tenderer to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

5. The tenderer shall have to execute the agreement within 10-days after fixation of contract.
6. Instructions to Tenderer regarding E-Tendering process:-
Tenderers are advised to download Tender submission manual from the "downloads" option as well as from "Tenderers manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint Tenderers submission process.

To participate in tendering process Tenderers have to get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology act. 2000 Tenderers can get digital certificate from approved vendor.
The Tenderer have to submit their Tenders online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial Tender will be accepted in physical form.
Tender will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

Tenderers must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents like CDR/BG/PAN/ G.S. TIN/Treasury challan under MH 0702 in respect of Irrigation work and under MH 0215 in respect of PHE works /REG. Card duly renewed and submitted hard copies thereof physically to tender receiving authority before date of opening of Tender.
Note:- Scan all documents on 100dpi with black and white options.

10. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
11. Laying of GI / DI Pipes
a. The pipe material ISI marked Galvanized Mild Steel tubes should conform to IS :1239 (pt.1)/2004 6th revision read with up-to-date amendments in random length of 4 to 7 mtrs, screwed on both ends as per IS: 554/1990, socketed at one end and protected with plastic protector in various sizes of nominal bore & classes. The socket conforming to IS: 1239 (pt. II/1992) (4th revision) with amendment No. 1 to 3 & latest on date & ISI marked Centrally spun (Cast) DI Pipes with socket & spigot ends as per IS : 8329/2000 read with latest amendments in standard lengths of 4, 5, 5.5 & 6 mtrs for classification K7 & K9 ranging nominal diameters as indicated here under suitable for push on joint (Rubber Gasket-D joining) with cement mortar lining inside the pipes Without side Zinc coating with Bituminous finish coat as per IS 8329/2000 read with amendment NO. 1, hydrostatic tests as per clause -11 of IS :8329 with latest amendments each pipe to be supplied with EPDM Rubber Gasket conforming to IS: 5382 Of 1985. The class of pipe is specified as light "A". All GI/DI pipes should be entrenched especially in hilly areas with a trench depth of 0.60 m to 1.00 m and were same is not technically possible the Pipes so kept naked will have to be insulated with PUF using Chicken mesh & tin foil of approved thickness & specifications against the proposed earthwork and nothing extra shall be paid to the contractor on this account.
b. The pipe material shall be supplied from reputed manufacturers. The agency shall initially establish a store at the project site for storing before the same is issued to sites after getting approved. The approval process shall be documented on material approval sheets duly signed by in charge engineer's quality control committee and contractor.

c. The contractors shall be authorized to purchase the material viz. cement, steel, crates and pipe material of approved brand and manufacture conforming to relevant BIS/IS Codes as per set codal procedure/ rules and shall be verified /checked through the committee constituted by Quality Control and Procurement Division Srinagar
For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir.

NO: HDU/CC-02/3937-57
DATED:26/11/2022

DIPK-14170/22

Sd/-
(Er. Shabir Ahmad Bhat)
Executive Engineer,
Hydraulic Division Uri



Kashmir University Joins Countrywide Constitution Day Celebrations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Constitution Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the University of Kashmir on Saturday.

In connection with the celebrations, the School of Law organized a quiz competition and an awareness programme that aimed to highlight the salient features of the Constitution, the Preamble of the Constitution, Fundamental Rights and Duties and the great vision of the founding fathers of the Constitution, among other important aspects related to the theme.

In her message for the important occasion, Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan said that law students should become the torchbearers of the great values enshrined in the Constitution as well as the need to acknowledge and honor the contributions of its founding fathers. She said the University of Kashmir will provide its full support to such awareness programmes.

"Fulfilling our fundamental duties in letter and spirit

will be our great tribute to the founding fathers of the Constitution," she said.

Top KU officers including Dean Research Prof Irshad A Nawchoo and Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir, senior faculty members and officers, joined the concluding ceremony of the quiz competition and awareness programme, which also saw the participation of a large number of students of BA LLB and LLB courses.

Prof Nawchoo and Dr Nisar highlighted the importance of the Constitution Day, while senior law faculty members including Prof Mohammad Ayub, Prof Mohammad Hussain, Prof Beauty Bandy and Prof Mush-taq A Dar delivered talks on the genesis and salient features of the Constitution.

"This day reminds us of the great past of the profession of law and the herculean task undertaken by the founding fathers of the Constitution of providing a manuscript which is respected by heterogeneous and diverse populations in the country," Prof Ayub, Former Head and Dean, School of Law, said.

Constitution Day Celebrated At AS College

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Department of Political Science, Debates and Seminars Committee and AKAM Committee of Amar Singh College, Cluster University Srinagar, celebrated Samvidhan Divas (Constitution Day) on Saturday.

The programme started with the inaugural lecture by Prof. Arifat, Head Department of Political Science. Prof Arifat Jan threw the light on the relevance of the Samvidhan Divas and emphasized the need for conducting such Programmes. The inaugural address was followed by the welcome address delivered by Prof. Bashir Ahmad Rather, worthy Principal Amar Singh College, Cluster University Srinagar.

He deliberated on the Genesis of the Indian Constitution and traced a brief history of its evolution over the decades. The welcome address was followed by the preamble reading

ceremony led by the worthy Principal. All the staff members and students participated in the event. After the preamble reading, Prof. Tafazul Hussain, Assistant Professor Department of Political Science, delivered a special lecture on the theme of this 'Samvidhan Divas Bharat Lok Tantra Ki Janani'(India The - Mother of Democracy). Learned speakers traced the origin of democracy in India to early vedic times and proclaimed that India is the benefactor of democracy to the rest of the world. Prof. Tafazul also alluded to the international Debates on the contribution of India to the Genesis of democracy given flip by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi recent address at UN General Assembly. The programme concluded with the formal vote of thanks presented by Shahnawaz Muntazir, Assistant Professor (English) and Convenor AKAM Committee.

Police Arrests Three Drug Peddlers

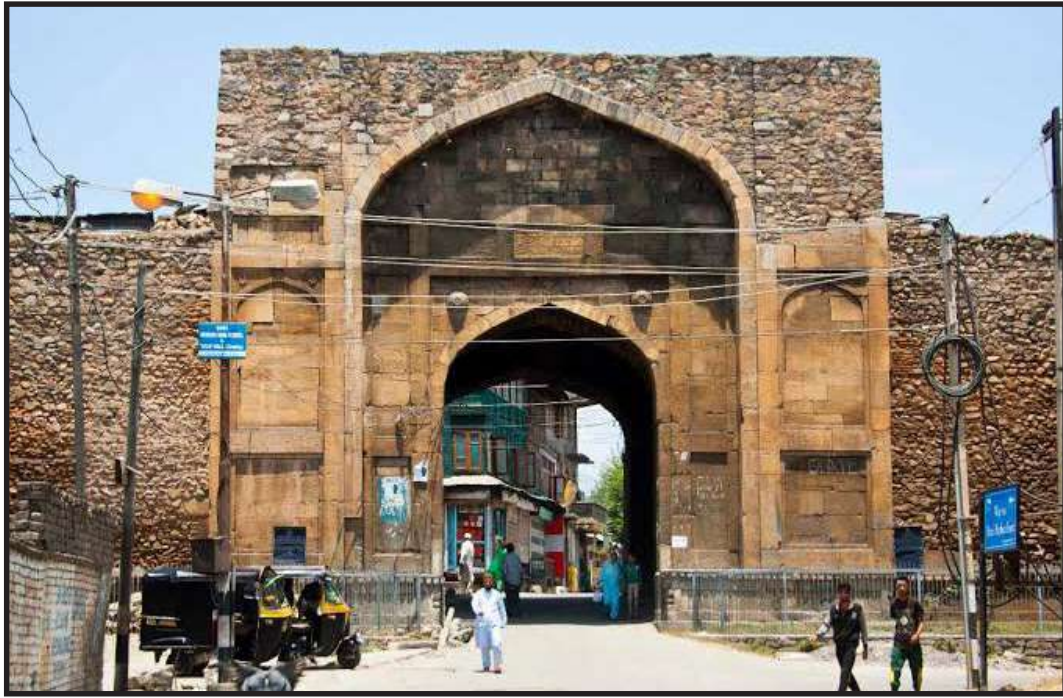
Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Saturday said that they arrested three drug peddlers in Rajbagh and Rainawari Police Stations.

Azan Rashid Daggia of Lal Mandi, Mohsin Iqbal Mir of Lal Mandi and Faizan Farooq of Abi Guripora, Rainawar have been arrested. Police also said that a huge quantity of drugs

have been recovered in their possession.

"3 Drug peddlers arrested by Rajbagh PS and Rainawari PS. Huge quantity of drugs seized as well. Azan Rashid Daggia of Lal mandi, Rajbagh, Mohsin Iqbal Mir of Lal Mandi Raj bagh , Faizan Farooq Gurstoo of Abi Guripora Rainawari. Cases registered in Rajbagh PS & Rainawari PS" Srinagar Police tweeted.



City Losing Heritage Sites, Reveals Survey

Non-implementation of law to preserve heritage sites cause of serious concern

Agencies

Srinagar: The Srinagar City is surrounded with the heritage sites, but the non-implementation of the law to preserve these sites have resulted in reduction of such places in the past two decades as the survey conducted by INTACH, J&K Chapter has revealed progressive loss of heritage sites in the City.

"In the past two decades, a total of 12 per cent of the heritage sites or buildings have been dismantled completely while six per cent are either in danger of disappearance or have been found in advance state of decay," Chairman INTACH, J&K Chapter, Muhammad Saleem Beg said.

He said that a total of 349 sites were identified and categorized as Grade I properties in the 2003 listing while only 49 percent out of them are in good or fair conditions. "We recently conducted a survey again for the smart city project and we have found that 51 per

cent heritage sites as per 2003 listing are either dismantled completely or showing signs of deterioration. Besides, six per cent out of them are in danger of disappearance or in an advanced state of decay," he said.

Beg further added that in 2010, a law was formed with regard to the preservation of the heritage sites, but was not implemented on the ground so far, which led to the demolition of the heritage buildings and poor condition of others as well. "Had the law been implemented, all the heritage sites would have been in good condition in Srinagar," he said.

The situation is because of the lack of seriousness as well as the accountability on the ground, he said and added the City is progressively losing the heritage sites every year, but there is a need to implement the law concerning the heritage sites.

Chairman INTACH, J&K Chapter while divulging the details said that during the new

survey conducted recently, a total of 17 new sites have been added in the Grade I category. "With the addition of new 17 sites, the City has a total of 307 heritage sites at present, which need to be preserved and protected following the implementation of the law," he said.

"The central government recently came up with an industrial policy under which the heritage sites have been declared as industry as well. The government has said that it will provide a 30 per cent incentive for any activity to be started at the heritage sites. However, the J&K administration has unfortunately failed to recommend any single case to the central government so far, which would have helped in preserving the heritage sites," he said.

He added that there is a need to create awareness, ensure regulation and preservation of the heritage sites and steps in this regard are imperative at this juncture—(KNO)

Preparations For "MY Town MY Pride" Programme Reviewed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In connection with preparatory phase of My Town My Pride (MTMP 2.0) starting from 28th November 2022 to 04th December 2022, a meeting was held in the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex under the Chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Zahoor Ahmad Mir on Saturday.

Joint Commissioner, SMC, Syed Abul Qasim, General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, Superintending

Engineer PHE, Hydraulic, Gurcharan Singh, SDM East, Murtaza Ahmad, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jameel, all District/Sectoral Officers and other concerned were present in the meeting.

At the outset, a detailed discussion was held in order to ensure successful conduct of the My Town My Pride (MTMP 2.0).

The ADDC stressed the Officers of all Departments to work in coordinated manner to ensure that the desired objectives of the programme are achieved. He asked the Officers to mobilize all resources and manpower for achieving the targets on deliverables in all 35 Municipal Wards of the District.

He said MTMP 2.0 is a re-

lation between Public and Administration to give boost to developmental activities and ensure benefit of all social security schemes is reached to all genuine beneficiary of the District through "Jan Baghidari".

He said on the outlines of recently concluded Back to Village-4 programme, the MTMP 2.0 'programme will also envisage time bound delivery of documents like domicile, income certificates, revenue services, besides ensuring benefits under various schemes including pensions, scholarships, PMAY-U, Golden Health cards, Ladli Beti, etc through camps to be organized in all 35 Municipal wards of the District.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

02 Jumad al-Awwal
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:45
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	3:46
Magrib	5:26
ISHA	7:50

This Day In History

- 1912 - Spanish protectorate in Morocco forms
- 1914 - 1st British woman elected political agent (Grantham, Lincolnshire)
- 1919 - Peace of Neuilly-sur-Seine: Allies & Bulgaria
- 1941 - British 13th Army Corps reaches Tobruk
- 1942 - Tito appoints Anti-fascist Liberation board in Yugoslavia
- 1951 - Cease-fire & demarcation zone accord signed in Panmunjon, Korea
- 1971 - Soviet Mars 2 becomes 1st spacecraft to crash land on Mars
- 1973 - US Senate votes 92-3 to confirm Gerald Ford as Vice President
- 1973 - US President Richard Nixon signs the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act, authorizing petroleum price, production, allocation and marketing controls
- 1979 - 1st day-night one-day cricket international, Australia v WI at SCG
- 1980 - Soyuz T-3 carries 3 cosmonauts to Salyut 6 space station, launched
- 1982 - Yasuhiro Nakasone elected Prime Minister of Japan succeeding Zenko Suzuki
- 1982 - Davis Cup, Grenoble, France: US takes unassailable, 3-0 lead over France as John
- 1983 - Colombian jetliner Boeing 747 crashes in Madrid killing 181
- 1985 - Republic of Ireland gains consultative role in Northern Ireland
- 1989 - Colombian jetliner bombed killing 107
- 1991 - Undertaker beats Hulk Hogan to become new WWF champ
- 1993 - India defeat West Indies in Bengal Jubilee Cricket Final, Kumble 6-12

From KO Archives

5 Truckers Shot Dead

Rajinder Singh

Srinagar: Five drivers on way to Jammu with apple-laden trucks were gunned down and six others sustained injuries by unidentified gunmen in two different incidents near Banihal on Jammu-Srinagar highway last night.

According to reports, a group of eight to 10 unidentified gun-men donning army uniforms appeared at Sher Bibi and Khar-pur, respectively six and 10 km from Banihal between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m last night, and brought down the drivers on the pretext of checking their vehicles. After parking their vehicles along the road side, the truckers had retired for the night.

The gunmen segregated the drivers and conductors on the basis of religion after verifying their identity cards. Lining up the drivers from Sikh and Hindu communities, they opened fire killing five of them on the spot and injuring six others. The assailants managed their escape.

Of the deceased, two were identified as Jagjit Singh of Chral-igund, Baramulla, and Rashpal Singh of Dhariwal, Punjab. Those injured were identified as Ranjit Singh of Chandusa Baramulla, Lakhwinder Singh of Dhariwal Punjab, Anil Ku-mar of Dhariwal, Pawan Kumar alias Nikka of Dhariwal, Sim-ranjit Singh of Jagirpora, New Delhi and Mangal Kumar. The ill-fated trucks bore numbers JKU/4119, JK02G J425, PJS/4005, and PB-07E/ 9315.

The injured were rushed to Ramban and Banihal hospitals. Later, they were shifted to the army hospital at Ramban.

The news of truckers killing evoked an instant reaction among the transport operators who called for a chakka jam and bandh in the transport yard and transport Nagar here to-day. Various organisations have given a call for Jammu bandh and wheel jam tomorrow in protest against the killings.

Protest demonstrations were held at Ramban and Batote against the killings. The protesters raised anti-Pakistan slogans.


Describing the killings as a desperate act of militants, the inspector general of police, R V Raju, told Observer News Ser-vice these were clearly aimed at disruption of essential supplies to the Kashmir valley and to create communal tension in the state. He said security all along the 300-km long high-way had been beefed up. Senior civil and police officials have rushed to the spot and were watching the situation.

Traffic authorities have imposed restrictions on moving vehicles on the highway. Random parking has been stopped and movement of vehicles after 6 p.m. is not allowed.

A KPS report from Srinagar said some of the injured were admitted in the SK Institute of Medical Sciences at Soura, where they told the agency the gunmen in army fatigues spoke chaste Dogri. The incident sparked spontaneous shutdown in Bani-hal and the president of Banihal Beopar Mandal, Shamsuddin Rahi, announced that the hartal would continue till the investigation into the incident was completed.

It may be recalled half a dozen truck drivers were done to death in a similar incident at Mir Bazar Qazigund in the south Kashmir district of Anantnag last year. On that occasion, Kashmiri truck drivers were roughed up at Jammu, Udhampur and in New Delhi and their goods were destroyed.

(Kashmir Observer, 27 November, 2000)



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Estates Department
Zonal Office, Srinagar-190001

Extension of Time
With reference to the tender notice No. jkb/zosgr/Est/22-Dt:-13-10-2022, issued by this office, regarding advertisement for premises for housing Branch Brein, Nishat, Sgr followed by 1st extension on 06-11-2022, the last date for receipt of the tenders is extended up to 2nd of December 2022. The tender documents can be downloaded from the link www.jkbank.com. The parties who have already applied in response to the tender notice No. jkb/zosgr/Est/22-Dt:-13-10-2022 & 1st extension notice No. JKB/ZOS-GR/EST/22 dated 06-11-2022 need not apply again.
Other terms and conditions shall remain the same.
Dated: 25.11.2022
Ref No: No. jkb/zoSgr /Est/22-

Sd/-
Zonal Head
Zonal Office Srinagar

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 ; **T :** +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; **F :** +91 (0)194 248 1928;
E : info@jkbankmail.com ; **W :** www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-5235/22 Dated: 26-11-2022

**CRITICAL CARE
AMBULANCE**

FREE FOR EVERY ONE

Call, Any Time 24x7



9484100200
01942310018

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



"Frequent Terror Attacks In Congress's Time Due To Vote Bank": Amit Shah

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said terror attacks were rampant when Congress was in power and terrorists from Pakistan used to kill Indian soldiers but the then ruling party never condemned them due to "vote bank" politics.

Paying tributes to the victims of the November 26, 2008 (26/11) Mumbai terror attack, Shah said it is impossible to carry out such an attack under the watch of the Narendra Modi government.

"Today is the anniversary of the 26/11 attack. On this day (in 2008), Pakistani terrorists killed 164 persons in Mumbai. I pay my humble tributes to the departed souls. Though such attacks were rampant during the Congress rule, it is not possible to carry out a 26/11 type terror attack today because Narendra Modi is the prime minister," Shah said while addressing a poll rally in Talaja town in Bhavnagar district for a BJP candidate.

Voting on Talaja and 88 other seats will be held on December 1 in the first phase of the two-phase

Gujarat Assembly elections.

"Sonia (Gandhi) and (former PM) Manmohan Singh were in power for ten years from 2004 till 2014. During their regime, terrorists from Pakistan used to enter India frequently and kill our soldiers and even decapitated their heads. Despite that, Congress never uttered a word. Why? Because of their vote bank. I hope you know who is Congress' vote bank," the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said.

He added PM Modi gave a strong message to the world by carrying out surgical and air strikes on terrorists after Uri and Pulwama terror attacks.

The Gandhinagar MP also said the now-scrapped Article 370 (granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir) was the mistake of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

"Didn't you want Article 370 (was supposed) to be removed from Jammu and Kashmir? For 70 years, these Congressmen preserved this Nehru's mistake as if it was a child. Our PM (Modi) removed it in one go in 2019 and made Kashmir an integral part of India in its true sense," he said.

'Increase Debate & Discussion', Says PM Modi on Constitution Day



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said fulfilling fundamental duties should be the first priority of citizens to take the nation to greater heights as it marches ahead towards the centenary of its independence.

Addressing Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court, PM Modi said the entire world is looking at India which is witnessing rapid development and economic growth.

The Prime Minister said the country is set to assume the G-20 presidency next week and this is a big opportunity to present its contribution to the world.

"We, as Team India, should work towards enhancing India's prestige on the world stage and highlight the country's contribution to the world. This is our collective responsibility," PM Modi said and added that "we have to strengthen India's identity as the mother of democracy".

He said he is pleased to state

that the country in the form of the mother of democracy is strengthening its ancient ideals and the spirit of the Constitution - 'We the people' - are a call, trust and oath. This spirit of the Constitution is the spirit of India that has been the mother of democracy in the world. In the modern time, the Constitution has embraced all the cultural and moral emotions of the nation," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister said that defying initial apprehensions about its stability, India is moving ahead with full force and taking pride in its diversity. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, PM Modi said the fundamental rights are those responsibilities that should be fulfilled by citizens with utmost dedication and true integrity. He termed the Amrit Kaal, the journey of next 25 years to emerge as a developed

nation, as 'Kartavya Kaal' - an era of fulfilling the fundamental duties.

"The Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal is the time for duty towards the country. Be it people or institutions, our responsibilities are our first priority," the Prime Minister said, underlining that by walking the path of one's duties, the country can attain new heights of development.

PM Modi also stressed on the need to increase awareness about the Constitution among the youth for a better understanding of topics such as equality and empowerment.

At the outset, PM Modi also remembered the victims of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks that took place in 2008 as India was celebrating the adoption of the Constitution.

The Prime Minister also launched new initiatives under the e-court project, which provide services to litigants, lawyers and the judiciary through information and communication technology enabled courts.

China Holds Its First Meeting With 19 Countries In Indian Ocean Region Without India

Press Trust of India

BEIJING: China held a meeting this week with 19 countries from the Indian Ocean region in which India was conspicuously absent.

The China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), an organisation connected with the Chinese Foreign Ministry held a meeting of the China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation on November 21, in which 19 countries took part, according to a press release issued by the organisation.

The meeting was held in a hybrid manner under the theme of "Shared Development: Theory and Practice from the Perspective of the Blue Economy" in Kunming, Yunnan Province, it said.

Representatives of 19 countries, including Indonesia, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Afghanistan, Iran, Oman, South Africa, Kenya, Mozam-

bique, Tanzania, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, Djibouti, Australia and representatives of 3 international organisations were present, it said.

India was reportedly not invited, according to informed sources here.

he is the Secretary of the CPC (the ruling Communist Party of China) Leadership Group of CIDCA.

CIDCA's official website said the aims of the organisation is to formulate strategic guidelines, plans and policies for foreign aid, coordinate and offer advice on major foreign aid issues, advance the country's reforms in matters involving foreign aid, and identify major programmes, supervise and evaluate their implementation.

During his tour of Sri Lanka in January this year, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi proposed to establish a "forum on the development of Indian Ocean Island Countries".

When asked whether the CIDCA meeting is the same that is proposed by Wang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry here has clarified to the media that the November 21 meeting was not part of it.

he is the Secretary of the CPC (the ruling Communist Party of China) Leadership Group of CIDCA.

CIDCA's official website said the aims of the organisation is to formulate strategic guidelines, plans and policies for foreign aid, coordinate and offer advice on major foreign aid issues, advance the country's reforms in matters involving foreign aid, and identify major programmes, supervise and evaluate their implementation.

During his tour of Sri Lanka in January this year, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi proposed to establish a "forum on the development of Indian Ocean Island Countries".

When asked whether the CIDCA meeting is the same that is proposed by Wang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry here has clarified to the media that the November 21 meeting was not part of it.

Imran Khan To Address Long March Despite Threat To His Life

Press Trust of India

Pakistan's garrison city of Rawalpindi, where the powerful Army is based, on Saturday braced for a political show of strength by former premier Imran Khan despite a threat to his life.

Khan, who is recovering from bullet wounds suffered during an assassination bid on November 3, is set to address his supporters in Rawalpindi. He has said his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party's protest, demanding fresh general elections, would be completely peaceful.

Khan's supporters are on the move from all corners of the country to reach Rawalpindi, the twin sister city of Islamabad, where a stage has been prepared on the Sixth Road Flyover in the middle of historic Murree Road.

Some avid supporters, who have already landed in the city, were housed in a temporary tent structure set up in the Alama Iqbal Park near the venue of the rally.

Khan would leave his Zaman Park residence in Lahore at around 1 pm local time in a bullet-proof vehicle which was sent to his place. He is expected to address his supporters at around 6 pm.

It is not clear if the rally would disperse after his address and convert into a sit-in. However, the Rawalpindi city administration has given only one-day permission for the rally.



The Rawalpindi administration also issued a notification that read that the England cricket team would soon arrive in Rawalpindi, therefore the venue should be completely vacated after the rally was over.

Khan, 70, said on Friday that despite being injured he is determined to head to Rawalpindi for the sake of the nation.

Khan in his message said that he was fighting for the real independence of the country and the struggle would continue until fresh elections were announced.

We are fighting a war for the Haqqeqi Azadi. The one point agenda is elections, he said, as he accused the current government of destroying the economy and running away from elections due to fear of defeat. Separately, he told a news channel that if the snap elections were not announced and the government stuck to its stance of holding the general election on time next October, then the masses would throw out the incumbent rulers through force.

AIIMS Ransomware Attack: Key Patient Data At Risk Of Leak, Sale On Dark Web, Says Experts

Agencies

NEW DELHI: With the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, still struggling to get its servers up and running after a massive ransomware attack earlier this week, cyber-security researchers on Saturday said the most reported attacks in the healthcare industry, which rose during the pandemic, involve the leak or sale of databases on the Dark Web.

The exploited databases contain Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of patients and healthcare workers, as well as administrative information such as blood donor records,

and Accountability Act) compliance requirements, create awareness among users regarding cyber-attacks, online scams, and phishing campaigns, set up policies for secure passwords and enable multi-factor authentication (MFA)," a spokesperson of AI-driven cyber-security firm CloudSEK told IANS.

The cyber attack on AIIMS shut down its main and backup servers.

The attackers hacked the e-hospital service which manages the patient data system, affecting the outpatient department (OPD) and sample collection services.

Those behind the cyber attack have warned AIIMS to



ambulance records, vaccination records, caregiver records, login credentials, etc.

"Government agencies involved in the healthcare industry should abide by HIPAA's (Health Insurance Portability

"prepare for a negotiation".

Delhi Police are investigating the cyber attack.

Meanwhile, AIIMS officials said that all affected online patient services are now being run on manual mode.

Court Order To Pay Salaries To Imams Violates Constitution: Top Official



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Central Information Commission has said the 1993 Supreme Court order allowing remuneration to imams in mosques was in "violation of the Constitution" and, besides setting a "wrong precedent", has become a point of unnecessary political slug fest and social disharmony.

Information Commissioner Uday Mahurkar, while hearing an RTI application filed by an activist demanding details of salaries to imams by the Delhi government and the Delhi Waqf Board, also observed that the order violated constitutional provisions that say "taxpayer's money will not be used to favour any particular religion".

The Supreme Court in 1993 on a petition from the All India Imam Organisation had directed the waqf board to give remuneration to imams in mosques managed by it.

He has directed that a copy of his order be sent to the Union Law Minister with suitable action to ensure enforcement of provisions of articles 25 to 28 of the Constitution in letter and spirit to keep all religions on par in terms of monthly remuneration to priests of different reli-

gions at the cost of the public exchequer -- both central and states -- and also other matters.

"Further with regard to the judgment by the Supreme Court in the case between the 'All India Imam Organisation and ... vs Union Of India And Ors' on 13 May, 1993, that opened the doors to special financial benefits from public treasury to only imams and muezins in mosques, the commission observes that the highest court of the country in passing this order acted in violation of the provisions of the Constitution, particularly Article 27, which says taxpayers' money will not be used to favour any particular religion," Mahurkar said.

"The commission notes that the said judgment sets a wrong precedent in the country and has become a point of unnecessary political slug fest and also social disharmony in the society," the information commissioner said.

He also directed the Delhi Waqf Board to pay a compensation of ₹ 25,000 to RTI activist Subhash Agrawal for the loss of time and resources in chasing the response to his application. The activist was not being able to get a satisfactory response to his application.

NEWS MAKERS

Clamour to 'Slap, Kick, Tonsure' Yoga Guru for Sexist Utterances

Agencies

MUMBAI: A day after Yoga expert Ramdev's stark comments on women's attire from his viewpoint, the classical saying, 'Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned' was fast turning true, here on Saturday.

Furious political, social, women and farm activists brutally slammed Ramdev's remarks with calls to "slap, kick and tonsure" him emanating from various quarters.

Speaking at a free Yoga training programme for women on Friday in Thane, Ramdev blurted out without batting an eyelid: "Women look good in saris, they look great in salwar suits, and in my view they look good even if they don't wear anything." Apparently getting



carried away by the huge gathering of women, Ramdev Baba was flanked by Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena Thane MP Shrikant Shinde, the son of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and singer Amruta Fadnavis—wife of Bharatiya Janata Party's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and other prominent personalities.

Expressing shock, farm widows' leader Aparna Malikar from Vidarbha said Ramdev's

statement was nothing short of a 'revelation' of what goes on in his 'filthy mind' and serves as a warning to all women going before him to remain 'extra-alert'.

Senior Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders like MP Sanjay Raut, MLC Dr. Manisha Kayande and National Spokesperson Kishore Tiwari pounced on Ramdev for his "out-rageous" remarks that insulted all the women of the country.

"Why could not Amruta Fadnavis just get up and slap him there? This is my question," an agitated Raut asked.

Kayande also attacked the Dy.CM's wife demanding "she should have kicked him and walked out of the programme" but shockingly she was laughing, giggling, enjoying Ramdev's remarks "as if he was doing an honour to womanhood".

Thieves Steal Train Engine From Bihar Railway Yard

Press Trust of India

An entire diesel engine was stolen part by part from a railway yard in Bihar's Begusarai district, police said on Friday.

The thieves dug a tunnel to the yard and started stealing parts, slowly doing away with the entire engine that was brought there for repairs, they said. "Last week, a case was registered at the Barauni police station for the theft of a diesel engine brought for repairs to the Garhara yard. In the course of the investigation, three people were arrested," said PS Dubey, the inspector of Railway Protection Force (RPF), Muzaffarpur.

Based on the information given by them during interrogation, searches were conducted at a scrap godown in Prabhat Nagar area of Muzaffarpur district and 13 sacks full of train parts

were found, he said.

A search is on for the owner of the scrap godown, he added.

Recovered items include engine parts, wheels of vintage train engines and railway parts made of heavy iron, he said. "They had dug a tunnel to the railway yard and through it, they used to carry the locomotive parts and other items in sacks," said Dubey.

The gang is also involved in unbolting steel bridges and stealing their parts, he said.

Last year, a railway engineer of Samastipur Loco Diesel Shed was suspended after he allegedly sold off an old steam engine kept at the Purnea court premises.

The engineer had allegedly used a forged letter of the divisional mechanical engineer of Samastipur to sell the engine in connivance with other railway officials and security personnel.

Veteran Actor Vikram Gokhale Dies At 77

Press Trust of India

PUNE: Veteran film, television and stage actor Vikram Gokhale on Saturday died at a city hospital, where he had been undergoing treatment for the past couple of weeks, the hospital authorities said.

Gokhale, 77, was admitted to the Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital here earlier this month following health complications. His mortal remains will be kept at the Balgandharva Auditorium in the city and the last rites will be performed at the Vaikunth crematorium in the evening, a family friend of the actor said.

Gokhale, an artiste equally at home in theatre, television and movies, acted in several Marathi and Bollywood films, including 'Agneepath' (1990), 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa' (2007), 'Natsamrat' (2015) and 'Mission Mangal' (2019). His latest release is the Marathi film 'Godavari'.



High Courts Of J&K, Ladakh Celebrates 73rd Constitution Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Saturday celebrated 73rd Constitution Day by organizing preamble reading of the Constitution of India in the Jammu and Srinagar wings of High Court.

At Jammu, Justice Tashi Rabstan led the preamble reading of the Constitution by all the participants including the Judges of High Court, officers and officials of the registry.

After reading of the preamble, Justice Tashi Rabstan interacted with the participants and congratulated them on the Constitution Day. He said that the constitution is not static but a living document adding that our Constitution framers had realized that a Constitution, no matter how well written and how detailed, would have little meaning without the right people to implement it and to live by its values.

Those present on the occa-

sion included Justice Mohamad Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, M. K. Sharma, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Haq Nawaz Zargar, Registrar Vigilance, S.R. Gandhi, Registrar Judicial Jammu, Amit Kumar Gupta, Registrar Inspection, Prem Sagar, Secretary, HCLSC, Parveen Pandoh, Joint Registrar and other officers of the registry.

AT Srinagar, the proceedings commenced with reading of the preamble which was led by Justice Sanjay Dhar.

The occasion was also graced by the presence of Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi.

The proceedings of the celebration were conducted by the Registrar Judicial, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Srinagar Wing.

Joint Registrar (Judicial), Registry Officers besides officers and officials of Srinagar Wing of the High Court were present on the occasion who also took part in reading the preamble.

Pole Reviews Arrangements For JKSSB Exams



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To ensure smooth conduct of JKSSB Exams scheduled to be held from 29th of November, 2022, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Saturday convened a meeting to review arrangements put in place at the examination centres.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Chairman JKSSB, officers of police, PHE & KPDC.

To ensure robust management and integrity of exam centres established in Srinagar, Baramulla and Budgam, the Div Com directed District Administrations to check past institutional memory regarding issues related to traffic management, parking space, law and order and copying issues.

He directed for resolution of all such issues urgently and asked to submit the copy of action taken to JKSSB Administration.

He exhorted DCs to conduct review of examination centres and spot inspection with heads of institutions and their staff to arrangements.

To ensure law and order around examination centres, the Div Com directed issuance of 144CrPc orders and deployment of police and magistrates.

He stressed on adopting precautionary measures and issuance of orders without any ambiguity.

To ensure proper functioning of computers in centres, Pole stressed on deployment of computer knowing staff of institutions, NIC and other government employees to check the operation of gadgets.

Besides, he also called for conducting third party audits of computers, deployment of supervisors and ensuring uninterrupted supply of electricity.

Keeping in view the cold climate, the Div Com also directed for ensuring heating arrangements at examination centres besides availability of drinking water and first aid medical facilities.

Info Department Kashmir Observes 'Constitution Day'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Joint Director Information Kashmir (JDIK) on Saturday observed Constitution Day within the office premises, here.

The reading of the preamble and the pledge administration was attended by all the staff members.

Bilal Mukhtar, Deputy Director (PR) Kashmir read the preamble to the Constitution of India and pledged to uphold the spirit of the document which makes the

largest democracy function.

He said constitution day, also known as 'Samvidhan Divas', is celebrated to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India on November 26 in 1949.

The Deputy Director said the day is marked to create awareness of the importance of the Indian constitution and the main contributor, Dr BR Ambedkar.

He said on this day the country adopted the Constitution to eradicate social evils and provide equal justice to all sections of the public.

Army Chief Hails Soldiers For Restoring Peace In J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Chief of Army Staff on Saturday lauded the soldiers of Rashtriya Rifles in restoring and preserving peace in Jammu and Kashmir and extolled its contribution towards inclusive development and in nation building, a defence spokesperson said.

The army Chief made these remarks while addressing the 12th Rashtriya Rifles Biennial Conference here through video conference, he said. The conference from November 25-26 was hosted by Chinar Corps and chaired by Army Commander Northern Command. The event was addressed by Chief of the Army Staff through video conference.

The Additional Director General Rashtriya Rifles, all General Officers Commanding of

Counter Insurgency Forces and senior officers attended the two day event.

In address, the spokesperson said, the Chief of Army Staff lauded the stellar role played by the Rashtriya Rifles in restoring and preserving peace in Jammu and Kashmir and extolled its contribution towards inclusive development and in nation building.

"He outlined the present and future focus of operations aimed through people friendly operations," he said.

The Army Chief, he said, further emphasized upon the need for avoiding collateral damage and ensuring the dignity and human rights of the Awam at all times.

"He appreciated the role being played by the Rashtriya Rifles battalions in the counter infiltration role along the LC,"

he added.

The spokesperson said that the conference identified contemporary challenges to the Rashtriya Rifles at operational level, the need to re-organise and train for these in the realm of both counter insurgency and conventional threats. Brainstorming sessions were held for enhancing the operational efficiency.

"Known for its public outreach efforts, the Rashtriya Rifles has assisted the locals from inaccessible and far flung areas of the UT of J&K. Rashtriya Rifles has been providing assistance in diverse fields and has given an impetus to development, growth, education, women empowerment, skill development and communal harmony through its multifarious enabling civil action programs," he added.

Under PM, Giant Strides Being Taken In IT Field: Jitendra Singh



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said, under PM Modi, giant strides are being taken in the field of IT and new age technologies for better delivery of governance to citizens.

Inaugurating the 25th National Conference on e-Governance (NCEG), the silver jubilee edition of the NCEG in Katra, Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the ultimate objective of good governance is to bring ease of living in the life of a common man.

He said, Modi Government has preempted the need of Information Technology and inculcated the same in each and every aspect of governance and has committed to augment inclusive growth across all sectors.

Dwelling on the theme of the conference "Bringing Citizens, Industry and Government closer", Dr Jitendra Singh said, this has become absolute necessity in the times we live in, as the days of working in silos is over. He said, closer synergy among the Research, Academia, Industry and Start-ups is the way forward for India to become self-reliant (Atmanirbhar) in true sense of

the term.

The Minister added that in an era of increasing digitization with Web 3.0, Artificial Intelligence and regular Tech Disruptions, Prime Minister Modi's vision of India's Techade can be realized through vigorous and all pervasive Digital push.

The Minister said, Digital innovation will play an important part in the next decade for governance to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. He said, 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. He said, Vision India@2047 would be e-Vision India @2047.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, what is worth noting is that all such large public digital solutions are built with an open architecture, and are modular with plug and play that essentially seek to democratize and decentralize technology usage.

Dr Jitendra Singh urged all the participants & stalwarts taking part in two-day intense deliberations to focus on questions that will propel India to the next decade of agile growth. He said, while discussing Digital Governance across Whole-of-the-Government, do ponder upon what it will take for making Government more accessible to every citizen of India, how do we build

a more Transparent and Real-Time Grievance Management System with state-of-the-art technology and best practices in grievance redress learning from the world and some of our own corporates, how do we leverage technology for strengthening the Start-up Ecosystem, generate more employment and promote the ease of doing business.

Dr Jitendra Singh concluded that increased efficiency, increased transparency, robust focus on citizen-centricity and reaching out to the last man in the last queue for service delivery in the true spirit of Antyodaya is the ultimate objective of all governance reforms. He said, in the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal, the officers in their 20s and 30s have to play a stellar role to steer India to become the Unique and Best Model of Governance in 2047, when we celebrate 100th Year of India's Impendence.

Secretary, DARGP, V. Srinivas in his address said that the policy maxim 'Maximum Governance, Minimum Government' is represented by a digitally empowered nation, a digitally empowered citizen and a digitally transformed institution. In the period from 2014 to 2022, government has brought about digital transformation which has been accepted by India's rural population through Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, UPI and Beam application, Arogya Setu App etc., the Secretary added.

J&K Witnessing Urban Renaissance From Few Years: Gupta

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Dheeraj Gupta Saturday observed that Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing 'Urban Renaissance' from the past few years.

While chairing a meeting to review the preparations for the second phase of My Town My Pride (MTMP-2.0) here at Civil Secretariat, Dheeraj Gupta reaffirmed that the second edition of MTMP is going to be an occasion of festival of democracy.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Directors Urban Local Bodies Kashmir/Jammu, Managing Director J&K Housing Board, senior officers of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Mission Director SBM(U)-2.0/DAY-NULM, Additional Secretary H&UDD, Chief Executive Officer JUDA/UDAK, all CEOs, Eos of ULBs and other concerned.

Besides, Presidents ULBs of Jammu/Kashmir also attended the meeting through video conferencing while as Kashmir based officers participated in the meeting in online mode.

While informing the meeting about the second edition of MTMP programme, he said that prior to actual MTMP, a week-long programme of Shehri Jan Abhiyan will kick start from November 28 to December 4 in all 78 ULBs including two Municipal Corporation during which all departments will coordinate and make people aware about the government run schemes, CSS, beneficiary oriented schemes, besides improving service delivery.

He exhorted upon the concerned the programme must be taken to a different level this

time to connect to the masses and meeting their expectations.

While providing broad contours of the MTMP programme, the Principal Secretary enumerated the activities to be taken during the two-day MTMP-2.0 to be started on December 5 and 6, he said that every ULB will be visited by visiting officers for 2 days.

He impressed upon the concerned to work with more zeal and energy to make the programme a grand success and urged upon them to move towards Aspirational Towns.

He also asked the ULBs' presidents and officers to launch a sustained campaign for MTMP-2.0 and run awareness campaigns by using all media tools and platforms to reach out to people.

He said MTMP is a public outreach programme to further strengthen grassroot democracy and perform better in service delivery system in Jammu and Kashmir.

He added that the programme will also help to identify areas where there is need to do more and make future plans in these ULBs.

He said during MTMP-II, Deputy Commissioners of all 20 districts will also take lead and supervise both Shehri Jan Abhiyan and MTMP-2.0 and all the concerned will coordinate with them as they are an important part of administration in the district.

He also informed that a template has been made this time where seven draft city plans have been formulated so that gaps can be filled with judicious use of resources and more funds for these ULBs.

On the occasion, the Principal Secretary sought suggestions from all ULBs' presidents who reposed their faith in the programme and pledged to make both Shehri Jan Abhiyan and MTMP-II a huge success.

Doda Admin Cracks Down On Traffic Violators

DC Calls For Regular Checking, Strict Enforcement Of Road Safety Norms



Observer News Service

DODA: District Administration Doda, in continuation of its efforts to minimise road accidents, and to address the complaints received from the general public, conducted a surprise checking drive of vehicles on all the roads across the district.

As per the enforcement departments, the checking drive, launched under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan, has been launched to rein in the violators ahead of the winter season, during which most of the roads become slippery posing risk to the commuters.

"Major thrust of today's checking was to check cell phone use while driving; Triple riding; Riding two wheels without helmet; Rash driving; Out of route driving by commercial vehicles; Plying without proper papers and Driving licences.

All the ADMs, SDMs, SDPOs, Tehsildars, SHOs and officers and officials of MVD conducted the surprise checking on NH244 and on all internal roads of the district. A total of 554 vehicles were checked, 119 Challaned and 4 others were seized during the day-long drive.

The officers also conducted

counselling of drivers en-route and sensitised them about safe speed and road safety. They also took stock of the nuisance of wrong parking, and roadside encroachments.

The DC Doda said that no one would be allowed to play with the lives of innocent commuters. He said that the checking will be made a routine henceforth and all the SDMs, Tehsildars, Police officers have been instructed to ensure random checking and strict enforcement while dealing with the traffic rules violators. He said the MVD has been asked to ensure proper fitness of passenger vehicles. He asked the authorities to take strict action against wrong parking and roadside encroachments. He also directed the authorities to ensure 100% installation of Speed Governors and GPS on commercial vehicles.

He directed the Traffic Police, MVD, Police, and Revenue authorities to work in close coordination and act tough against traffic rules violators, who cause a lot of inconvenience to common people. He directed the officers to devise an effective mechanism for better traffic regulation especially during winter when most of our roads become slippery and icy.

Inauguration Of Winter Plantation Drives Held Across Valley

Widespread Participation Of PRIs, Locals Observed

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of Afforestation activities in temperate regions of Jammu & Kashmir, the Department of Social Forestry has given a widespread start to plantation activities across various districts of valley.

The PCCF/Director, Department of Social Forestry, Roshan Jaggi in last one week visited various districts of Kashmir val-

ley to give start to the plantation activities involving Gram Panchayats, Educational Institutions, Village Panchayat (Plantation) Committees, NGOs, local people and Govt. Organizations like Police/Army etc.

Interacting with PRIs and local people at Kupwara, Baramulla, Pulwama and Anantnag, Jaggi informed that the Department will take up more than 12 lakh plantation on community/panchayat fringe and degraded forest lands in the current winter season and about 925 Villages are expected to be get benefited with these activities.

He disclosed that this year department has decided to complete substantial quantity of plantation targets before "Chilla Kalan" spell during which temperature drops substantially and plantation activities are withheld till March. Timely rains this year have provided enough soil moisture which is conducive for plantation activities in colder regions of J&K.

Official spokesperson informed that the Department is laying focus on augmenting the production of plantable grasses and leaf fodder by raising silvopasture units to make available good quality fodder free of cost

to local people, which has an important role to strengthen rural economy.

10 Lakh indigenous good quality fodder plants are being planted up in Jammu and Kashmir regions, besides some improved varieties of fodder grasses in collaboration with National Fodder Institute (IG-FRI), Jhansi. One such silvi pasture unit was taken at Goorinar Palhalan (Pattan), Baramulla wherein large-scale plantation activity was taken up on 24th November, 2022 led by Director, Social Forestry himself.

Another thrust area of So-

cial Forestry Department is to modernize the nurseries to have sufficient production of quality planting stocks like clonal poplar, Eucalyptus, Bamboo, Fodder and Fuelwood, fast growing plants and also medicinal plants. Improved clonal fast growing male poplar saplings are being distributed to local farmers under Farm Forestry Component to sustain the supply of quality raw-material to industries of plywood/ plyboard, pencil etc. These initiatives are aimed at increasing income of farmers.

Under Har Gaon Haryali, Department is extending its

activities to about 1602 villages during this year and Gram Panchayats, and local people and field staff functionaries are actively involved to take up plantations in each such village alongwith distribution of plants, seeds, seedballs amongst the farmers, students and other stake holders.

The Department had also organized a grand interaction with PRI representatives in which DDC/BDC members, Sarpanches and Panches besides local people participated and fruitful discussion took place to strengthen the activities of the

department regarding creating more and more durable assets in Gram Panchayats which would yield financial returns.

75 percent proceeds from mature plantations go to Gram Panchayat Fund. The official spokes person further disclosed that during 2021 and 2022 more than 60 Gram Panchayats have received an amount of Rs. 350.00 lakh as part of 75 percent share from the harvesting of mature plantations in their respective panchayats, which is generating healthy competition amongst Panchayats to raise more and more plantations on vacant lands.

Kathua Rape Case

How the SC Exorcised the Ghost of Juvenility

AMJED ASHRAF

It is worth noting that before wrapping up the matter, the apex court unequivocally struck a clamant note of caution in its concluding remarks and in the same breath went on to provide some food for thought to the government regarding the effectiveness of the object of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

The Supreme Court of India recently delivered a decisive verdict on the juvenility of one of the accused in the appalling Kathua rape-murder case. The verdict was an outcome of the appeal filed by the U.T. (then State) of Jammu and Kashmir against the order passed by the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir (at Jammu), that had affirmed the order of the CJM Kathua, declaring the said accused as a juvenile on the date of the commission of the offence. In its verdict, a division bench of the Apex Court, shutting the door on the claim of juvenility, held the impugned order of the CJM and the High Court, 'not sustainable in law', and thereafter set it aside and directed that the respondent accused should be tried as an adult in accordance with the law. Considering that, in this piece, I will briefly try to shed some light on the rationale behind the court's decision.

Overall, in this case, the only fundamental question, for adjudication, before the court was whether the accused was a juvenile on the date of the commission of the offence.

The answer regarding the determination of juvenility was rooted mainly in the provisions contained under Section 8 of the J and K Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2013 as well as Rule 74 of the Rules framed under the Act. As stipulated therein, Rule 74 deals with the determination of age, and Sub-rule 3 of it under clause (i) and (ii) mentions particular certificates as a mode of age determination. However, clause (iii) of the sub-rule 3 provides that, "in absence of certificates mentioned in the clause (i) and (ii) or in case of any contra-

dition arising therefrom, the authority deciding the age issue may refer the matter to a duly constituted Medical Board, which shall record its findings and submit to the Juvenile Justice Board." In the instant case, as rightly argued by the appellant state, there was an obvious discrepancy or contradiction in the documentary evidence on record—in the form of certificates—disclosing the age of the respondent accused. In fact, the date of birth certificate issued by the School, and the order of the Executive Officer Municipal Committee specifying the date and birth of place of the respondent accused, were palpably at variance. Even the order of the Executive Magistrate per se was shrouded in irrationality as only 3 months of gap in date of birth was shown between the first and the second child, in it. Second, the letter of the Block Medical Officer of the Health and Family Welfare to the Superintendent of Police, stating with particulars that no such delivery had taken place at the municipal hospital, eroded the significance of the above order. As a result, there was no cogent or convincing evidence on record with respect to the correct date of birth of the respondent accused. In such circumstances, Sub-rule (3) (iii) of Rule 74 was supposed to kick in for the determination of age. The court, affirming the same, held that there is no good reason why the same should not be done. Further, it also emphasised that it was on the directions issued by the High Court that the Special Medical Board was constituted, and hence in absence of any cogent documentary evidence, there is no good reason for the court to ignore the report of the Board. Therefore, on this

account also, the argument on behalf of the respondent accused that the said rule had no applicability, diminished in impact.

The interpretation of the word 'May'

Notably, the language in which Sub-rule (3) (iii) Rule 74 is clothed, is prima facie directory in nature as it uses the word 'may'. However, it is a well-established principle of interpretation that the word 'may' by itself is not conclusively directory in nature. It can be given a mandatory connotation and be read as 'shall' where it appears to the court that the intention of the legislature demands so in light of the object, scheme, purpose, context, and other relevant considerations of the Act. In view of the same, in the instant case, the apex court held that considering the object of Sub-rule (3) of Rule 74, the word 'may' used herein has a mandatory import and thus be read as 'shall'. Next, the apex Court referred to Section 8 which lays down the procedure to be followed when a claim of juvenility is raised before any court, and Section 48 of the Act 2013, which refers to the presumption and determination of age before a competent authority. This analogy was essentially drawn to highlight that in both these sections the word 'shall' has been used by the legislature.

Reliance on a Case

The learned counsel on behalf of the respondent accused, inter alia, placed strong reliance, on a case in which despite the presence of medical opinion, the court has displayed a tilt towards juvenility of an accused. However, disregarding the same, the Court held that the

said case was considered by this court in another case and it is now settled that the approach was taken given the peculiar facts and circumstances of that case and so it cannot be generalized. The court also asserted that there is no hard and fast rule regarding the acceptability of the documents; it would depend on the facts and circumstances of each case.

Conclusion

Taking all the relevant factors into consideration, the Court held that in the case at hand, the documentary evidence fails to inspire any confidence, so in the interest of justice, there is no option but to lean on the report of the Special Medical Board. This route led the court to the conclusion that the respondent accused is not a juvenile and consequently should be tried as an adult. It was this rationale that assisted the court in legally exorcising the ghost of juvenility in the case.

Moreover, it is worth noting that before wrapping up the matter, the apex court unequivocally struck a clamant note of caution in its concluding remarks and in the same breath went on to provide some food for thought to the government regarding the effectiveness of the object of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

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

Amjed Ashraf is a final-year law student at Central University of Kashmir. He can be reached at amjed.ashraf20@gmail.com

World Cup 2022: What's Behind The Sustained Condemnation Of Qatar?

Imran Mulla , Peter Osborne



Studies at Hamad bin Khalifa University, Qatar. "It's not an 'excess' death figure."

The number of worker deaths actually linked to the World Cup is disputed. While World Cup organisers say that there have been three work-related accidents and 37 deaths from all causes, a report by the UN's International Labour Organisation says that there were 50 deaths in the construction industry in 2020 and raises questions about the way that deaths are categorised.

The Guardian's story was tweeted thousands of times and the "6,500" figure was picked up by journalists across Europe, especially in France, often being misinterpreted as suggesting that 6,500 migrants had died on World Cup construction sites. In Britain, the number was cited by a Sky News interviewer, speaking about World Cup-related deaths in a question put to Qatar's foreign minister. He replied that the figure was untrue.

And at a recent football match between Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund, fans held up a flag saying "15,000 deaths for 5,760 minutes of football - shame on you". The "15,000" figure stems from an Amnesty International report. It refers to the total number of deaths of all non-Qataris in Qatar between 2010 and 2019, not of construction workers on the World Cup, nor even only construction workers.

Reforms

Political geographer Natalie Koch, who has studied the topic in depth, notes that "it is rarely the Qatari government directly

But in terms of the criminalisation of homosexuality, there's nothing exceptional about Qatar's stance. In most Commonwealth countries homosexuality is illegal, and many of these are Christian, not Muslim, countries.

exploiting the workers but their fellow citizens who serve as brokers and manage their contracts in Qatar and at home".

In recent years, reforms have somewhat improved the situation in Qatar. The kafala sponsorship system has been overhauled so that migrants can now change jobs without their employers' approval. Researcher Crystal Ennis, writing for Middle East Eye, notes that "improvements have taken place to bring regulations into line with international labour standards".

Qatar is now far ahead of its neighbours in key respects. In 2021, the government introduced a non-discriminatory minimum wage law. By the end of the year, it had reportedly paid \$165m in compensation to 36,000 workers.

In a new report, the International Labour Organisation highlights improved

working and living conditions for workers because of reforms introduced by the Qatari government. It adds, however, that there were still immense challenges in implementing these reforms. The reality is that terrible abuse and appalling living conditions remain a feature of life for many migrants.

The overarching problem, Ennis argues, is the exploitation of migrant workers in global labour market structures. It's not just the Gulf - some European countries also have serious issues with the abuse of migrant workers, but they receive little attention in the mainstream British media.

A global effort is needed to encourage safe and regular migration. Both Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International warn against an international boycott of the World Cup, arguing that it won't drive positive change. Strikingly, though, only seven of the qualifying football federations endorsed a campaign calling on Fifa to create a \$440m compensation fund for migrant workers. This was a more practical but less sensational demand.

LGBTQ+ rights

Of course, there are some irreconcilable differences in values between the British public and Qatar. One issue which has provoked particular outrage is LGBTQ+ rights - 62 percent of British people think Qatar's position on this issue alone should have barred it from hosting the World Cup.

It is of course vital to draw attention to horrifying reports of the arbitrary arrest and abuse of LGBTQ+ people in Qatar. Human Rights Watch recently documented "six cases of severe and repeated beatings and five cases of sexual harassment in police custody between 2019 and 2022", although Qatar strongly disputes the report's assertions.

But in terms of the criminalisation of homosexuality, there's nothing exceptional about Qatar's stance. In most Commonwealth countries homosexuality is illegal, and many of these are Christian, not Muslim, countries.

This raises the question of whether it's acceptable to travel to or engage with countries around the world such as Saint Lucia, Singapore and Nigeria. If it is, why is Qatar being singled out?

Nor does this issue pit Europe against the rest of the world. Around 100 towns and regions across Poland have declared themselves free of "LGBT ideology". In Italy,

the recently elected government strongly opposes same-sex marriage and its president rails against the "LGBT lobby".

In Qatar, sexuality is understood in terms of actions rather than identity. Under Qatari law, sexual relations outside of marriage and sodomy are both crimes, whether they're between a man and woman or a same-sex couple. So too are "immoral actions", a term which is undefined.

It's noteworthy that the US Department of State report in 2021, like reports in previous years, doesn't reference any actual prosecutions for same-sex sexual behaviour. However, it must be said that the reporting of incidents is limited due to the Qatari LGBTQ+ community not being able to be open about their identities

Qatar's approach reflects the fact that its society is conservative. Public displays of affection between members of the same sex are forbidden, and any public display of affection can lead to arrest, including between a man and a woman. Holding hands, by contrast, is legal - including for two men and two women.

In the run-up to the World Cup, the emir of Qatar has maintained that LGBTQ+ fans are welcome but must "respect our culture".

Complexity

It's worthy of comment that the world of football has never been renowned for its celebration of LGBTQ+ identities either. In May this year, Jake Daniels became the first male British footballer in over 30 years to come out as gay.

No country should be treated like it's beyond criticism. And any country that hosts a major sporting event must expect to face scrutiny over its human rights record.

Any country that hosts a major sporting event must expect to face scrutiny over its human rights record

But the orientalist depiction of Qatar as a land of exceptional barbarism functions as a form of virtue signalling, a self-congratulatory but incoherent show of moral superiority.

Qatar is a young country - it was only founded in 1971 and it has developed dramatically in the last few decades. Last year, the nation held its first elections for the Shura Council, the state's legislative body. Qatar is a fast-changing country, and that's partly because of hosting the World Cup.

This could have been a chance for the world to learn more about Qatar. Instead, the opposite is happening.

Taking a moral stance is important, but can only be helpful if it's consistent and combined with a genuine attempt to understand the Other in all its complexity.

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



What's Happening in Iran?

(A Kashmiri Journalist's Perspective)

'Not everything is hunky-dory in Iran and one should not expect a sanctions-battered country to be an ideal place'

Tooba Towfiq

Until not too long ago, Iran was considered an "Island Of Stability In The Ocean of Troubles". However, two months ago, or to be precise, on September 13, 2022 all this changed. Or did it? At least the dominant mainstream media would like all of us to believe that it did and according to them, the fall of Islamic Republic is imminent. World has no access to the other side. Iran's voice remains choked and its perspective absent as the US, using its extraordinary power over cyberspace, has not only seized all domains of media based in Iran, but forced major satellite providers to stop uplinking Iranian channels. To know what is really happening on the ground in Iran, Kashmir Observer talked to Syed Zafar Mehdi, a Kashmiri journalist based in Tehran. Zafar moved to Tehran from Kabul four years back and has since been reporting from Iran for various media channels.

Apart from economic sanctions, Iran is facing a complete media blockade. News emanating from the country is only from Western sources and the impression they give is that the fall of the Islamic Republic is imminent. Is it so?

SZM. What the Islamic Republic of Iran is dealing with at the moment is a multi-faceted hybrid war, which encompasses crippling sanctions, media propaganda, and terrorist attacks. It's unprecedented in the sense that many inimical forces have come together, both overtly and covertly, to delegitimize and discredit the country's political system, which is undeniably more vibrant than many Arab monarchies that happen to be key Western allies. The agenda is clear - to bring about the "regime change" in Iran and make it a vassal state again, subservient to the West.

That's where mainstream media's role comes into play. Western media's coverage of Iran has traditionally been lopsided and deceitful. It won't be an exaggeration to say that when it comes to Iran, corporate Western media acts like an extension of the hostile Western powers. In recent months, since the death of a young Iranian woman in police custody, media coverage of Iran has become increasingly toxic. Western media outlets have been hell-bent on painting a gloom-and-doom picture of Iran, to give the impression that things are completely out of control.

Misinformation about Iran has spread like

Islamic Republic has a significant follower base across Muslim world and there is deep concern about the disturbing turn of events. Iran's govt blames everything on the West while it's harder to digest this time given that the opposition has transcended Iran's borders as was seen in Qatar this week. There must be some merit in the grievances of those out in the streets?

SZM. Of course, there is resentment and people have grievances. Let's not forget the country has been reeling under decades of draconian sanctions, which have taken a heavy toll on ordinary people. Tenth months into the Ukraine war, inflation and food crisis have assumed alarming proportions across Europe. Imagine 43 years of economic war against Iran, and yet the country has not collapsed. The ugly turn of events in recent weeks should be seen as part of the "regime change" project. As pointed out by the Supreme Leader, inimical forces sought to create hopelessness among people but failed.

Does Iranian system of governance allow public protests and what has been its response to the events so far?

SZM- A young Iranian woman's death in police custody in mid-September triggered protests across the country. Protest, as per Iran's constitution, is an inalienable democratic right of citizens. In fact, soon after the shocking news broke out, President Ebrahim Raeisi ordered a high-level probe into the incident, parliament speaker Bagher Ghalibaf proposed reforms in the modus operandi of the country's morality police, and judiciary chief Mohseni Ejei assured justice and accountability. This was before the protests turned into deadly riots. Iranian authorities made it clear that they are willing to listen to protesters but will not tolerate anarchy, violence and vandalism. But, unfortunately, that's what happened.

If so, why are protests continuing?

SZM- Even before the forensic report came out, many Western leaders issued inflammatory statements, holding Iranian officials responsible for the young woman's death. A slew of so-called human rights related sanctions were imposed by both the United States and the European Union. Interestingly, the



“ FOOTBALL IS A MAJOR OBSESSION IN IRAN AND FOOTBALLERS enjoy a massive fan following. In recent months, these players have been under tremendous pressure to support the anti-government protests. These players - some of them play for top European leagues - even faced threats and that obviously played on their minds in their opening game against England last week, which they lost 6-2 - the worst defeat in two decades. Prior to the match, they didn't sing the national anthem, which created more headlines than the match itself. So, you can see what mattered to the Western media more”

fatal attacks on policemen and paramilitary Basiji forces, as well as destruction of public properties across the country, from Mashhad to Isfahan to Khuzestan. Even a popular shrine was attacked by Daesh and no Western leader condemned it.

Can you explain who the real opposition is and what their grievances are?

SZM- Not everything is hunky-dory in Iran, as I said, and we should not expect a sanctions-battered country to be an ideal place. People have many grievances and the government is duty-bound to resolve them. It cannot run away from its responsibilities. At least Iranians are not grappling with an energy crisis at the moment and not staring at a harsh winter, unlike European countries.

That brings us to the question of opposition. We should not look for an Iranian opposition outside Iran, something the Western leaders and the Western media want us to do. They have sought to project US-based monarchists loyal to the former Pahlavi dynasty, and terrorists affiliated with the MKO group based in Albania as the Iranian opposition. They don't represent Iranians. These groups have the blood of thousands of Iranians on their hands. They cannot be well-wishers of Iran or the people of Iran. So, they are and cannot be the real opposition.

The real opposition is within Iran, the ordinary people, who take pride in their country and its symbols, including the flag and national anthem. And this opposition is important to any democratic society. Their concerns are simple and legitimate - they want better lives, jobs, healthcare, and housing. They don't want so called regime change. This slogan belongs to the opposition that lives in far away West. And there is a total disconnect between them and the people in Iran. Western media props up the foreign-based opposition because their interests are aligned.

Forcible dress code is said to be an immediate trigger to recent unrest. Why do Iranian authorities enforce something which ideally

should be voluntary? Why this compulsion in the religious matter? Have Iranian clergy answered this burning question?

SZM- Iran is an Islamic Republic that was founded on the principles of Islam and the Islamic code of conduct. An overwhelming number of Iranians voted for this system in a referendum following the triumph of revolution in 1979. Hijab is one of the important elements in this school of thought and should not be seen as a symbol of oppression or subjugation, as scholars of Islam have long argued. A vast majority of women in Iran continue to voluntarily observe Hijab, not through force or coercion. Many don't observe it, let's be honest about it. I have been living in this country for the past 4 years, and I never saw a uniformed policeman rebuking a woman for not wearing a proper headscarf.

The tragic incident that triggered the unsavory turn of events recently could have been avoided. But it's sheer distortion of facts that she was beaten in police custody that caused her death. Scientific evidence does not support that claim. Having said that, there has been a long-running debate about introducing reforms in the modus operandi of the morality police. If Hijab is enforced or imposed, it will obviously backfire. There would definitely be reforms now, even though it is not an issue for Western regimes. All they seek is regime change in Iran, and that seems a far fetched idea.

How different is the situation compared to 2009 when unrest erupted following controversial elections?

SZM- Many people and political pundits have drawn parallels between 2009 and 2022. The events in 2009 were triggered by allegations of vote-rigging by two prominent reformist figures - Mir-Hossein Musavi and Mahdi Karroubi - against then-president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The 2009 unrest however fizzled out quickly, unlike this time. Although deadly riots have now subdued in many parts of the country, the situation continues to be edgy and precarious with sporadic incidents

of shootings and knife attacks, mostly targeting policemen and paramilitary Basiji forces. What's similar between 2009 and 2022 is the direct interference of Western regimes, intelligence agencies and media with an aim to foment unrest and destabilize the country. However, unlike in 2009, when leading Iranian political figures gave the initial call, this time the calls came from outside. Also, unlike in 2009, there is social media now that has played a key role in stoking unrest through misinformation and unsubstantiated claims.

How are events being aired by Iranian media? Do they cover all aspects or only push the official narrative?

SZM- Iranian media has in recent months mostly been busy in debunking the rampant disinformation disseminated by Western media, in particular the UK-based Persian language media outlets such as Iran International, BBC Persian, and Manoto. There is such gross distortion of facts about the situation in Iran that it's preposterous. When the Canadian prime minister tweets fake news like "15,000 people to be executed in Iran", the US national security advisor comments on the killing of a 10-year-old boy in Khuzestan by armed rioters and blames it on Iranian security forces, it shows how bizarrely the narrative has been hijacked.

So, with media being weaponized by Western regimes against the Islamic Republic, as part of the hybrid war, it becomes essential for the Iranian media to not only be the voice of the Iranian people but also debunk the fake news spreading like wildfire through social media platforms. And when they do that, sanctions are imposed. Press TV and many other Iranian media agencies were recently sanctioned by the European Union. Top IRIB officials were also slapped with sanctions by the US Treasury. It shows how the alternative voices that tend to challenge the dominant Western narratives are suppressed and silenced.

How do you see Iranian football team not singing the country's national anthem in Qatar? People outside Iran are baffled as in their countries this will be construed as treason. Is it the same case in Iran?

SZM- Football is a major obsession in Iran and footballers enjoy a massive fan following. In recent months, these players have been under tremendous pressure to support the anti-government protests which I call riots, with unprecedented online bullying and abuse directed at them. They were even urged to boycott the national team and refuse to play in the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar. This pressure campaign was part of the hybrid war bankrolled by hostile agencies and the paid media all coming together to attack the team through their online troll armies. It was evident when the team coach Carlos Queiroz was grilled by British media on the sidelines of the World Cup in Doha. He, however, knew how to shut them up.

These players - some of them play for top European leagues - even faced threats and that obviously played on their minds in their opening game against England last week, which they lost 6-2 - the worst defeat in two decades. Prior to the match, they didn't sing the national anthem, which created more headlines than the match itself. So, you can see what mattered to the Western media more. In other countries, not signing the national anthem in an international sports tournament may amount to treason, but Iranian authorities and people fully backed the team after the match. Iran's sports minister was stationed in Doha to look after the team. In the second match against Wales on Friday, the players sang the anthem with pride and won the match after a thrilling finish. It was the best answer to those who tried to delegitimize and discredit them.

“ OF COURSE, THERE IS RESENTMENT AND PEOPLE HAVE GRIEVANCES. Let's not forget the country has been reeling under decades of draconian sanctions, which have taken a heavy toll on ordinary people. Tenth months into the Ukraine war, inflation and food crisis have assumed alarming proportions across Europe. Imagine 43 years of economic war against Iran, and yet the country has not collapsed”

a plague with deliberate attempts to poison the minds of readers and viewers outside Iran. There are a plethora of Persian-language media outlets targeting Iran from Europe, especially the UK based and Saudi-funded Iran International, engaged in a smear campaign 24x7. Most of the news they broadcast and Western media rely on these days will not count as journalism but as full-fledged media warfare. And, unfortunately, such media coverage is taken as gospel truth in much of the world, including in South Asia. Let's get this straight. It's not the same old-school journalism where facts are sacred and truth matters. Now it's all about the battle of narratives. And Western media has aggressively sought to impose its narrative through extreme measures, even to the extent of fueling unrest and bloodshed.

forensic report ruled out any foul play in the woman's death, attributing it to her underlying health issues. So, basically, the outcry in the West had nothing to do with women's rights per se. It was part of the "maximum pressure campaign" against Iran to bring about "regime change" in the country. It was an opportunity for the US and its allies to mount pressure on Iran and gain leverage in the ongoing nuclear deal talks.

Let's be honest about this. Many Western powers alongside the Israeli regime had a direct role in fanning the flames of riots in Iran in recent weeks. More than 40 foreign nationals were held by Iran's security agencies during the riots. A large cache of arms was supplied from the Iraqi Kurdistan region, which is the stronghold of Israeli spy agency. We saw

Vitamin B12 Deficiency Can Have Serious Consequences But Doctors Often Overlook It

The Conversation

For several months during the summer of 2022, my dog Scout vomited at 3 am nearly every day. If you have a dog, you know the sound. And each time, she gobbled up her mess before I could get to it, making diagnosis of the cause difficult.

The vet and I eventually settled on my hydrangeas as the source of the problem but keeping Scout away from them didn't work. She started to seem tired all the time highly concerning in a typically hyper yellow Lab puppy.

Then one day Scout vomited up a hairball but not just any hairball. In dogs, hair normally passes easily through the digestive system, but this hairball was wrapped around a brillo pad that was too big to move through. Once this foreign object was removed, the overnight vomiting ended. Scout still needed treatment, though, for a different and surprising reason: The object had inhibited a step in her body's absorption of vitamin B12. B12 is an essential nutrient involved in proper functioning of blood cells, nerves and many other critical processes in the body.

I'm a registered dietitian, and I teach nutrition and food science to college students, but still I missed the B12 deficiency that was causing my puppy's fatigue. Doctors can just as easily be blind to it in people even though B12 deficiency is a common health problem that affects an estimated 6% to 20% of the U.S. population.

B12 is scarce in the diet, and it is found only in foods from animal sources. Fortunately, humans need only 2.4 micrograms of B12 daily, which is equivalent to one ten-millionth of an ounce a very, very small

amount. Without adequate B12 in the body, overall health and quality of life are negatively affected.

Signs and symptoms

One primary symptom of B12 deficiency is fatigue a level of tiredness or exhaustion so deep that it affects daily life activities.

Other symptoms are neurological and may include tingling in the extremities, confusion, memory loss, depression and difficulty maintaining balance. Some of these can be permanent if the vitamin deficiency is not addressed.

However, since there can be so many causes for these symptoms, health care providers may overlook the possibility of a B12 deficiency and fail to screen for it. Further, having a healthy diet may seem to rule out any vitamin deficiency. Case in point: Because I knew Scout's diet was sound, I didn't consider a B12 deficiency as the source of her problems.

How B12 is absorbed

Research is clear that people who consume plant-based diets must take B12 supplements in amounts typically provided by standard multivitamins. However, hundreds of millions of Americans who do consume B12 may also be at risk because of conditions that could be hampering their body's absorption of B12.

B12 absorption is a complex multistep process that begins in the mouth and ends at the far end of the small intestine. When we chew, our food gets mixed with saliva.

When the food is swallowed, a substance in

saliva called R-protein a protein that protects B12 from being destroyed by stomach acid travels to the stomach along with the food.

Specific cells in the stomach lining, called parietal cells, secrete two substances that are important to B12 absorp-



tion. One is stomach acid it splits food and B12 apart, allowing the vitamin to bind to the saliva's R-protein. The other substance, called intrinsic factor, mixes with the stomach's contents and travels with them into the first part of the small intestine the duodenum. Once in the duodenum, pancreatic juices release B12 from R-protein and hand it to intrinsic factor. This pairing allows B12 to be absorbed into cells, where it can then help maintain nerve cells and form healthy red blood cells.

A B12 deficiency typically involves a breakdown at one or more of these points

on the way to absorption.

Risk factors for B12 deficiency

Without saliva, B12 will not bind to the saliva's R-protein, and the body's ability to absorb it is inhibited. And there are hundreds of different drugs that can cause dry mouth, resulting in too little saliva production. They include opioids, inhalers, decongestants, antidepressants, blood pressure drugs and benzodiazepines, like Xanax, used to treat anxiety.

The last three categories alone account for easily 100 million prescriptions in the U.S. each year.

Another potential contributor to B12 deficiency is low levels of stomach acid. Hundreds of millions of Americans take anti-ulcer medications that reduce ulcer-causing stomach acids. Researchers have firmly linked the use of these drugs to B12 deficiency although that possibility may not outweigh the need for the medication.

Production of stomach acid can also decrease with aging. More than 60 million people in the U.S. are over age 60, and some 54 million are over the age of 65. This population faces a higher risk of B12 deficiency which may be further increased by use of acid-reducing medications.

Production of gastric acid and intrinsic factor by the specialized parietal cells in the stomach is critical for B12 absorption to occur. But damage to the stomach lining can prevent production of both.

In humans, impaired stomach lining stems from gastric surgery, chronic inflammation or pernicious anemia a medical condition characterized by fatigue and a long list of other symptoms.

Another common culprit of B12 deficiency is inadequate pancreas function.

About one-third of patients with poor pancreas function develop a B12 deficiency.

And lastly, Metformin, a drug used by around 92 million Americans to treat Type 2 diabetes, has been associated with B12 deficiency for decades.

Treatment for B12 deficiency

While some health care providers routinely measure B12 and other vitamin levels, a typical well-check exam includes only a complete blood count and a metabolic panel, neither of which measures B12 status. If you experience potential symptoms of a B12 deficiency and also have one of the risk factors above, you should see a doctor to be tested. A proper lab workup and discussion with a physician are necessary to discover or rule out whether inadequate B12 levels could be at play.

In the case of my dog Scout, her symptoms led the vet to run two blood tests: a complete blood count and a B12 test. These are also good starting points for humans. Scout's symptoms went away after a few months of taking oral B12 supplements that also contained an active form of the B vitamin folate.

In humans, the type of treatment and length of recovery depend on the cause and severity of the B12 deficiency. Full recovery can take up to a year but is very possible with appropriate treatment.

Treatment for B12 deficiency can be oral, applied under the tongue or administered through the nose, or it may require various types of injections. A B12 supplement or balanced multivitamin may be enough to correct the deficiency, as it was for Scout, but it's best to work with a health care provider to ensure proper diagnosis and treatment.

One In Eight Older Adults Developed Depression For The First Time : Study

Press Trust Of India

Approximately one in eight older adults developed depression for the first time during the pandemic, according to a study conducted in Canada.

For those who had experienced depression in the past, the numbers were even worse, the study said. By the autumn of 2020 almost half (45 per cent) of this group of 20,000 older adults reported being depressed.

The researchers from University of Toronto analysed responses from the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging, which collected data from participants for an average of seven years, the study said.

"The high rate of first-onset depression in 2020 highlights the substantial mental health toll that the pandemic caused in a formerly mentally healthy group of older adults," said first author Andie MacNeil, University of Toronto.

While the surge in prevalence of depression among older adults during the pandemic is well known, few studies prior to this have identified the percentage of people who experienced it for the first time or the percentage of people with a history of the disorder who experienced a relapse, the study published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health said.

"The devastation of the pandemic which upended so many aspects of daily life hit those with a history of depression particularly

hard," said co-author Sapriya Birk.

"Health professionals need to be vigilant in screening their patients who had mental health problems at an earlier time in their life," said Birk.

The researchers identified several factors that were associated with depression among older adults during the pandemic, including inadequate income and savings, loneliness, chronic pain, trouble accessing healthcare, a history of adverse childhood ex-



periences, and family conflict, the study said.

Older adults who, prior to the pandemic perceived their income to be inadequate for satisfying their basic needs, and those who had fewer savings were more likely to develop depression during the pandemic, the study said.

"These findings highlight the disproportionate mental health burden borne by individuals with

low socioeconomic status during the pandemic.

"Many of these socioeconomic risk factors may have been exacerbated by the economic precarity of the pandemic, particularly for individuals with fewer resources," said co-author Margaret de Groh.

According to the study, individuals who experienced various dimensions of loneliness, such as feeling left out, feeling isolated, and lacking companionship had approximately 4 to 5 times higher risk of both incident and recurrent depression.

"It is not surprising that the lock-down was particularly difficult for older adults who were isolated and lonely during the pandemic.

"Social connections and social support are essential for well-being and mental health. Better support and outreach are needed for those who are isolated," said co-author Ying Jiang.

Older adults in chronic pain and those who had trouble accessing their usual healthcare, medication or treatments were more likely to be depressed during the autumn of 2020, the study said.

"This finding underlines the importance of streamlining service provision to ensure less disruption of medical services when future pandemics arise," said co-author Professor Paul J. Villeneuve.

Millions Of Android Devices Prone To Hacking Due To GPU Bug: Google

IAN5

Google researchers have warned that millions of Android smartphones are prone to hacking due to a bug in one of the graphics processing units (GPU) within the devices.

The tech giant's Project Zero team said it had alerted the chip designer ARM about the GPU bug, and the British chip designer had fixed those vulnerabilities.

However, smartphone manufacturers, including Samsung, Xiaomi, Oppo and Google, "hadn't deployed patches to fix the vulnerabilities as of ear-



lier this week", claimed the Project Zero team.

"The vulnerabilities discussed are fixed by the upstream vendor, but at the time of publication, these fixes have not yet

made it downstream to affected Android devices (including Pixel, Samsung, Xiaomi, Oppo and others). Devices with a Mali GPU are currently vulnerable," said Ian Beer

of Project Zero Google researchers reported five issues to ARM when they were discovered between June and July 2022.

ARM fixed the issues promptly in July and August 2022, disclosing them as security issues on their Arm Mali Driver Vulnerabilities page (CVE-2022-36449) and publishing the patched driver source on their public developer website.

However, Google "discovered that all of our test devices which used Mali GPU are still vulnerable to these issues. CVE-2022-36449 is not mentioned in any downstream security bulletins".

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam.

CORRIGENDUM

Subject:- This office E-NIT No. 29 of 11/2022 issued vide No. 6009-24, dated 24-11-2022.

Please pledge Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in favour Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Budgam instead of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompore for above mentioned e-NIT.
All other terms and conditions shall remain intact as laid down in the NITs.

Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division Ompora,
Budgam.

No:-
Date:-26-11-2022

DIPK-14196/22

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the District Sheep Husbandry
Officer, Anantnag

Tel/FAX No. 01932-222542 Email ID: dshoa.sheep@gmail.com

Subject: Selection of beneficiaries for the establishment of Sheep units under RKVY for the year 2022-23-
reg.

Reference: 1) Director Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir's File No. DSHK-Plan/19/2021-05- Directorate Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir/18803/2022, Dated: 21-05-2022.
2) This office advertisement No. DSHOA/Tech/Estt. of units/2022-23/1352-1372 dated 09-06-2022
3) This Office Selection NotificationNo. DSHOA/Tech/selection/2022-23/2420-2438, dated 23-07-2022.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In continuation to this office selection notification No. DSHOA/Tech/selection/2022-23/2420-2438, dated 23-07-2022 and in view of availability of additional livestock retrieved from the existing unit holders under RKVY , fresh selection shall be conducted for CD Blocks Qazigund, Vessu, Anantnag and Shangus ,out of the already received applications , through draw of lots on 30-11-2022 at 2 pm in the office chamber of District Sheep Husbandry Officer Anantnag .The interested applicants /persons can witness the selection process on the scheduled date, time and venue.

Sd/-
District
Sheep Husbandry Officer
Anantnag

DIPK-14225/22

No: DSHOA/Tech/Estt of units/2022-23/5071-5082
Dated:26- 11-2022.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL
SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

GIST OF Short Term E-NIT
NO.83/e-TENDERING/2022-23
DATED:23/11/2022

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders in two bid cover system are invited Hiring 45nos.of Tractors for the Corporation.

1.	Estimated Cost	Rs.70Lacs approximately
2	Cost of Tender document To be deposited in the J&K Bank Branch Balgarden under Account No: CD-021601010000931 through pay in slip receipt, in favour of FA/Chief Account Officer. SMC	Rs.500/=
3	Earnest Money in case of successful bidder	2% of total value
4	Period of hiring	Only snow days for winter season
5	Period of completion	23/11/20225.00 pm to 30/11/202212.00pm
6	Date & time of opening of Bid	01/12 /2022 at 2.00pm

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

Sd/-
Executive Engineer Mechanical
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

DIPK-NB-5232/22

No:SMC/EEM/475-80
Dated:24-11-2022

RBI Pauses Onboarding Of Online Merchants By Paytm Payments Services

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Banking regulator RBI has put a pause on onboarding of online merchants by Paytm Payments Services, even as the company said it will have no material impact on its business, according to a regulatory filing.

One97 Communications (OCL), which owns the Paytm brand, had proposed to transfer the payment aggregator services business undertaken by it to Paytm Payments Services (PPSL) in December 2020 to comply with payment aggregator (PA) guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) but the banking regulator had rejected its application.

The company had re-submitted the required documents in September 2021.

Paytm said PPSL has now received a letter from RBI in response to an application for the authorisation to provide PA services for online merchants. As per the letter, PPSL is required to "Seek necessary approval for past downward investment from the company into PPSL, to comply with FDI Guidelines" and "not onboard new online merchants".

Paytm, in the regulatory filing, said it can resubmit the PA application within 120 calendar days. The company will not onboard new online merchants till the time approvals remain pending.

PAs are entities that facilitate e-commerce sites and merchants to accept various pay-



ment instruments from customers for completion of their payment obligations without the need for merchants to create a separate payment integration system of their own.

According to RBI's PAs guidelines, a single entity cannot continue to provide an e-commerce marketplace along with payment aggregator services and such payment aggregator services must be separated from the e-commerce marketplace business.

Paytm further said there were no material observations from RBI and the move has no material impact on its business and revenues since the communication from the central bank is applicable only to onboarding of new online merchants.

"We can continue to onboard new offline merchants and offer them payment services including All-in-One QR, Soundbox, Card Machines, etc. Similarly, PPSL can continue to do business with existing online merchants, for whom the services will remain unaffected. We are hopeful of receiving the necessary approvals in a timely manner and resubmitting the application," Paytm said.

No Plans To Increase Amul Milk Prices, In Near Future: GCMMF MD

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets milk under the Amul brand, has no plans to increase prices of milk in the near future, its MD R S Sodhi said. GCMMF mainly sells milk in Gujarat, Delhi-NCR, West Bengal and Mumbai markets. The cooperative sells more than 150 lakh litres of milk per day, out of which Delhi-NCR accounts for nearly 40 lakh litres. Earlier this week, Mother Dairy hiked prices of full-cream milk by Re 1 per litre and token milk by Rs 2 per litre in the Delhi-NCR market, citing rise in input cost.

Asked whether GCMMF has any plans to increase milk prices following Mother Dairy's rate hike, Sodhi said: "There are no plans in near future." He further said input costs have not gone up much since the last retail price increase by GCMMF in October. In mid-October, GCMMF raised the prices of Amul Gold (full-cream) and buffalo milk by Rs 2 per litre each across all markets except for poll-bound Gujarat, where assembly elections will be held in early December. Amul Gold price was increased from Rs 61 to Rs 63 per litre.

Buffalo milk price was raised



from Rs 63 to Rs 65 per litre. GCMMF has hiked milk prices thrice this year, while Mother Dairy has done it four times. Mother Dairy is one of the leading milk suppliers in Delhi-NCR with volumes of more than 30 lakh litres per day. Both Mother Dairy and Amul pass on about 75-80 per cent of prices paid by consumers to the milk producers.

The hike in milk prices has affected household budgets at a time when food inflation is already at a high level. Mother Dairy attributed the hike in prices to increase in its procurement cost of raw milk from dairy farmers. "This year, the entire dairy industry is witnessing a huge gap in the demand and supply of milk," its spokesperson said.

The availability of raw milk has been impacted due to the increased cost of feed and fodder, and erratic monsoon putting a stress on prices of raw milk, the company pointed out.

Key Changes In Capital Gains Tax Structure On The Anvil

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Finance Ministry is looking at rationalising long-term capital gains tax structure by bringing parity between similar asset classes and revising the base year for computing indexation benefit to make it more relevant, an official said on Friday.

Currently, shares held for more than one year attract a 10% tax on long-term capital gains. Gains arising from sale of immovable property and unlisted shares held for more than 2 years and debt instruments and jewellery held for over 3 years attract 20% long-term capital gains tax.

The revenue department is now looking at rationalising the tax rates as well as holding period for calculating long-term capital gains and an announcement is likely in the 2023-24 Budget to be presented in Parliament on February 1. Also, a change in base year for computing inflation-adjusted capital gains is being contemplated, the official added.

The index year for capital gains tax calculation is revised periodically to make it more relevant. The last revision took



place in 2017 when the base year was updated to 2001.

Since the prices of assets increase over time, the indexation is used to arrive at the inflation-adjusted purchasing price of assets to compute long-term capital gains for the purpose of taxation.

"The whole effort is to make capital gains tax structure simple and tax-payer friendly and reduce compliance burden.

There is scope for bringing parity in tax rates and holding periods for similar asset classes,"

the official said.

Under the Income Tax Act, gains from sale of capital assets — both movable and immovable — are subject to 'capital gains tax'.

The Act, however, excludes movable personal assets such as cars, apparels and furniture from this tax. Depending upon the period of holding an asset, the long-term or short-term capital gains tax is levied. The Act provides for separate rates of taxes for both categories of gains. The method of computation also differs for both the categories.

Over 50% Of Microbusinesses Had No Mechanisms To Cushion Covid Impact: Study



Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: A study on the impact of covid-19 on microbusinesses in India has found that nearly 40 per cent of them were denied loans (both formal/informal) as they did not have sufficient collateral or lacked positive credit history.

According to non-profit organisation 'Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship' (GAME), which conducted the study, 21 per cent of the microbusinesses lacked requisite documentation for the application.

The report, titled 'Road to

Recovery: Examining the Impact of Covid-19 on Microbusinesses in India', released recently, is a nationwide study on how the Indian MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) sector managed the pandemic period lockdowns, GAME said.

The survey conducted among MSMEs during and post the lockdown period delves into major problems faced by entrepreneurs regarding financial impact, business confidence and stress management, it said.

The study conducted over 2020 and 2021 in two rounds, each across 1955

microbusinesses, pointed out that over 50 per cent of enterprises reported having no coping strategies or mechanisms to cushion the pandemic's impact, GAME said in a statement.

GAME Founder Ravi Venkatesan said there is a dire need for building adequate knowledge of bank managers, field officers and banking correspondents on bank and government schemes.

The study shows that of those surveyed only 31 per cent were aware of schemes launched under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, he said.

SEBI Amends Norms, Brings MFs Under Insider Trading Rules

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator SEBI has amended norms to bring buying and selling of mutual fund units under the ambit of insider trading rules.

At present, insider trading rules are applicable to dealing in securities of listed companies or those proposed to be listed, when in possession of Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPSI). The units of mutual funds are specifically excluded from the definition of securities under the rules.

SEBI's latest decision follows the Franklin Templeton episode, in which the fund house's few executives were accused of redeeming their holdings in the schemes ahead of the six debt schemes shutting for redemption.

"No insider shall trade in the units of a scheme of a mutual fund, when in possession of unpublished price sensitive information, which may have a material impact on the net asset value of a scheme or may have a material impact on the interest of the unit holders of the scheme," SEBI said in a notification issued on Thursday.

Under the new rules, asset management companies (AMCs)



will have to disclose the details of holdings in the units of its mutual fund schemes, on an aggregated basis, held by the AMC, trustees and their immediate relatives on the platform of stock exchanges. "Details of all the transactions in the units of its own mutual funds... executed by the designated persons of asset management company, trustees and their immediate relatives shall be reported by the concerned person to the compliance officer of asset management company within two business days from the date of transaction," the regulator said.

Also, the SEBI has prescribed a minimum standard of code of conduct for designated persons in line with provisions of existing insider trading rules.

Dulloo Reviews Working Of Farmer Producer Organizations



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Saturday held a meeting to review working of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Jammu division.

Additional Chief Secretary had a detailed assessment of progress achieved by the Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) formed under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) since February 2020 in the division.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu, J P Sharma, HoDs of Agriculture and allied departments, besides representatives of concerned implementing agencies were also present in the meeting who briefed about the performance of the FPOs of Jammu division.

The concerned authorities and implementing agencies like NABARD and Cluster Based Business Organizations working with various agencies were also present along with Chief Executive Officers of various

FPOs were also present on the occasion.

Additional Chief Secretary directed the concerned authorities to make ensure that the Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) have proper monitoring of FPOs working in their respective districts.

He emphasized upon the concerned authorities to work in coordination with the Department of Agriculture for off-farm activities of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs).

The FPOs namely Samta Mushroom Producers Corporation Limited, the Arnia Potato Producers Corporation Limited, Nowshera Maize and Agro Producers Cooperative Limited, Baba Jitto Basmati Producers Corporation Limited, run by JKDCUL (CBDO) were also present in the meeting who briefed about their present status of working.

During the review meeting, a power point presentation was given regarding various activities and promotion of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs).

10 Trade Unions Boycott Finance Ministry's Virtual Pre-Budget Consultations

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A joint forum of ten central trade unions has decided to boycott the virtual pre-budget consultation with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on November 28, demanding a physical meeting with reasonable time to speak.

Pre-budget consultation is an annual exercise under which representatives of different sectors give suggestions and raise demands to be addressed through the Budget.

In a letter shot off on Friday, the forum stated, "Now your email dated November 25, 2022 under reference, makes it explicit that each central trade union will be allowed to speak for three minutes. This is a joke and we refuse to be part of such a cheap joke. We will not participate in the proposed video conference on November 28, 2022." Earlier on Friday, in a letter shot off to the finance ministry, the forum had jointly protested against a restricted video conference for pre-budget consultations.

"We are constrained to express our disappointment for



calling this meeting on virtual mode despite complete easing of Covid restrictions, and that to for 75 minutes only for consultation involving more than 12 central trade unions, may be more as indicated by the invitation letter. As per the labour ministry's physical verification, there are 12 central trade unions in our country. That means less than five minutes or even less for each organisation, if time for customary opening remarks is taken into account," they forum

had stated.

Later on Friday, the forum received another letter from the finance ministry stating that each participating central trade union will be allotted three minutes to make their suggestions.

In response to the letter, the forum shot off another letter on Friday and stated that the CTUs therefore have decided to boycott the proposed video conference.

The forum also urged the finance ministry "to seriously reconsider convening of a physical meeting with reasonable time-allocation for effective consultations in the pre-budget meeting with the trade unions." The forum also invited the finance minister for an open debate about these policies without any time restrictions on her to defend policies followed by her.

The ten trade unions which form the forum are INTUC, AITUC, TUCC, SEWA, HMS, CITU, AICTU, LPF, AIUTUC and UTUC.

There are about a dozen central trade unions in the country, including Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS). The BMS is not part of the joint forum.

Forex Kitty Grows For 2nd Consecutive Week; Rises \$2.54 Bn To \$547.25 Bn

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: In the second consecutive week of an increase in the kitty, India's forex reserves have grown by USD 2.537 billion to USD 547.252 billion for the week ended November 18, the RBI said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall kitty had swelled by USD 14.721 billion in the highest weekly rise since August 2021 to USD 544.715 billion.

It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused by global developments.

Foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, increased by USD 1.76 billion to USD 484.288 billion during the week to November 18, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the

foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves increased by USD 315 million to USD 40,011 billion, it said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 351 million to USD 17.906 billion, the apex



bank said.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was also up by USD 111 million to USD 5,047 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

Shirdi's Saibaba Temple Gets Tax Exemption Of ₹175 Cr. Here's Why



Press Trust of India

PUNE- The Sri Saibaba Temple Trust of Shirdi has been exempted from the payment of income tax of ₹175 crore levied in the last three years, its officials said on Friday.

The exemption was granted following a Supreme Court order, it said in a release.

"While assessing the tax for the year 2015-16, the Income Tax Department assumed that Shri Saibaba Sansthan was not a religious trust but a charitable trust, and levied 30 percent income tax on the donations received in the donation box and issued a tax payment notice of ₹183 crore," it said.

The trust then filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court which "ordered a stay on the tax payable till the determination of tax," it said.

The Income Tax Department finally granted it exemption from the tax levied on the donation in the donation box, accepting the Shree Saibaba Sansthan as a religious and charitable trust.

"Thus, Sri Saibaba Sansthan has been exempted from income tax of Rs175 crore levied in the last three years," said the release.

Ukraine Works To Restore Water, Power After Russian Strikes

Press Trust of India

Kyiv: Ukrainian authorities endeavoured on Saturday to restore electricity and water services after recent pummeling by Russian military strikes that vastly damaged infrastructure, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy saying millions have seen their power restored since blackouts swept the war-battered country days earlier.

Skirmishes continued in the east and residents from the southern city of Kherson headed north and west to flee after punishing, deadly bombardments by Russian forces in recent days.

The strikes have been seen as attempts at Russian retribution against Ukraine's beleaguered but defiant people after Ukrainian troops over two week ago liberated the city that had been in Russian hands for many months.

"The key task of today, as well as other days of this week, is energy," Zelenskyy said in his nightly televised address late on Friday.

"From Wednesday to today we have managed to halve the number of people whose electricity is cut off, to stabilize the system."

He said, however, that blackouts continued in most regions, including Kyiv, the capital.

"In total, more than 6 million subscribers are affected. On Wednesday evening, almost 12 million subscribers were cut off," Zelenskyy added.

He allowed himself a rare show of pique about how Kyiv

authorities were faring, alluding to "many complaints" with the rollouts of "points of invincibility" public centers where residents can stock up on food, water, battery power and other essentials in the capital.

"Please pay attention: Kyiv residents need more protection," he said. "As of this evening, 600,000 subscribers have been disconnected in the city."

Many Kyiv residents were without electricity for more than 20 or even 30 hours."

"I expect quality work from the mayor's office," he said, alluding to the administration of Mayor Vitali Klitschko.

The president and the mayor have sporadically sparred since Zelenskyy took office in 2019. Zelenskyy has accused Klitschko and officials around him of corruption, while Klitschko contends the president's office has put him under political pressure.

Early Saturday, the Kyiv municipal administration said water connections had been restored throughout the city, but that about 130,000 residents remain without electricity.

City authorities said on Saturday morning that all power, water, heating and communication services would be restored within 24 hours.

The scramble to restore power came as Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo met on Saturday with Zelenskyy in Kyiv.

De Croo tweeted that Belgium was "releasing new humanitarian and military aid," but gave no immediate details.

Legitimate Right And Duty Of Every Citizen To Prevent Constitution From Being Abused: Justice K M Joseph

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Supreme Court judge K M Joseph on Saturday said it is the legitimate right and duty of every citizen of the country to prevent the Constitution from being abused.

He said each generation of citizens is duty-bound to remain alert and safeguard the core values that the Constitution seeks to uphold and promote.

Speaking at the valedictory function of the Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court, Justice Joseph said the adoption of the Constitution on January 26, 1949 marked the culmination of a long but uniquely peaceful struggle of millions, who stood shoulder to shoulder burying their differences based on religion, caste and the regions they hailed from.

He said Article 51(A)(B) of the Constitution declares it to be the duty of every citizen to cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired India's freedom struggle.

"Article 51 of the Constitution declares that it is a fundamental duty for every citizen to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India, transcending every religion, linguistic, regional or sectional diversity, and renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women," Justice Joseph said in his welcome address at the function where President Droupadi Murmu was the chief guest.

Addressing a large gathering of judges of the Supreme Court, high courts and district courts and lawyers, Justice Joseph said



the Constitution is a fine document as much as it is a noble document and an instrument.

"The Constitution of the country constitutes the chief mechanism for ordering the life of the nation and is not a mere document. It is the people who are charged with the duty of operating the Constitution, who alone can give a life to it. Each generation of citizens is duty-bound to remain alert in order to safeguard the core values that the Constitution seeks to uphold and promote."

"It is the legitimate right and duty of every citizen in every walk of life to prevent the Constitution from being abused.... Fraternity is one of the most-cherished ideals firmly enshrined in the preamble to the Constitution," he said.

Justice Joseph said the Constitution contemplates that India will be a secular country and envisages liberty as a fundamental norm.

"Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship are not merely words appropriately proclaimed in the preamble but they are meant to ignite

the minds and hearts of every citizen at all points of time, wherever they are," he said.

He added that while the country has achieved commendable progress, "we have a long way to go to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the founding fathers of the Constitution".

Justice M R Shah, who delivered the vote of thanks, said unity in diversity is the identity of India.

"It is not just an ordinary day, but a day when we celebrate our rights and reaffirm our duties to make a commitment that the three pillars of the government of India will adhere and uphold the principles enshrined in our Constitution. It is said that even in a dictatorial government, there might be a Constitution but not necessarily constitutionalism," he said.

Justice Shah said like every judicial officer who has a picture of the preamble to the Constitution in his office, he would like to urge all the citizens to read the preamble in their native language at least once and if possible, keep a picture of it in their homes.

"The jury remind them of the efforts that our freedom fighters had made to make India a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic and republic country. It will also remind everyone of their fundamental rights and duties and let us create a constitutional culture that every citizen is aware of their rights which are vested upon them by the Constitution," he said, adding that the time has come to remind the citizens of their duties towards the nation.

Restoration Of Mumbai's Century-Old Museum Wins UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The "heroic" restoration of the historic Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya in Mumbai has won a top award from UNESCO, with the jury hailing it as a project that "sets a standard" for the conservation of world heritage monuments.

The 100-year-old museum, part of the Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai's world heritage property, has received the Award of Excellence in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation that were announced on Saturday.

UNESCO Bangkok, in a statement, said, "The jury applauded the museum project for restoring 'a major civic institution in the historic city of Mumbai'."

"The jury noted, 'impressive in its scale, the project addressed extensive deterioration through well-informed architectural and engineering solutions, overcoming major challenges during the pandemic'."

"The jury further remarked, 'executed to the highest level of technical excellence, the project sets a standard for the conservation of World Heritage monuments in India and beyond,'" it said.

The "heroic" restoration of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya has received the Award of Excellence in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, the statement said.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya was established as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India in 1922.

Thirteen projects from six countries Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Nepal and Thailand have been acknowledged for awards by an international jury in this year's awards programme.

Jury deliberations were carried out in November 2022 when members reviewed 50 entries from 11 countries from the Asia-Pacific region.

Besides, the Domakonda Fort of Telangana, and Byculla Station of Mumbai, are among the winners in the Award of Merit category, while the stepwells of Golconda in Hyderabad has won an award in the Award of Distinction category.

Topdara Stupa, Charikar, Afghanistan, and Nantian Buddhist Temple, Fujian, China, have also received the Award of Merit, the statement said.

"The awards give people a sense of pride and sense of ownership of their own heritage," Feng Jing, the Chief of the Culture Unit at UNESCO Bangkok, was quoted as saying in the statement.

Since 2000, the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme has been recognising the efforts of private individuals and organisations in restoring, conserving, and transforming structures and buildings of heritage value in the region.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Study Shows Increase

with a male to female ratio of 1.33:1 with histologically documented cancer registered between January 2014 and December 2018 in the regional cancer center of a tertiary care institute.

The researchers used medical records for all identified patients which were reviewed for demographic information (age of diagnosis, sex, type of cancer, and select risk factors) and the data analysis was done using IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows from IBM Corp.

The data showed that the most common cancer reported in the last five years in Kashmir was lung cancer (10.6 percent). Besides that, the report noted, the other four cancers reported at the regional cancer center at the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) were esophagus (9.1%), stomach (9.0%), breast (6.0%), and colon (3.8%).

"Compared with that, the top five cancers reported from our center in 2012 were esophagus and gastro-esophageal junction (17.2%), lung (11.9%), stomach (9.7%), colorectal (7.1%), and breast (6.5%)," the study has observed.

The study further added that Prostate cancer was reported in 3.4% of cases, which was much higher than that reported in 2012 (1.7%). Surprisingly, thyroid cancer (6.4%) was the fourth commonest cancer reported in females, while it did not figure in the top 10 cancers in the 2012 report. "Expectantly, cervix cancer did not figure among the top 10 cancers in women," reads the study.

Underlining the reasons behind sudden rise in cancer in Kashmir, the study observed that among all sedentary habits, a special type of tobacco use (hookah smoking) is one of the main factors behind lung cancer in the region.

"In this region, besides cigarette smoking, we have a popular tradition of hookah (hubble bubble) smoking, where smoke is inhaled after it passes through the water placed in an earthen container through which it gets filtered and cooled. This is also one of the important causes of passive smoking of family members, especially during winters. Because smoking is not popular among females in this region, it justifies the fact that lung cancer is not common in females," the study reveals.

Besides Hookah smoking, the study has also pointed towards use of a unique type of heating device (kangri) which is considered to be the major risk factor for the digestive tract, lung, and skin cancers seen in this region.

"However, the most notable observation made in this study is that of esophageal cancer. It was previously the most common cancer type since the cancer data were available in the valley and is now showing a declining trend.... However, other digestive tract cancers such as those of the stomach, gastroesophageal (GE) junction, colon, and rectum have shown a gradual increase and continue to be amongst the top 10 cancers monitored during the

study period," the study concluded.

A senior oncologist, wishing anonymity said that the rising incidence of cancer in Kashmir will require a heavier focus on preventive public health policies.

"We cannot treat our way out of the cancer problem," he said. "More commitment to prevention and early detection is desperately needed in order to complement improved treatments and address the alarming rise in cancer burden."

The doctor further added that the "cancer rates in Kashmir are not going up for obscure reasons but for reasons that are easier to understand."

Sub-Zero Temperatures

0.6°C below normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2.8°C against minus 0.5°C on the previous night and it was 3.4°C below normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 0.4°C against 0.0°C on the previous night, the official told a local news agency GNS. It was 1.7°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, the official said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at minus 1.5°C against minus 2.4°C as on the previous night, the official said. It was 1.0°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu also saw haze and recorded a low of 9.6°C against 9.8°C on the previous night. It was 1.9°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 5.2°C (2.8°C above normal), Batote 6.3°C (1.5°C above normal), Katra 9.4°C (1.5°C above normal) and Bhadarwah 3.8°C (1.7°C above normal).

In Ladakh, Kargil recorded a low of minus 10.6°C, Leh minus 8.2°C and mercury in Drass, the world's second coldest place after Siberia, settled at minus 9.8°C, the official said.

The Met department has forecast mainly dry weather for next 24 in J&K and said that no large change was expected till the end of this month.

Army Commander

On Friday, Lt Gen Dwivedi reviewed the operational preparedness in the border areas of Gurez in north Kashmir's Banihal district.

He along with Chinार Corps commander Lt Gen ADS Aujla visited the forward areas in Corps Z on Friday where he was briefed by the local commanders on the security situation and the operational preparedness.

Jama'at Assets

the SIA spokesperson said, included a residential house in Bijbehara, and orchard measuring 30 kanal and 1 marla in village Rakhi Moman, Shopping complex and Kuthar in Arwani, Commercial cum residential structure two storied building along with two shops in Jablipora, double storey residential house in east Mattan, land measuring 7 marla & 1 sarsai in Anantnag, under construction seven shops and 44 rooms in Srigufwara,

two storey non functional building in Hakoora, Gair Mumkin Kuthar in Shangus, besides two more patches of land measuring 16 marla & 7 sarsai, 6 Kanal & 10 Marla in Anantnag.

The immovable assets sealed in Anantnag, he said, are the 2nd set of properties to be notified in a series of properties belonging to Jama'at in other districts of J&K.

"This has a lot of significance vis-à-vis Jamaat activities. This will end up in crescendo, as the fight against terror networks, unlawful association's progresses. The action would uproot the menace of terror funding to a great extent in UT of J&K besides being a stepping stone in ensuring rule of law & a society without fear," the SIA spokesperson said.

The agency, he said, has identified as many as 188 Jel properties across J&K and will be notified during the further course of action to be undertaken.

"These are as a result of investigation of case FIR number 17 of 2019 U/S 10, 11 & 13 of police station Batmaloo being investigated by SIA. SIA has preliminarily identified numerous properties purchased or acquired by Jel worth hundreds of crores of rupees," the spokesperson said.

"In the 2nd phase, after verification on ground, SIA choose district Anantnag, the district with maximum Jamaat penetration and after confirming that eleven different landed and in some cases land-Cum-house properties are indeed under Jel ownership or control, SIA submitted evidence before the District Magistrate of Anantnag who has expelled the Jel from entering or using these eleven properties under section 8 of UAPA," he added.

Prof. Gani Bhat

news agency KNO, separatist leader revealed before his interrogators many facts regarding the money received from across the border by different Hurriyat leaders in the Valley.

Prof. Ghani heads Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and in the past he has also served as chairman of the multi party combine twice.

Born in Botengo village of Sopore in North Kashmir, Prof Ghani studied Persian, Economics and Political Science at Sri Pratap College in Srinagar and then pursued his post-graduate in Persian and Law at Aligarh Muslim University. He later taught at Sopore Degree college but was dismissed from the services in 1986 by the then administration of Governor Jagmohan for anti-national activities.

Prof Ghani rose to prominence in 1987 as spokesperson of the Muslim United Front which gave a tough fight to Congress-NC combine in the ill fated assembly polls that year.

LG Inaugurates Constitution

remarks while inaugurating the Constitution Day celebrations today to mark the 73rd anniversary of the adoption of our Constitution, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

Sinha, he said, extended his warm greetings to the people on the occasion

and paid humble tributes to the founding fathers of the Constitution.

"Our Constitution is the holy book and enshrines eternal values that remain as our guiding principles. Today, let us all take a pledge to uphold these values and fulfill our fundamental duties to build a stronger India," the LG said.

On the occasion, the LG called upon the officers to ensure that the benefits of economic progress percolate down to the poorest of the poor and those living in the far-flung areas of the J&K UT.

J&K Parties Studying

about addition of 25 lakh new voters, as the then CEO of Jammu and Kashmir Hridesh Kumar had said in a press conference in August, will be put to rest.

"We also expect the whole confusion and the apprehensions of the people are addressed," he added.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) said it would be important to wait and see who these new voters are.

"How many of them are the people who were otherwise the state subjects and how many are those who acquired domicile certificates. These details are yet to come out. It will be very important to see that breakup," party chief spokesperson Suhail Bukhari said.

On the question of assembly elections, Suhail Bukhari said the present dispensation has "snatched all rights" from the people of Jammu and Kashmir and their democratic rights were not an exception.

"We really do not expect things from them, because they have been giving statements which are contradictory on one hand saying the security situation has improved and is great, but, on the other saying, that once the situation improves, elections will be held, and then the statehood (will be restored)," he said.

Peoples Conference spokesman Adnan Ashraf Mir said as the final rolls were published only on Friday, "it will take us some time to study it before commenting over it".

"We need to see whether the increased number is only of the people from Jammu and Kashmir who have attained the age of 18 years or is there any percentage of non-locals as well," he said.

Mir said the party stands vindicated as it had said that the then CEO's statement was factually incorrect and that it was not possible to add 25 lakh new voters.

"The CEO was only sort of trying to help the narrative of a particular party," Mir said in an apparent reference to CEO Kumar.

Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari said the final rolls were according to expectations.

"When a hue and cry was raised that 25 lakh new voters will be added, I had said the government should come clear on it and it had issued a clarification. So, an increase of 10 per cent is not much of an addition and it is a matter of satisfaction that no outsider has been added," Altaf Bukhari said.

terrorist act.

"In 80 per cent cases in this category, the families of these potential terrorists inform the JKP and security forces about their doubtful activities, and we have been able to bring back 13 of them in 2022, some even after joining the ranks," another senior officer said.

"We can tell you that denying social sanction to terrorists, their activities and radicalisation activities will usher peace in Kashmir," the officer said.

According to latest police data, there were 99 local recruitments in terrorist ranks in Kashmir this year, an all-time low over the last six years.

Out of these, 64 were killed and 17 arrested, the data said.

The comparative figures are: 136 in 2021, 167 in 2020, 140 in 2019, 201 in 2018, 147 in 2017 and 95 in 2016.

Maximum local terrorists, according to data, are killed within a month of their joining the terror ranks while some are neutralised in two to three months.

Twenty-nine civilians were killed by terrorists this year and these included three Kashmiri Pandits and Hindus each, 15 Muslims, apart from six non-local Hindus and two non-local Muslims.

The officials said security situation in the Valley has improved "drastically" as there have been "no bandhs, no major internet shutdowns, no stone pelting incidents and zero killings of civilians" during operations of the security forces post the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

A total of 169 terrorists (127 local terrorists and 42 foreign terrorists) have been killed in Kashmir this year, the data said.

Fraudster Held

cultivated for generating information about the movement and presence of the absconder and to track him.

"Ultimately, after receiving specific information about his presence, a Police team of PS Doda, under the supervision of Jaswant Singh, DySP Hqrs Doda arrested the fraudster on 25.11.2022 and produced him before the Hon'ble Court Doda," he said.

Charges Filed

exposed the terror network in Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir," the official said.

NDRF Joins

there was no trace of the missing person, the officials said.

They said teams of NDRF have arrived at the village along with advanced boats and specialist divers and joined the search operation.

The search operation was on when last reports were received, the officials said.

BSF Recovers Pak

and a piece of paper with a mobile number written on it were found attached to the balloon.

An investigation into the matter is underway.

2022 FIFA World Cup: Poland Beats Saudi Arabia 2-0, Australia Win 1-0 Against Tunisia

Agencies

AL RAYYAN: Robert Lewandowski at last scored a goal in a World Cup match on Saturday, helping Poland beat Saudi Arabia 2-0 and boosting his team's chances of reaching the knockout stages.

Lewandowski shed tears after scoring in the 82nd minute. He raced toward the corner with his arms outstretched, then stayed slumped on the field as teammates rushed to congratulate him. He got up, rubbed his face, and blew a kiss to the crowd.

One of the best forwards in the world, Lewandowski's barren streak at the World Cup was somewhat puzzling. Now, in his fifth match at the tournament, it's over.

Against Saudi Arabia, Lewandowski also set up the opener in the 40th minute when he kept the ball in play after goalkeeper Mohammed Al-Owais' initial block, then laid it back for Piotr Zielinski to knock in.

Poland was scrambling for long periods at the Education City Stadium as the Saudi team was pushed forward by enthusiastic fans in



TODAY'S MATCHES

Teams	Kick Off
Argentina vs Mexico	12:30 PM
Japan vs Costa Rica	3:30 PM
Belgium vs Morocco	6:30 PM
Croatia vs Canada	9:30 PM
Spain vs Germany	12:30 AM

what seemed like a home game. The frustration was clear on Lewandowski's face as Poland's yellow cards mounted.

Saudi Arabia had a chance to equalize at the end of the first half but Poland goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny saved Salem Al-Dawsari's penalty kick.

Poland will next face Argentina, while Saudi Arabia will meet Mexico in their last Group C games.

AUSTRALIA 1-0 TUNISIA

AL WAKRAH: Mitchell Duke celebrated scoring Australia's winning goal by forming a "J" with his fingers in a tribute to his son Jaxson, who was in the stands.

It was an emotion-filled day for Australia, which beat Tunisia 1-0 Saturday for only its third win in 18

World Cup matches.

Duke gave Australia the lead midway through the first half with a header.

Australia hadn't won at the World Cup since beating Serbia in 2010 and it means the Socceroos still have a chance to qualify for the round of 16, despite losing to defending champion France 4-1 in their opening match.

After a scrappy start from both sides, Australia went ahead with a play out of the back from its goalkeeper. Duke collected the goalkeeper's pass near the middle of the field and made a quick touch to set Craig Goodwin down the left flank. Duke then sprinted forward to nod Goodwin's deflected cross into the far corner with his back to the goal.

The score quieted the large contingent of red-clad Tunisia fans among the crowd of 41,823 inside Al Janoub Stadium, and sent the small pockets of Australian supporters dressed in yellow into delirium.

In the final round of group games on Wednesday, Tunisia will play France and Australia will meet Denmark.

J&K Beat Kerala To Enter Vijay Hazare Quarter-Finals

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Jammu and Kashmir extended their dream run in the Vijay Hazare Trophy to the quarterfinals as they knocked Kerala out from the tournament with a seven-wicket win on Saturday.

In-form Auqib Nabi led the



show with his career-best haul of 4/39, helping J&K skittle out Kerala for a paltry 174 in 47.4 overs after they opted to field in their first-ever Vijay Hazare Trophy knockout match.

In reply, J&K cantered home in 37.5 overs with Shubham Khajuria (76) and Qamran Iqbal (51) setting up win with their 113-run opening stand in 21.4 overs.

In the form of his life, Khajuria smashed six sixes and five fours in his 61-ball knock, which was his fourth half-century on the trot this season.

However, he was run out for a second consecutive time as J&K lost three wickets for the addition of just 32 runs. But there was no scoreboard pressure and

Henan Nazir and Fazil Rashid sealed their sixth win from seven matches this season.

J&K will face group B toppers Assam in their quarterfinal here on Monday.

The J&K pace trio of Nabi, Yudhvir Singh (2/16), and left-arm pacer Mujtaba Yousuf (1/37) accounted for seven batters as Kerala struggled to get going.

Opener Vinoop Maoharan top-scored for Kerala with an 81-ball 62 but Yudhvir dismissed him to trigger the collapse in the 32nd over before Nabi wreaked havoc with a dream spell.

With 12 wickets apiece from seven matches, Nabi and Yudhvir have done exceptionally well for J&K this season.

The Ajay Sharma-coached side had upset reigning Ranji champions Madhya Pradesh, chasing down a massive 343 with two wickets in hand. They also defeated Baroda, Odisha, and Nagaland with little fuss.

Their only defeat came against group D toppers Punjab as they finished second in the league stage.

Brief Scores

Kerala: 174 all out in 47.4 overs (Vinoop Manoharan 62, Sijomon Joseph 32; Auqib Nabi 4/39, Yudhvir Singh 2/16) lost to Jammu and Kashmir 175/3 in 37.5 overs (Shubham Khajuria 76, Qamran Iqbal 51; Sijomon Joseph 2/19) by seven wickets.

speech was posted on the cleric's Facebook account. Another scholar Perode Abdu-rahman Saqafi also reportedly slammed erecting cutouts of star players and sought the immediate intervention of the religious leadership against the football craze among the Muslim youths. Nasar Faizy Koodathayi, general secretary of the Qutba committee under the Samastha Kerala Jam-Iyyathul Ulama, on Friday had expressed concern over football fans spending so much money on the cutouts of Argentina's Lionel Messi, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar Jr of Brazil. He lamented that students were losing interest in studies due to the games in Qatar.

"It is not right to wave the flag of Portugal which colonised many countries," the cleric said, adding that it was not right for Indians to respect and wave the flags of other nations.

State Education Minister V Sivankutty and Indian Union Muslim League leader M K Muneer had reacted against the statement of Samastha leader by saying watching football and becoming fans of football legends were part of one's personal freedom.



Muslim Scholars In Kerala Vent Out At Football Craze Among Youth

Press Trust of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A day after Samastha Kerala Jam-Iyyathul Ulama, a prominent Muslim body, criticised the soccer-crazy youth in Kerala, more Islamic scholars have come out against people spending time to watch football matches and worshipping the players as idols saying it was just "foolishness".

Salafi preacher Abdul Muhisin Aydeed asked what was the benefit for an individual and the society if a particular team wins the match in the ongoing World Cup in Qatar.

He said the football matches give no benefit to the society as well as to the families of the individuals but still several people are lavishing praise on this football craze among youth.

"The valuable time of human life is just killed by watching this game. Anyone, this society or your parents are benefitting out of this? Still, people are showing enmity over this game and fighting each other on road," the scholar said in a function.

"What a foolishness it is," he asked.

The video of a portion of the

2nd ODI: Indian Batting Needs Fresh Approach To Save Series



Press Trust of India

HAMILTON: India would expect a better approach from skipper Shikhar Dhawan and young Shubman Gill in the Powerplay overs when the team clashes with New Zealand in the do-or-die second One-Day International here on Sunday.

The Seddon Park is a three-way open ground but is known for being one of the batting friendliest tracks in New Zealand where willow wielders would get value for their shots.

Dhawan (72 off 77) and Gill (50 off 65 balls) added 123 in their opening stand but on a small Eden Park ground, a score of 306 for 7 was at least 40 runs short of par score.

The bowlers could be taken to task for conceding those runs in just over 47 overs, the buck actually stops at the main

batters since if it was not for Washington Sundar's brilliant cameo, India would not have touched the 300-run mark.

It was largely due to the safety-first approach of the Indian openers during the first 10 Powerplay over where the runs did not come at a desirable pace.

Dhawan hit 72 off 77 balls that had 13 fours. So effectively, he scored 52 runs in boundaries in 13 deliveries. He scored another 20 runs in 64 deliveries and out of which 44 were dot balls as he was unable to get going in the Powerplay.

As the skipper struggled, at the other end, Gill didn't do his overall averages any harm by stacking up another half-century, but the pace of his innings was also a debatable one.

His 50 was scored in 65 balls with three sixes and a boundary. This means 22 runs were scored from four deliveries. He

scored the remaining 28 runs from 61 deliveries.

The same approach of just building the foundation and leaving the heavy-lifting for the back-end has cost India a T20 World Cup but strangely even as personnel changed in ODIs for this series, the approach has remained archaic.

Indian pacers will need to find a way to counter Tom Latham and Kane Williamson, who have both been consistent against India over the years in this format.

While Umran Malik was impressive bowling northwards of 145 clicks, Arshdeep Singh despite his ability to get the swing struggled for pace and Shardul Thakur was generally erratic.

Toss will be an important factor as batting becomes easier at the Seddon Park as the evening wears on.

'No Country Can Overlook India': Thakur On PCB Chief's Remarks About 2023 WC

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has said India is a major power in the world of sports and no country can overlook the country. He was responding to a query about remarks of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja that if India does not come for Asia Cup, Pakistan won't go for 2023 World Cup to be hosted by India.

"Wait for the right time. India is a major power in the world of sports & no country can overlook India," Thakur said. Earlier in October, BCCI secretary Jay Shah had indicated that Asia Cup could be held at a neutral venue.

After Shah's remarks about holding Asia Cup at a neutral venue, PCB issued a statement it can impact Pakistan's visit to India for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 "The overall impact of such statements has the potential to split the Asian and



international cricketing communities and can impact Pakistan's visit to India for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 and future ICC Events in India in the 2024-2031 cycle," PCB said.

Following PCB's statement, Thakur had said that India will host the 2023 WC with all teams. BCCI President Roger Binny also said that touring Pakistan for Asia Cup 2023 is not the board's call, but they will rely on the government's

decision.

2023 will mark the first time ever that India will host the marquee cricketing event by itself. It co-hosted the 1987 World Cup with Pakistan and the 1996 World Cup with Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The tournament made its return to India in 2011 when it co-hosted it along with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. India also emerged victorious in the 2011 edition of the tournament. (ANI)

Germany's WC Survival On The Line Against Spain

Agencies

DOHA: When the World Cup draw came out in April, one of the highlights of the group stage was Sunday's match between Spain and Germany at Al Bayt Stadium.

Nearly eight months later, the game between the two former world champions and pre-tournament favorites gained even more prominence thanks to Germany's surprising loss to Japan in its opener in Qatar.

Another setback against Spain this weekend and Germany may be heading home early for

"We are optimistic," Germany coach Hansi Flick said Saturday. "We have to be brave and believe in our quality. We want to stick to our game because we have the quality."

Spain, meanwhile, will be looking to secure its spot in the next stage and reinforce its status as one of the top title contenders following an impressive 7-0 rout of Costa Rica in its opener.

"It's a big test for us," Spain coach Luis Enrique said. "In such an important event like this, against one of the favourites to win the World Cup, in a com-



the second straight World Cup. A loss — coupled with at least a draw by Japan against Costa Rica in the earlier match Sunday — will mean elimination for the four-time champions.

plicated situation for them, we want to show that we will not play differently, and that we will try to dominate from the start. And if it works, fantastic. If not, we will congratulate our rival."

Serbia Charged Over Locker Room Kosovo Flag At WC

Agencies

DOHA: The Serbian football federation was charged by FIFA on Saturday for hanging a political banner about neighbouring independent state Kosovo in the locker room before playing Brazil at the World Cup.

It showed a map of Serbia that included the territory of its former province, which has been an independent state for nearly 15 years, and the slogan "No Surrender."

Photos circulated of the banner draped over the lockers of Milos Veljkovic and Andrija Zivkovic

FIFA cited a section of its disciplinary code that covers misconduct including "offensive gestures, signs or language" and "using a sports event for demonstrations of a non-sporting nature." Football's governing body gave no timetable for a verdict, though Serbia next plays on Monday against Cameroon.

Since Kosovo was made a member of FIFA and UEFA in 2016, the European football body has ensured for security reasons that its national teams cannot be drawn with Serbia or Bosnia-Herzegovina in qualifying groups for the World Cup and European Championship.



ahead of the team's 2-0 loss to Brazil on Thursday in Qatar.

Kosovo's football federation formally complained to FIFA and its sports minister, Hajrulla Ceku, described the image as using the World Cup to promote "hateful, xenophobic and genocidal messages."

The issue of Kosovo's independence sparked a 1998-99 war in which about 13,000 people died. Serbia launched a brutal crackdown to curb a separatist rebellion by the territory's ethnic Albanians. NATO bombed Serbia in 1999 to end the war.

"Considering Behaviour Of New Owner...": Political Party Leaves Twitter

Agenceis

Slovenia: Slovenia's ruling Freedom Movement party (GS) said Saturday it had decided to stop using Twitter over concerns the social network was being used to spread fake news and hate speech. "Considering the behaviour and announcements by Twitter's new owner and management, we can expect they will further open its doors to indecent communication and hate speech," GS said in a statement, referring to the platform's recent takeover by billion-



aire Elon Musk.

Liberal Prime Minister Robert Golob's party won April's parliamentary elections with a programme that promised restoring decency in politics and strengthening the rule of law, which critics say was undermined by for-

mer conservative prime minister Janez Jansa.

Jansa, an avid user of Twitter with over 100,000 followers in a country of two million, used the platform to attack critics and media -- while Golob said he would not use Twitter "to avoid the temptation of fast fingers".

The GS -- which holds 41 of the 90 seats in parliament -- said its Twitter account had been blocked for three weeks due to technical problems and over time it had realised it did not need it to efficiently address citizens.

"At the same time, the platform has been abused by members and supporters of some political parties to polarise society, spread fake news, manipulate, discredit, offend or even to use hate speech," the GS said, adding it does not want to be part of it.

World Cup Fans In Qatar Introduced To Islam

Agenceis

DOHA: The Katara Cultural Village Mosque in Qatar's capital of Doha has become the focus of attention for World Cup fans who want to get to know about Islam.

Multilingual male and female preachers at the mosque explain the religion and tolerance of Islam to tourists. Electronic boards about Islam in more than 30 languages at the door are positioned to allow visitors to view them on their phones. And booklets introducing Islam in different languages are distributed to those who want them.

The Ministry of Awqaf and

Islamic Affairs in Qatar also launched a pavilion to introduce Islam and its teachings during the World Cup 2022.

World Cup fans encounter hadiths -- words, actions or habits of Prophet Muhammad -- on the walls of streets, describing the importance of good deeds.

The opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup 2022 was last Sunday at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor.

The tournament's official mascot, La'eeb, whose name is an Arabic word that means super-skilled player, along with the flags of all 32 participating nations were waving on the field.

Nearly 50,000 Migrants Died In Search Of 'Better Life' Since 2014: UN



Agenceis

UNITED NATIONS: At least 50,000 migrants died while undertaking risky journeys in search of a "better life" across the world since 2014, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a Geneva-based UN agency.

The tragic milestone was confirmed in a new IMO report on Missing Migrants Project, which also maintains that little action had been taken by any country of origin, transit or arrival.

"While thousands of deaths have been documented across migration routes each year, very little has been done to address the consequences of these tragedies, let alone prevent them," Julia Black, co-author of the study, said in a statement.

The nationality for over 30,000 people in the Missing Migrants Project is unknown, which means that more than 60 per cent of those who die on migratory routes remain unidentified. Thousands of families are left "searching for answers," IOM said.

"As time goes by, there is no news," IOM said, quoting a Moroccan migrant in Spain in 2021 who was searching for his brother who disappeared 20 years ago on route to Europe.

Of the missing migrants whose nationality could be identified, more than 9,000 were from Africa, over 6,500 from Asia and another 3,000 from the Americas.

"Notably, the top three countries of origin -- Afghanistan, Syria and Myanmar -- are marked by violence, with many people fleeing their homes to seek refuge abroad", IOM said.

More than half of the 50,000 individual deaths documented occurred on routes to and within Europe, with Mediterranean routes claiming at least 25,104 lives.

European routes also make up the largest number and proportion of missing and presumed dead migrants, with at least 16,032 recorded missing at sea and whose remains have never been recovered.

Africa is the second-deadliest region for people on the move, with more than 9,000 migration-related deaths documented since 2014. Regional household surveys indicate that these figures are almost certainly a vast undercount.

And in the Americas, nearly 7,000 deaths have been documented, 4,694 of whom were heading to the United States. The US-Mexico land border crossing alone has seen more than 4,000 deaths since 2014.

IOM has also documented an-

other 6,200 deaths across Asia.

"Children make up more than 11 per cent of the lives lost on migratory routes in Asia, the highest proportion of any region", according to the report.

It noted that of the 717 recorded child deaths linked to migration in the region, 436 were Rohingya refugees.

In Western Asia, at least 1,315 lives have been lost on migratory routes, many of which occurred in countries with ongoing conflicts, which make documentation of the missing extremely challenging.

At least 522 people arriving from the Horn of Africa have died in Yemen -- often victims of violence -- and 264 Syrian deaths have been documented during attempts to cross the Türkiye border.

IOM stressed that "obligations under international law, including the right to life, must be upheld at all times".

The UN agency called for international solidarity in prioritizing search and rescue operations; improving and expanding regular and safe migration pathways; and ensuring that legislation prioritizes the protection and safety of people on the move.

"Regardless of the reasons that compel or drive people to move, no one deserves to die in search of a better life", IOM's Ms. Black said.

In A First, Self-Driving Bus Experiment Begins In South Korea Capital



Agenceis

South Korea's capital launched its first self-driving bus route on Friday, part of an experiment that engineers said aims to make people feel more comfortable with driverless vehicles on the roads.

The new vehicle does not look like a regular bus and has rounded edges as well as large windows that make it appear more like a toy than a technological breakthrough. This design is intentional, said Jeong Seong-gyun, head of autonomous driving at 42 Dot, the start-up responsible for the self-driving technology that is now owned by auto giant Hyundai.

"This is the future," he told AFP, adding that the bus required "a considerable new type of design". The bus looks a bit "like Lego" and is made of composite parts to help keep costs down and make it easy to replicate, he said.

It uses cameras and radar to navigate the way instead of ex-

pensive sensors, Seong-gyun added.

The company's goal was to make the technology low-cost, safe and easily transferable to many types of vehicles in the future, for example, delivery trucks.

For now -- with a safety driver monitoring closely -- the bus will drive itself around a small 3.4-kilometre (2.1-mile) circuit in downtown Seoul that takes around 20 minutes.

The public can board at two designated stops after booking a free seat through an app.

"I feel like I've just hopped into a time machine to visit the future," said Kim Yi hae-ran, 68, after her 20-minute ride during the launch of the bus Friday.

"I thought it might make me dizzy from a sudden acceleration but I didn't feel any of it."

The ride felt "very smooth and safe", which she said made her feel proud of the technological progress the South Korean company has made.

THE NEW VEHICLE DOES NOT LOOK LIKE A REGULAR BUS AND HAS ROUNDED EDGES AS WELL AS LARGE WINDOWS THAT MAKE IT appear more like a toy than a technological breakthrough. This design is intentional, said Jeong Seong-gyun, head of autonomous driving at 42 Dot, the start-up responsible for the self-driving technology that is now owned by auto giant Hyundai.

Bun Maska



Chai

Chai Ka Chaska With Bun Maska



JK Bank Lawns, Opp Ghat
6 Boulevard, Srinagar