

UNION
BUDGET

FM Unveils Income Tax Relief, Small Saving Sops

Agenceis

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday raised the personal income tax rebate limit, doled out sops on small savings and announced one of the biggest hikes in capital spending in the past decade as she did a tight rope walk in the Budget between staying fiscally prudent and meeting public expectations in the year before general elections.

The personal income tax rebate limit has been

increased to Rs 7 lakh from the fiscal year starting April 1 under the new tax regime from the previous Rs 5 lakh. Tax slabs

has been cut to five from seven earlier. Also, the maximum income tax rate has been reduced to about

39 per cent from 42.7 per cent after a reduction in the highest surcharge to 25 per cent from 37 per cent.

Besides, the deposit limit for senior citizen savings schemes has been doubled to Rs 30 lakh and for Monthly Income Account Scheme to Rs 9 lakh. A new small savings scheme for women, offering 7.5 per cent interest rate on deposits of up to Rs 2 lakh for a tenor of 2 years, has been announced.

Sitharaman's fifth straight budget comes at a time when the economy is slowing due **More on P10**



J&K Allocated Rs 35,581.44 Crore

The Union Budget 2023-24 on Wednesday allocated Rs 35,581.44 crore to Jammu and Kashmir, the majority of it being central assistance for the union territory. Other union territories -- Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and **More on P10**

LG Thanks PM Modi, Sitharaman

The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday expressed gratitude to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the first budget of Amrit Kaal that will put the country on **More on P10**

ITEMS TO
BECOME COSTLIER

- Cigarettes
- Kitchen chimney
- Imported bicycles and toys
- Fully imported cars and electric vehicles
- Imitation jewellery
- Compounded rubber
- Naphtha

ITEMS TO
BECOME CHEAPER

- Domestically-manufactured TV sets
- Shrimp feed
- Fish lipid oil used in manufacturing aquatic feed
- Seeds for lab-grown diamonds
- Machinery for manufacturing lithium ion cells

Defence Budget
Pegged At Rs
5.94 Lakh Crore

The defence budget was on Wednesday increased to Rs 5.94 lakh crore for 2023-24 in a modest hike of 13 per cent from last year's allocation of Rs 5.25 lakh crore amid India's continuing border row with China in eastern Ladakh and concerns over frequent Chinese forays into the Indian Ocean Region. In the Union Budget presented in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, a total of Rs 1,62,600 crore was set aside for the armed forces as capital **More on P10**

Govt Speeds Up
Anti-Encroachment
Ops In Kashmir

Nearly 500 Kanal Land Freed In Ganderbal, 6 Stone Crushers Face Axe In Anantnag

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Intensifying its ongoing drive to retrieve government land from the illegal occupants, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday freed over 500 kanal of state and Kahcharai land from encroachers, besides sealing 25 shops at a prominent market here in this capital city.

The major anti-encroachment drive, an official spokesperson said, was taken by the district administration in Ganderbal, where 495 kanal of state and Kahcharai land was retrieved.

He said special anti-encroachment squads headed by Tehsildars conducted mass scale anti-encroachment drives while taking assistance from Police and other departments.

In Wednesday's anti-encroachment drive, the spokesperson said, 298 kanal of government land was retrieved at block Ganderbal, 53 kanal at Tullamula besides 65 kanal Kahcharai land in Tehsil Lar.

Similarly, he said, anti-encroachment squads in



Sub-division Kangan retrieved 74 kanal of government land, including 24 kanal state land in block Kangan and 50 kanal in block Gund.

"The District Administration has so far retrieved 17627 kanal of government land which includes 11672 kanal of state land and 5955 kanal of Kahcharai land during Anti-encroachment drives," he said. Pertinently, on January 9

this year, LG Manoj Sinha - led administration ordered all the Deputy Commissioners to ensure 100% removal of encroachments from state land, including Roshni and Kahcharai by the end of the month.

The order issued by Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Commissioner Secretary to the Government had also asked Deputy Commissioners to file daily reports by 4 pm **More on P10**

20 Shops
Sealed in
Srinagar's
Aftab Market

A total of 20 shops were sealed in a market here on Wednesday, with officials claiming that they were built on land that had been occupied illegally. The shopkeepers, however, said they were paying rent regularly to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC). Around 20 shops were sealed at the Aftab Market in Lal Chowk the commercial hub of Srinagar, officials said. **More on P10**

Two Polish Skiers Killed
In Gulmarg Avalanche

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A massive avalanche hit the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's

ski resort Gulmarg on Wednesday, killing two Polish tourists and trapping 21 skiers who were rescued from the slopes that had **More on P6**

Avalanche
Warning Issued
In 4 Districts

Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday issued a medium danger avalanche warning in four districts in view of the recent **More on P6**

Major Avalanches In
Kashmir Since 2010

- **February 8, 2010:** 17 soldiers killed in army camp in Gulmarg
- **February 25, 2012:** 16 soldiers killed in army camp in Gurez
- **January 25-27, 2017:** Multiple avalanches hit Gurez and Sonamarg areas; 20, including several soldiers, killed.
- **December 5, 2019:** Four soldiers killed in army camp in Gurez
- **January 14, 2020:** Multiple avalanches kill 11 soldiers in Nowgam and Macchil sectors of Kupwara district.
- **January 12, 2023:** Avalanche hits a work site at Sonamarg--Zojila, two labourers killed. ..

Govt Panel Flags Low Enrollment,
Infra Deficit In New Colleges

Agencies

Srinagar: In a startling revelation, a government panel has revealed low enrollment and infrastructure deficit in the newly established colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the official documents, a high level report framed by the government has revealed that the majority of the newly established degree colleges have failed to attract the students for admissions while the construction of the permanent buildings for these colleges has also hit a road block for various reasons.

The Higher Education Department has already submitted the committee report to the General



Administration Department (GAD) in March last year.

"A meeting was held in May 2022 and it was decided to obtain fresh status of the enrollment of the newly Sanctioned Degree Colleges," the document reads.

The report of the committee constituted by J&K government to oversee **More on P10**

AEE Terminated
Over Absence

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Power Development Department (PDD) on Wednesday terminated the services of an in-charge Assistant Executive Engineer for remaining unauthorizedly absent for long spells, violating the relevant service laws and also creating a sense of indiscipline in the department.

Bashir Ahmad Shah, in-charge Assistant Executive Engineer was terminated through an order issued in terms of Article-128 and Article-113 of J&K Civil Service Regulations (Volume-I) of 1956 vide government order number 18-JK(PDD) of 2023 dated 31-01-2023. **More on P10**

China A Major
Challenge To
India, World: US

Agencies

Washington: The United States and India on Tuesday formally established a high-level initiative on critical and emerging technologies or iCET.

India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval had a 'fruitful discussion' with his US counterpart at the White House. In the discussions, there was a laser focus on aligning Washington and New Delhi's strategic, commercial and scientific approaches specifically in the field of technology. Officials did announce several concrete steps that the initiative will be taking forward from the high-power meeting in Washington.

Sullivan, in an interview with reporters, said that iCET would 'serve both countries' deeper strategic interests, according to The Washington Post.

iCET has no explicit reference to China, but the Biden administration sees technology development vis-a-vis China as a zero-sum game that the U.S. cannot lose hence iCET could be an important way forward.

"The US-India defence and artificial intelligence dialogue is a multi-layered approach and China is one of the dimensions as it is a major challenge to New Delhi and the world," a senior administration official in Washington told reporters. On whether there were any geopolitical concerns **More on P10**

Pahalgam
Coldest In Valley
At Minus 8.9°C

Agencies

Srinagar: Amid forecasts for mainly dry weather in the next 24 hours, the minimum temperature recorded a drop in some places in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday with Pahalgam recording a low of minus 8.9°C.

Srinagar recorded a low of 0.4°C against 0.0°C on the previous night. Today's minimum temperature, he said, was above normal by 1.1°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 0.2°C against minus 0.4°C on the previous night while Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 8.9°C against minus 4.7°C on the previous night and it was 2.8°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Kokernag recorded **More on P10**

Shooting Stones
Shut Highway Again

The strategic 270-km long Jammu-Srinagar highway has been closed again due to shooting stones and stone-slide in Ramban district. The traffic department said that thoroughfare was blocked due to shooting stones at Rampadi in Banihal area of the **More on P10**

'90 Lakh Saplings And Counting': Kashmir
Witnessing Historic Green Campaign

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: To promote the vision of sustainable development and climate justice across Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory administration has taken several greening programs in the name of "Green Jammu & Kashmir Drive" to enhance the green cover and improve the quality of forests of the Union Territory.

According to a report by J&K forest department, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the Govt under ambitious initiative 'Har Gaon Hariyal' has planted 90 lakh saplings during the current fiscal against the set target of plantation of 1.35 crore seedlings.

According to the report, Forest Survey of India's latest report has revealed that the forest, meadows and tree cover of UT is around 54% of its geographical



area which is substantially higher than the forest and tree cover of 24.56% at the country level and the national objective of 33%.

"However, as per the National Forest Policy, a mountainous State/UT should have 2/3rd of geographical area under Forest and Tree cover to ensure stability of fragile ecosystems," the report notes.

An official from the first department told Kashmir Observer that in order to achieve the objective, the

Government has initiated a dedicated greening program to improve the quality of forests across the UT.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Dr. Mohit Gera the initiative will continue in coming years as well and every district is being given the targets to achieve the same.

"During the fiscal year of 2019-2020, the target was 20 lakh. It increases every year. We are trying to achieve the set target of planting 1.35 crore seedlings in the current fiscal," Gera told Kashmir Observer.

According to a report, the "Green J&K Drive" initiative of the UT Administration is in consonance with the National Forest Policy, 1988 and the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Policy, 2011, which envisages that afforestation will be carried out on all degraded and denuded lands in J&K **More on P10**

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Why Apple's Tim Cook Has Not Cut Workforce Amid Mass Layoffs?

IAN S

As every Big Tech company has announced job cuts running into thousands, Apple is yet to do so and may not plan to terminate employees as it never hired at the pace at which other tech giants did, according to analysts.

Wedbush tech analyst Dan Ives said that Apple CEO Tim Cook, who has taken a hefty salary cut by more than 40 per cent in 2023, didn't overhire during the pandemic, reports Yahoo Finance.

"Apple never hired at the pace of these other tech giants. You'll see cost-cutting around the edges, but Cupertino -- I mean, they're tacticians... I think it just shows why Cook is a Hall of Fame CEO," Ives was quoted as saying in the report.

"I think he's able to navigate another situation here in terms of not needing to do the layoffs that other tech firms have done," the analysts further said.

Apple's employee count went up by about 7 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021.

Cook has already taken a huge pay cut of \$35 million, or more than 40 per cent of his compensation.

According to a new regulatory filing in the US Securities Exchange Commis-



sion (SEC), Cook's pay will drop from \$84 million in 2022 to \$49 million in 2023, at his own recommendation.

Like many other tech companies, Apple has also been hit by supply chain issues. Its manufacturing in China has taken a hit due to a fresh wave of Covid infections in the only major economy combating such a crisis. All eyes are now on Apple quarterly results on February 2.

As per the data by layoffs tracking site Layoffs.fyi, 219 companies have laid off more than 68,000 employees in January so far.



Coffee With Milk May Have Anti-Inflammatory Effect: Researchers

Press Trust Of India

A simple cup of coffee with milk may have an anti-inflammatory effect in humans, a study conducted in laboratory suggests.

Researchers from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark found that a combination of proteins and antioxidants doubles the anti-inflammatory properties in immune cells.

Whenever bacteria, viruses and other foreign substances enter the body, our immune systems react by deploying white blood cells and chemical substances to protect us.

This reaction, commonly known as inflammation, also occurs whenever we overload tendons and muscles and is characteristic of diseases like rheumatoid arthritis.

Antioxidants known as polyphenols are found in humans, plants, fruits and vegetables. They are also known to be healthy for humans, as they help reduce oxidative stress in the body that gives rise to inflammation.

The study, published in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, analysed how polyphenols behave when combined with amino acids, the building blocks of proteins.

"In the study, we show that as a polyphenol reacts with an amino acid, its inhibitory effect on inflammation in immune cells is enhanced. As such, it is clearly imaginable that this cocktail could also have a beneficial effect on inflammation in humans," said Professor Marianne Nissen from the University of Copenhagen.

"We will now investigate

“

It is interesting to have now observed the anti-inflammatory effect in cell experiments. And obviously, this has only made us more interested in understanding these health effects in greater detail. So, the next step will be to study the effects in animals

further, initially in animals. After that, we hope to receive research funding which will allow us to study the effect in humans," said Nissen, who led the study.

The researchers found that the reaction between polyphenols and proteins also happens in some of the coffee drinks with milk that they studied. To investigate the anti-inflammatory effect of combining polyphenols with proteins, the researchers applied artificial inflammation to immune cells.

Some of the cells received various doses of polyphenols that had reacted with an amino acid, while others only received polyphenols in the same doses. A control group received nothing.

The researchers found that the combination of polyphenols and amino acids were twice as effective at fighting inflammation as the cells to which only polyphenols were added.

"It is interesting to have now observed the anti-inflammatory effect in cell experiments. And obviously, this has only made us more interested in understanding these health effects in greater detail. So, the next step will be to study the effects in animals," said Associate Professor Andrew Williams from the University of Copenhagen, who is also senior author of the study. Previous studies by the researchers demonstrated that polyphenols bind to proteins in meat products, milk and beer.

In another new study, published in journal Food Chemistry, the researchers tested whether the molecules also bind to each other in a coffee drink with milk.

Coffee beans are filled with polyphenols, while milk is rich in proteins.

"Our result demonstrates that the reaction between polyphenols and proteins also happens in some of the coffee drinks with milk that we studied. In fact, the reaction happens so quickly that it has been difficult to avoid in any of the foods that we have studied so far," said Nissen.

The researchers said it is possible that the reaction and potentially beneficial anti-inflammatory effect also occur when other foods consisting of proteins and fruits or vegetables are combined.

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar (J&K) , Ph.0194-24 77949 , 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, , CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.



PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK01AB-4914 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the RTO Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Burhaan Maqbool

SAD DEMISE



With deep sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of Abdul Hamid sofi S/o Gh Rasool sofi R/o Kralapora Damsoma Who passed on 31-01-2023. His Fateh Khawan will be held on 03-02-2023 at his graveyard .

Bereaved Family
9906654986

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Annual 2012 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Ishtiyak Mushtaq
Parentage: Mushtaq Ahmad Mir
Roll No: 401404
Year/ Session 2012- Annual



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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Board Of School Education
Sub Office Bandipora

bb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 9th certificate issued by Gov High School Palpora Now I hae applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Subreena Bano
D/o Gh Ahmad Sheikh
R/o Peerpora Berwah Block Khag

bmng

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 8th certificate issued by Govt High Secondary School Palhalan Pattan Now I hae applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Jameela Hassan
D/o Gh Hassan Bhat
R/o Buchoo Pattan

fko

بجلی کنکشن کی تبدیلی

بجلی کنکشن زیر کٹریو مرن آئی ڈی 0202020009243 اور زیر انسٹالیشن نمبر 57305 جو کہ میرے والد لالہ ڈار ساکنہ بند پورہ بندہ مالو سرنیگر کے نام پر درج ہے کو میں اپنے نام پر تبدیل کرانا چاہتا ہوں۔ اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخصیات کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر اپنے اعتراضات محکمہ بجلی کے سب ڈویژن حضوری باغ کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیار و گڈرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

محمد یعقوب ڈار ولد مرحوم لالہ ڈار

ساکنہ بند پورہ بندہ مالو سرنیگر

inf

JAMMU & KASHMIR HOUSING BOARD Office of the Deputy General Manager Housing Unit-II, Bemina Srinagar.

E-mail: jkhousingboard@gmail.com

Head Office

Jammu : A/D Block, Green Belt Park, Gandhinagar, Jammu

Srinagar: Habitat Centre, Building Bemina Bypass Srinagar



E-mail: jkhb2sgr@gmail.com

Srinagar Unit Office

Habitat Centre, Building Bemina, Bypass Srinagar

Tender Notice No.24 of 2022-23(e)

For and on behalf of the Managing Director of Jammu & Kashmir Housing Board J&K Union Territory, e-tenders are invited from registered Individuals/Firms/Hoteliers/Companies/ Agencies for outsourcing of JK Housing Board Guest House Rawalpura Srinagar for a period of 02 years.

S.No	Description	Minimum Franchise Fee/Annually	Franchise period	Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR	Cost of Tender Document
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Outsourcing of JK Housing Board Guest House Rawalpura Srinagar	10,00Lac + @18% GST	02 years	30,000/-	1500/-
	a. Bed room with attached bathroom: 5Nos				
	b. Kitchen block with servant room: 1No				
	c. Kitchen: 1No				

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of bidding and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website <https://jktenders.gov.in> as per the scheduled date given below:-

01.	Date of issue of tender Notice.	28-01-2023
02.	Start date for downloading of bidding documents.	30-01-2023 (11.00 AM)
03.	Bid submission start date	30-01-2023 (2.00 PM)
04.	Bid submission end date	15-02-2023 (4.00PM)
05.	Date and time of opening bids (Cover A)	16-02-2023 (2.00PM)
06.	Tender inviting /opening/receiving authority.	Deputy General Manager Unit 2 nd Srinagar
07.	Tender fee to be drawn in favour of	Deputy General Manager Unit 2 nd Srinagar

1. The cost of bidding document must be credited in the following account through RTGS/ NEFT, Bank Receipt (Pay in slip) and the proof of the same must be uploaded. M-pay or other such type of depositing of Tender fee shall not accepted, due to non generation of UTR (Unique Transaction Reference).

Name of the Bank: J & K Bank Ltd. **Branch:** JVC Bemina Srinagar
Account Title: DGM , J&K HB UNIT 2nd **Account No:** 1206040500005049
IFSC Code: JAKAOEJVBEM

3. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site by the Deputy General Manager Housing Board Unit-II Srinagar

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

Sd/-

Er Javid Iqbal

Deputy General Manager

Housing Unit 2nd J&K Housing Board

Srinagar

No: HU-2nd/Sgr/2614-20

DIPK-NB-6257/22

Dated: 01-02-2023

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Tele: 01933-247954/247955.

Website: www.iust.ac.in

Employment Notice for Walk-in-Interview

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for walk-in-interview for the following positions purely on temporary/contractual basis:

Post	Eligibility
Land Consultant	Retired Girdawar or higher rank from the Department of Revenue (UT of J&K).
Internal Audit (Consultant)	Retired Assistant Accounts Officer or higher/equivalent rank from Directorate General of Accounts and Treasuries/Finance Department (UT of J&K).

Interested candidates should report to the office of the Registrar, Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awantipora along with all relevant documents in original and a set of Xerox copies (self attested) for the interview on **09-02-2023 at 11.00 a.m.** Candidates should report to the venue 30 minutes before the scheduled time for scrutiny of documents.

NOTE:

- The applications should be accompanied by the detailed CV containing all the details / contributions by the applicant and latest No Objection Certificate / Vigilance Clearance Certificate.
- Consolidated Salary per month: Last pay drawn minus pension.
- Age: Not more than 62 years on the date of interview.
- The appointment shall be purely contractual, initially for a period of six months and shall not confer any right whatsoever on the prospective appointee to claim continuation or otherwise.
- No TA/DA shall be paid for appearing in the interview.

No: IUST/Reg/Adm/23/E/22

Dated: 31-01-2023

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPK-NB-6268/22

dated: 01-02-2023



Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (DBT-inStem)

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Advertisement No. inStem/01/2023

(Special Recruitment Drive for OBC Category)

Online Applications are invited from suitable candidates at the Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (DBT-inStem) on Direct Recruitment filling which by Deputation/Absorption basis for the following Scientific cadre position with all admissible allowances as applicable to Central Government employees posted at Bangalore.

Sl.	Post Code	Name of the Post	Level in Pay Matrix (as per 7 th CPC)	Reserved for OBC Category
1	01/2023	Reader/Assistant Professor/Assistant Investigator (Scientist-E)	L-13	01(One)
2	02/2023	Fellow-E/ Scientist-D	L-12	01(One)
Total				02(Two)

Please visit <https://www.instem.res.in/facultypositions/> for complete advertisement, method of applying, other terms and any subsequent revisions/corrigendum. Last date for receipt of online application is 04.03.2023

CBC- 36304/12/0022/2223

Sd/-
Director



Public Grievance Redressal Camp Held At Chanapora

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to listen to the public issues, grievances at their door steps and to ensure on spot resolution of their developmental issues, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Wednesday held a Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Chanapora under weekly public outreach programme.

Besides local SMC Corporators, Civil Society members, the programme witnessed large participation of people from Chanapora, Lal Nagar, Gulshan Nagar, Natipora, Rambagh, Bagh-i-Mehtab and other adjoining areas of Chanapora Tehsil of Srinagar District.

During the Grievance Redressal Camp, public representatives, delegations and scores of individuals projected various developmental issues and demands before the Deputy Commissioner including augmentation of drainage network system in Gulshan

bound redressal of the public issues.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said the purpose of holding such grievance redressal Camps is to take appraisal of local issues from the general public for precise and on-ground assessment for time bound redressal. He said District Administration Srinagar is holding such public grievances redressal camps in urban areas besides rural and far flung areas in the District to address public issues at their doorsteps.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner sought public cooperation in eradication of drug menace from the society. He said persons affected from drug abuse are treated as victims and are being provided proper counselling and guidance for their rehabilitation. He said the District Administration has also activated Digital Interface for faceless Consent by victims of drug abuse for their Tele Counselling and Rehabilitation.

The DC further said that



Nagar, Pathan Colony and near Chanapora Gurudwara, installation of street lights, shifting of Tehsil Office to main Chanapora, maintenance of public parks, levelling and filling of playground, setting up of drinking water ROs and toilet facilities at important public places from Rambagh to Bagh-i-Mehtab, speeding up of ongoing work on alternate road at Natipora area and other issues.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, the Deputy Commissioner sought on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp.

He also assured the people of Chanapora Tehsil that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be looked into on priority for their speedy redressal.

The DC also gave on the spot directions to the concerned Officers for time

the Lieutenant Governor led Administration has adopted zero tolerance towards drug peddling and persons involved in such heinous crime shall be dealt strictly to save young generations from this dreadful menace.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also handed over land passbooks to the lawful land owners of the area. The people also thanked the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar for holding Public Grievance Redressal Camp in the area for the first time.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited Primary Health Centre(PHC) Chanapora and took stock of its function. He inspected various sections of the facility and took first hand appraisal of the healthcare facilities being provided to the patients.

The DC also interacted with the Hospital Staff and advised them to ensure all possible healthcare facilities to the patients.

Tauqeer Zaidi Set To Shoot Kashmir's 'True Picture'

'Many prominent Kashmiri actors to make their Debut in Bollywood'

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Tauqeer Zaidi, a poet, Director and producer from Allahabad whose songs became chartbusters of Bollywood during late 1990s is now getting ready to shoot his upcoming film, "Unseen Love Lane," in the month of May 2023.

As writer and producer of the movie, Tauqeer said several films have already been made on Kashmir, but his picture will focus on the consolation and confluence.

With the release of the Zaidi's impending 'love story', many Kashmiri actors including comedians, Qayoom Badshah and Gulfam, having played their roles in different regional plays and dramas are set to make their debut in Bollywood.

Addressing a press conference here, Tauqeer Zaidi said the shooting of 'Unseen Love Lane' will begin and conclude in May this year.

He further said that most of the actors working in the movie are from Kashmir.

"Although there is no dearth of talent in Kashmir, artists do not get a chance to showcase their skills in 'Bollywood'. Many Kashmiri actors are about to make their big-screen debuts with his impending movie," Tauqeer said.

'Unseen Love Lane' is a movie based on a love story set to showcase the beauty of Kashmir Valley.

"An estimated 15 to 20 crore rupees would be spent on the



An estimated 15 to 20 crore rupees would be spent on the production of the movie which is all set to be shot in Srinagar city and Naranag. Many talented actors both male and female will be seen performing in the upcoming movie

production of the movie which is all set to be shot in Srinagar city and Naranag. Many talented actors both male and female will be seen performing in the upcoming movie," he added.

Tauqeer said he used to think a lot about Kashmir.

"I reckon it's not fine to look into paradise from a hellish perspective. I used to see Kashmiri

people as beautiful and hospitable. But when the situation got bad, they became victims of circumstances. So, I wanted to show the true face of Kashmiris. The film is going to be apolitical in nature"

It was always my dream to produce a film there, and I believe that my dream has come true," Tauqeer said.

KU VC Visits Mirza Bagh Residential Town, Inspects Facilities

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice-Chancellor Uni-

sity's faculty and staff.

Accompanied by officials from various units of the University, including Estates De-



versity of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan on Wednesday visited Mirza Bagh Town that serves as a residential facility for the var-

partment, Office of Chief Proctor and Construction Division, Prof Nilofer went around the town, located in the vicinity of

the main campus at Hazratbal, and inspected the facilities for the inhabitants.

Saying that the University intends to further beautify the town and its ambience in due course of time, the Vice-Chancellor as per a statement issued underlined the need to protect and restore the boundary wall of the town as per its original position.

Necessary instructions were passed to the University Construction Division and Office of Chief Proctor in this regard.

"The University has a beautification plan in the offing for the Residential Town which shall be executed at an appropriate time after taking all related aspects into consideration," she said, adding that the University administration is fully conscious of issues and concerns related to safeguarding the township space as per its original position.

JKTPO Organizes Onboarding Drive Of ODOP-DEH Products

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of ongoing GeM onboarding drives, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) organised an onboarding drive of one district one product (ODOP) and District as Export Hub (DEH) Products of District Srinagar on Government e-Market place (GeM) for potential exporters, FPOs and societies of district Srinagar at Sanat Ghar, Bemina.

On the directions of Principal Secretary to the Government of J&K, Industries and Commerce Department, Shri Prashant Goyal, and under the overall supervision of Khalid Jahangir, MD JKTPO, JKTPO is reaching out at District Level to aware the entrepreneurs/artisans regarding the benefits of selling products on Government e-Market place.

The drives are planned to

be held across the UT for onboarding of the ODOP and DEH products on the GeM platform. This is the 4th district level drive for onboarding of ODOP and DEH (District as Export Hub) products on GeM in a row after Ganderbal, Budgam and Kupwara.

Papier Machie has been selected as one of the products under District as Export hub initiative from district Srinagar and has immense potential for exports. The District Administration is working in full swing with the Government and other export institutions to promote these products.

The drive was attended by more than 40 artisans, societies and exporters from district Srinagar and officers from Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir. The procedure and benefits of onboarding on Government e-Market place (GeM) was explained in detail and the working of the portal



was also demonstrated.

The team of JKTPO also had a one-to-one awareness session with the participants who were on-boarded in this platform and has been actively promoting the e-commerce/export awareness in Jammu &

Kashmir by organising different workshops at grass roots level.

The Government e-Market place (GeM) is an online platform for public procurement in India. To provide forward market linkages for these products

on this portal, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce has taken a joint meeting of all States/UTS in which it was informed that "ODOP Products" are to be onboarded on GeM portal and "District Collectors" have been designated as OEMs to facilitate the GeM portal onboarding drive at district level.

Artisans/ Farmers /FPOs/ Artisan Organizations/ SHGS/ Small entrepreneurs of "ODOP products" can get onboarded on GeM portal without any fees and GST.

The on boarding will open the Government market for ODOP and other DEH products especially for gifting/souvenir purposes during major government events, conferences, summits especially in view of various G20 meetings to be held across the country in 2023.

- 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
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS

FAJR	6:02
ZUHR	12:44
ASR	4:23
Magrib	6:05
ISHA	7:27

This Day In History

- 1141 - Battle of Lincoln: King Stephen captured by forces loyal to Empress Matilda and commanded by Robert, 1st Earl of Gloucester
- 1349 - By this date at least 200 people a day were being buried in London as a result of the Black Death
- 1536 - Pedro de Mendoza founds Argentine city of Buenos Aires
- 1742 - British government of Robert Walpole resigns
- 1878 - Greece declares war on Turkey.
- 1892 - Longest boxing match under modern rules; 77 rounds in Nameoki, Illinois between Harry Sharpe & Frank Crosby.
- 1901 - Mexican government troops are ambushed by Yaqui Indians, 100 killed.
- 1920 - Estonia declares its Independence from Russia (Dorpat Peace)
- 1920 - France occupies (German) Memel territory
- 192 3 - US signs friendship treaty with Central American countries
- 1924 - International Ski Federation (FIS) forms
- 1925 - Belgian episcopacy rejects liberalism, communism & socialism
- 1931 - 1st use of a rocket to deliver mail (Austria).
- 1932 - Geneva disarmament conference begins with 60 countries
- 1932 - Reconstruction Finance Corp organized
- 1935 Leonarde Keeler first use of his polygraph machine on criminals later convicted of assault on its findings (Portage Wisc).
- 1942 - LA Times urges security measures against Japanese-Americans
- 1942 - US auto factories switch from commercial to war production
- 1943 - Cubs return to original uniform after experimenting with a vest
- 1943 - German 6th Army surrenders after Battle of Stalingrad in a major turning point in Europe during World War II
- 1944 - 4th US marine division conquers Roi, Marshall Islands
- 1944 - Allied troops 1st set foot on Japanese territory
- 1946 - The Proclamation of Hungarian Republic is made.
- 1948 - President Harry Truman urges congress to adopt a civil rights program.
- 1954 - President Eisenhower reports detonation of 1st H-bomb (done in 1952).
- 1957 - UN adopts a resolution calling for Israeli troops to leave Egypt.
- 1958 - Syria joins Egypt in United Arab Republic
- 1958 - WRIK (now WLUZ) TV channel 7 in Ponce, PR (PTC) begins broadcasting.
- 1962 - 8 of 9 planets align for 1st time in 400 years.
- 1962 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalatinsk USSR.
- 1966 - Pakistan suggests a six-point agenda with Kashmir dispute as number one item for the proposed Indo-Pak ministerial talks after 1965 war.
- 1967 - Bolivia adopts its constitution.
- 1975 - Army offensive against rebels in Eritrea.
- 1977 - Burn up of Salyut 4 Space Station (USSR).
- 1977 - Radio Shack officially begins creating TRS-80 computer.
- 1982 - Government troops and Muslim fundamentalists battle in Hamah, Syria.

From KO Archives

Child Back After 12 Years

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA -A child who had cross over to the other side of the line of con-trol (LoC) at the age of five has returned to his home at Keran in the border district of Kupwara after turning 17. Identified as Babu Bhat s/o Taj Din Bhat, he crossed the LoC Thursday to the pleasant surprise of his grieving family.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 02 February, 2001)

'Inflation So High, Cannot Earn Enough': Pakistan Battles Economic Crisis



Agencies

KARACHI: Inflation has risen to a 48-year high in crisis-hit Pakistan, where the International Monetary Fund is visiting for urgent talks, according to data released on Wednesday by the country's statistics bureau.

Year-on-year inflation in January 2023 was recorded at 27.55 per cent, the highest since May 1975, with thousands of containers of imports held up at Karachi port.

Pakistan's economy is in dire straits, stricken by a balance of payments crisis while it attempts to service high amounts of external debt.

The world's fifth-biggest population has less than \$3.7 billion in the state bank -- enough to cover just three weeks of imports.

On Tuesday, an IMF delegation arrived in Islamabad to revive negotiations over a stalled bailout package with the government, which has so far held out from meeting the global lender's tough conditions.

But in recent days, with the prospect of national bankruptcy looming and no friendly countries willing to offer less painful bailouts, Islamabad has started to bow to pressure.

The government loosened controls on the rupee to rein in a rampant black market in US dollars, a

step that caused the currency to plunge to a record low. Artificially cheap petrol prices have also been hiked.

'One cannot earn enough'

Industry has been hammered by the imports block and massive rupee devaluation. Public construction projects have halted, textiles factories have partially shut down and domestic investment has slowed.

The National Consumer Price Index for January 2023 rose by 2.88 percent from the previous month, the figures released on Wednesday showed.

In downtown Karachi on Monday, dozens of day labourers including carpenters and painters waited with their tools on display for work that never comes.

"Inflation is so high that one cannot earn enough."

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was ousted last year in a no-confidence motion, negotiated a multi-billion-dollar loan package from the IMF in 2019.

But he reneged on promises to cut subsidies and market interventions that had cushioned the cost-of-living crisis, causing the programme to stall.

It is a common pattern in Pakistan, where most people live in rural poverty, with more than two dozen IMF deals brokered and then broken over the decades.

US, India Discuss Regional Security Issues At White House Meet

Agencies

WASHINGTON: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval held a meeting with US Deputy Secretary of Defence Kathleen Hicks and discussed priorities for the US-India bilateral defence partnership.

The discussions between Doval and Hicks included strengthening policy and operational coordination in the Indo-Pacific region and increasing defence industrial cooperation between the two nations, the US Department of Defence said in a press release. During the meeting, Hicks reiterated that building alliances and partnerships is a top priority for the department and integral to the ongoing implementation of the US National Defence Strategy.

"Deputy Secretary of Defence Dr Kathleen Hicks met with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval in Washington, D.C., today to discuss priorities for the US-India bilateral defence partnership, to include strengthening policy and operational coordination in the Indo-Pacific region and increasing defence industrial cooperation between the two countries," the US Department of Defence said in the press release.

Kathleen Hicks tweeted, "I met today with #India Nat'l Security Advisor #AjitDoval to discuss priorities for the US-India defense partnership, thank India for leadership in



the Indo-Pacific region & discuss ways to deepen defense industrial cooperation."

Meanwhile, the Indian Embassy in US in a tweet stated, "Deputy Secretary of Defence Dr. Kathleen Hicks @DepSecDef called on NSA Ajit Doval. They discussed a range of topics including U.S.- India defence cooperation and regional security issues."

During the meeting, Hicks thanked NSA Doval for India's leadership in the Indo-Pacific and discussed avenues to deepen coordination between the militaries of India and the US to address the region's increasingly contested strategic environment.

"The deputy secretary thanked NSA Doval for India's leadership in the region and discussed avenues to deepen coordination between the U.S. and Indian militaries to address the region's increasingly contested strategic environment," the US Department of

Defence said in the press release.

Both sides discussed opportunities to increase bilateral defence industrial cooperation through innovative joint endeavours between US and Indian firms that support India's unique operational requirements. Hicks and Doval stated that they looked forward to making progress toward advancing the US-India defence partnership.

Doval is on an official visit to Washington from January 30-February 1. Senior government officials and leaders of Indian industry have accompanied Doval during his visit to the US, the Ministry of External Affairs said in the press release.

NSA Doval and US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) at the White House on January 31.

Worshippers Not Killed During Prayers Even In India: Pak Minister After Mosque Attack

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Speaking on the deadly suicide bombing inside a mosque in Peshawar on Tuesday, Pakistan Defence Minister Khwaja Asif said worshippers were not killed during prayers even in India, the Dawn reported.

The suicide attack left 100 people dead and scores more injured.

Expressing his views on the attack at the National Assembly, Asif said, "Worshippers weren't killed during prayers even in India or Israel but it happened in Pakistan."

The explosion took place in the central hall of the mosque on Monday around 1 pm.

Calling for unity in the fight against terrorism, the minister said it was time for Pakistan to set its "house in order," according to Dawn.

Recalling terrorism incidents from 2010- 2017, the minister said, "This war started from Swat during the PPP's tenure and it was concluded during the PML-N's previous tenure, and peace was established in the country from Karachi to Swat."

"But if you remember, a year-and-a-half or two years ago [...]



we were given a briefing two, three times in this same hall in which it was clearly stated that talks could be carried out against these people and they can be brought toward peace," he added.

Asif said varying opinions had risen on the matter but despite that, no "conclusive decision" was taken.

He further stated that thousands of people were left without jobs after the Afghans came and settled in Pakistan, the Dawn report stated, adding that Asif also said the first proof surfaced when the people of Swat protested against the resettled people.

He noted that the people of Wana also protested and expressed similar emotions. "I am mentioning these incidents because of the tragedy that occurred yesterday [...]" the terrorist was standing in the front-line during Zuhri prayers where he detonated himself," he said.

India, US Partnership To Target China's AI, Military Equipment: White House

Agencies

WASHINGTON: The White House is launching a partnership with India on Tuesday that President Joe Biden hopes will help the countries compete against China on military equipment, semiconductors and artificial intelligence (AI).

Washington wants to deploy more Western mobile phone networks in the subcontinent to counter China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, to welcome more Indian computer chip specialists to the United States and to encourage companies from both countries to collaborate on military equipment like artillery systems.

Yet the White House faces an uphill battle on each front, including U.S. restrictions on military technology transfer and visas for immigrant workers, along with India's longstanding dependence on Moscow for military hardware, issues it hopes to now address.

Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, and his Indian counterpart, Ajit Doval, are meeting with se-



nior officials from both countries at the White House on Tuesday to launch the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies.

"The larger challenge posed by China - its economic practices, its aggressive military moves, its efforts to dominate the industries of the future and to control the supply chains of the future have had a profound impact on the thinking in Delhi," Sullivan said.

"This is another big foundational piece of an overall strategy to put the entire democratic world in the Indo-Pacific in a position of strength ... it's a strategic bet by the two leaders... on the idea that creating a deeper

ecosystem between the United States and India will serve our strategic, economic and technological interests."

New Delhi has frustrated Washington by participating in military exercises with Russia and increasing purchases of the country's crude oil, a key source of funding for Russia's war in Ukraine. But Washington has held its tongue, nudging the country on Russia while condoning India's more hawkish stance on China.

On Monday, Sullivan and Doval participated in a Chamber of Commerce event with corporate leaders from Lockheed Martin Corp, Adani Enterprises and Applied Materials Inc.



Peshawar, The City Of Flowers, Becomes Pakistan's Epicentre Of Violence

Agencies

PESHAWAR: Pakistan's Peshawar was once known as "the city of flowers," surrounded by orchards of pear, quince and pomegranate trees. It was a trading city, situated at the gates of a key mountain valley connecting South and Central Asia.

But for the past four decades, it has borne the brunt of rising militancy in the region, fueled by the conflicts in neighbouring Afghanistan and the geopolitical games of great powers.

On Tuesday, the city with a population of about 2 million was reeling after one of Pakistan's most devastating militant attacks in years. A day earlier, a suicide bomber unleashed a blast in a mosque inside the city's main police compound, killing at least 100 people and wounding at least 225, mostly police.

Analysts say the carnage is the legacy of decades of flawed policies by Pakistan and the United States.

"What you sow, so shall you reap," said Abdullah Khan, a senior security analyst.

Peshawar was a peaceful

place, he said, until the early 1980s when Pakistan's then-dictator Ziaul Haq decided to become part of Washington's cold war with Moscow, joining the fight against the 1979 Soviet invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan.

Peshawar — less than 30 kilometres (20 miles) from the Afghan border — became the centre where the American CIA and Pakistani military helped train, arm and fund the Afghan mujahideen fighting the Soviets. The city was flooded by weapons and fighters, many of them hard-line Islamic militants, as well as with hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees.

Arab militants were also drawn there by the fight against the Soviets, including the scion of a wealthy Saudi family, Osama bin Laden. It was in Peshawar that bin Laden founded al-Qaida in the late 1980s, joining forces with veteran Egyptian militant Ayman al-Zawahiri.

The Soviets finally withdrew in defeat from Afghanistan in 1989. But the legacy of militancy and armed resistance that the U.S. and Pakistan fueled against them remained.

Pathaan Row: Indore Man Arrested Under National Security Act For Hate Speech

Press Trust of India

INDORE: A 27-year-old man was on Tuesday sent to jail under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) for allegedly delivering inflammatory speech and raising objectionable slogans during a counter-protest after the release of Shah Rukh Khan's film "Pathaan" in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city, police said on Tuesday.

The accused, identified as Rajik alias Rijju (27), was arrested under NSA and sent to the Central Jail on the orders of district collector Ilaiah Raja T in connection with a protest held on January 25 in the Badwali Chowki area, said Sadar Bazar police station in-charge Sunil Srivastava.

Police had registered a First Information Report (FIR) against those involved in the protest wherein provocative speeches were delivered and objectionable slogans raised under sections 295-A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion) and other provisions of the Indian Penal Code, Shrivastava said.

A protest was held at Kastur Talkies complex in Indore on January 25 when "Pathaan" was



released on the appeal of Bajrang Dal. Right-wing activists protested against Khan's co-star Deepika Padukone dancing in a "saffron" bikini in the "Besharam Rang" song of the film.

On the other hand, the Muslim side alleged that during the protest by Bajrang Dal, an objectionable slogan was raised against Prophet Mohammad, which hurt their religious sentiments.

On January 25, several members of the Muslim community gathered at Badwali Chowki to protest against the alleged sloganeering.

Police officials said six persons have been arrested so far in connection with the Badwali protest, while seven people, including local Bajrang Dal convenor Tannu Sharma, were arrested for allegedly raising objectionable slogans at the agitation held at Kastur Talkies complex.

NEWS MAKERS

Court Sentences Asaram Bapu To Life Imprisonment In 2013 Rape Case

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: A court in Gandhinagar on Tuesday sentenced self-styled godman Asaram Bapu, convicted in a rape case filed by a former woman disciple in 2013, to life imprisonment.

The 81-year-old is currently lodged in a Jodhpur jail, where he is serving life sentence in another case of raping a minor girl at his ashram in Rajasthan in 2013.

Sessions court judge D K Soni pronounced the ruling after hearing the arguments on the quantum of sentence.

The court on Monday convicted Asaram in a case registered in 2013 for raping a woman disciple, who hailed from Surat, on several occasions from 2001 to 2006 when she was living at his ashram at Motera near Ahmedabad.



The court convicted Asaram under Indian Penal Code Sections 376 2 (C) (rape), 377 (unnatural offences), 342 (wrongful detention), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 357 (assault) and 506 (criminal intimidation), in the case lodged by his former woman disciple in 2013.

The court had acquitted six other accused, including Asaram's wife Laxmiben, their daughter, and four disciples who were accused of aiding and abetting the crime, for want of evidence, the prosecution said.

Thief Breaks Into Goa Court's Evidence Room, Runs Away With Cash: Cops

Press Trust of India

PANAJI: A thief broke into the evidence room of the district and sessions court building in Goa's capital Panaji and fled with cash seized as part of proof in various cases, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on the intervening night of Tuesday-Wednesday in the court located in a Portuguese-era building where a guard was on duty on the front side, an official said.

The thief entered the premises by breaking a window on the building's rear side, the police official said.

Superintendent of Police (North) Nidhin Valsan told reporters here the intruder targeted an almirah used to store evidence including cash, gold and other documents.

The thief ran away with cash, while leaving behind scrapped currency notes, the official said, without spec-

ifying the stolen amount.

"It is possible someone who knew the court procedures and the building from inside was involved in the crime," he said adding the accused was seen in the CCTV footage of the area.

The police are hopeful of making a breakthrough in this case soon, he said.

Asked whether the thief wanted to take away evidence pertaining to any particular case, Valsan said the police and court officials are currently analysing the documents, only after which the real loss would be ascertained.

Another police official said they were also investigating how the guard on duty was unaware of the theft.

The functioning of three district courts located in the premises was affected on Wednesday as an investigation was on into the incident. The judges assigned new dates for the cases listed for Wednesday.

UP Teacher Strangled To Death On Camera During Online Class: Police

Press Trust of India

GONDA: A 32-year-old teacher was strangled by two men at his house in this district while he was giving online video lessons, police said on Wednesday.

The mobile phone using which the teacher, Krishna Kumar Yadav, was giving online classes continued to record the video that was later retrieved by police to identify the assailants.

Mr Yadav, a native of Ambedkarnagar district, was living in rented accommodation in Forbesganj locality in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda, police said.

Additional Superintendent of Police Shivraj on Wednesday said Mr Yadav was strangled on Saturday evening while he was alone in his room and giving an online tuition class. "We have arrested both the attackers," the Additional SP said.

Police said one of the accused said he

was in a relationship with the teacher's sister and was angry at being rebuked by Krishna Yadav over the issue.

"The attackers, Sandeep Yadav and Jawahir Mishra alias Jagga, entered his house and strangled him after an argument," the officer said.

Police sources said Mr Yadav worked at a private school and lived with his sister who was also a teacher. The main accused, Sandeep Yadav, started talking to Krishna

Yadav's sister, who was also a teacher. Krishna Yadav rebuked Sandeep over the issue.

"Sandeep informed us during interrogation that he killed Krishna Kumar Yadav because he was against his relationship with Krishna Yadav's sister," the officer said.

"Sandeep sought help of his friend Jagga to murder Krishna Kumar Yadav. Both the attackers have been arrested and were sent to jail," he added.



2 Kupwara Families Await Road Opening To Bury Their Dead

Agencies

HANDWARA: Bodies of two persons, from Karnah and Tangdhar, are lying in mortuary at District Hospital Handwara amid continuous blockade of roads in the aftermath of recent snowfall.

A local news agency GNS has learnt that two bodies of two elderly persons; Haji Qalandar Mir (65), son of Abdul Gaffar Mir, resident of Dildar Karnah and Alamdin Khattana (60), son of Abdulla Khattana, resident of Dragad Tangdhar lie at the hospital mortuary. While the body of Haji Qalandar, who passed away at Hamdania Colony, Bemina Srinagar, reached the hospital on January 30,

2023, the body of Alamdin Khattana reached on February 1, 2023.

Meanwhile the bereaved family members on Wednesday sought the assistance of district administration to ferry back the bodies to respective native places.

"We urge the district administration to lend us chopper services' so that we are able to take the bodies from here", the families unanimously urged.

The aggrieved residents in the meantime also appealed Lieutenant Governor led administration to expedite the process of tunnel digging so that they don't have to suffer in wake of time to time weather vagaries.

BJP Leader Er Gayoor Appointed Executive Member NCM

Agencies

SRINAGAR: BJP senior leader & Party's working committee member Er Syed Showkat Gayoor Andrabi has been appointed as Executive Member of National Commission for Minorities.

According to an order, Er Syed Showkat Gayoor Andrabi has been appointed as Member of National Commission for Minorities representing UT of J&K at National level.

The panel members from different States and Union Territories have the advisory role regarding various issues faced by minorities of that particular state/UT with the probable suggestions for resolution of these problems.

Gayoor, a civil engineer by profession, is an acknowledged Social & Political activist had already served for three years as an Executive Council Member for Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awanti-



pora and his contribution and dedication have earned him high regards & respect.

BJP had recently nominated him as an executive member of working committee for J&K as well.

Er Gayoor, the Chairman of Gayoor Foundation, a renowned and noted organisation meant for promotion of Social Justice, Art, Culture and Literature has been tirelessly working for uplifting of poor, down trodden and ignored classes of the society.

He has been rewarded for noted social work for minorities and backward classes. (KNS)

SBA Scheme For First Five Foundation Stages Of Students: JKSCERT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir State Council of Educational Research and Training (JKSCERT) has said that there shall be a School Based Assessment (SBA) scheme for the first five foundation stages of the students.

It also said that SBA shall be conducted by respective Head of Schools (HoS) wherein all children are expected to have achieved subject-specific learning outcomes or competencies and foundational reading skills as per NIPUN Bharat guidelines.

The official documents state that at the foundational stage of 5 years, scheme of assessment SBA shall be conducted by respective HoS.

At Anganwadi or pre-school or Balvatika which comprises three years, students shall recognize letters and corresponding sounds. "They shall read simple words consisting of at least two to three alphabets and they shall also recognize and read numerals up to 10."

According to the JKSCERT the students shall be able to arrange numbers, objects, shapes and occurrence of events in a sequence.

Likewise, for Grade-1st that comprise of a year, students shall be able to read small sentences consisting of at least 4-5 simple words in an age appropriate unknown text.

"They shall also be able to read and write numbers up to 9 and perform simple addition and

subtraction," it reads.

Similarly in one year of Grade-2nd, the students shall be able to read with meaning 45-60 words per minute and write numbers up to 999. "They shall be able to subtract numbers up to 99."

About the assessment at the foundational stage, JKSCERT said it is vital to track children's progress in a continuous and comprehensive manner using multiple techniques of assessment.

"Assessment during the foundational learning can be broadly categorized into two major areas, namely School Based Assessment (SBA) at the foundational stage should be stress-free and largely through qualitative observation based on performance of the child in a multitude of experiences and activities and tools and techniques should be used as envisaged in exemplars prescribed by NCERT and SCERT in SBA document," it reads.

It also states that assessment at the foundational stage aims at early identification of learning gaps at each foundational stage including children with special needs so that there can be possibilities of early intervention through referral to specialists.

"Teachers are required to use different techniques to assess the children, identifying the child's strengths, needs, interests and preferences. Besides, the teachers are required to check the potential child's performance and scaffold it through interventions," JKSCERT said—(KNO)

Grenade Recovered In Poonch

JAMMU: Security forces on Wednesday recovered a grenade from Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, sources said.

The grenade was recovered from the Sanglaini area of Surankote tehsil, they said.

This follows the re-

covery of another grenade near the home of prominent Gujjar leader and former Surankote MLA Choudhary Mohammad Akram in the tehsil's Lasana area on January 26.

An explosion was reported at his home on January 21.



Protest Against Anti-Encroachment Drive In Jammu Locality Continues



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Thousands of people, including women and children, hit the streets in Sunjwan-Bathindi on the city's outskirts against the Jammu and Kashmir administration's ongoing anti-encroachment drive to retrieve "illegally occupied" state land.

The residents' protest comes in the backdrop of the authorities serving public notices asking violators to remove illegal constructions within seven days, officials said.

The protesters also ob-

served a complete shutdown in the area.

Waving Tricolours and shouting slogans against the eviction drive, the protesters passed the main roads before staging a peaceful sit-in at a vast land adjoining the bypass.

Police were deployed in large numbers as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order.

The sub-divisional magistrate was seen requesting the protesters to disperse on the assurance that no residential homes would be demolished. He added that

the district administration was ready to listen to their grievances.

Representatives of almost all major political parties, including the National Conference, Congress, People's Democratic Party, Apni Party and the AAP, also joined the protest and demanded an immediate end to the "anti-people" drive.

The residents also staged a protest in the area on January 30 and had threatened to intensify their agitation if the government went ahead with the demolition drive.

DAP Demands Written Order Against Land Eviction

JAMMU: Democratic Azad Party on Wednesday continued the protests against the land eviction order and hundreds of its workers hit the streets in Batote.

The party workers and leaders sought the written order by LG administration mentioning that no poor shall be touched and houses demolished by the authorities.

"While the government on one side gives verbal assurances that no poor shall be touched, on the other hand the authorities are

demolishing properties of poor and needy people," Vice Chairman G.M.Saroori said.

He said the government shall clear the confusion and give a written order to all district authorities, directing them not to touch properties of the poor, especially shops and homes.

Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami said that if the government is saying that poor will not be touched then why the notices are served to all. "Poor

people have nowhere to go. Government can't act so brutally and destroy their homes. This is in no way reflecting the welfare state policies," he added.

Hundreds of protesters chanted slogans against the anti encroachment drive launched by the government and said that the DAP will not stay silent unless they get a written assurance. "As long as the written assurances are not given we will continue to protest," the protesters said.

Three Arrested In Ex-MLC Trilochan Wazir's Killing Case

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Three men including the cousin of former member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council and National Conference leader Trilochan Singh Wazir were arrested in connection with politician's killing in 2021, police said on Wednesday.

The accused were identified as Sardar Jagpal Singh, 51, Harjinder Singh Raina, 71, and Sudershan Singh Wazir, 67, all residents of Jammu, they said.

According to police, the motive behind the killing was a mixture of personal enmity, and political and financial gains.

Earlier at the time of incident, police had on the basis of CCTV footage arrested three people -- Rajender Chaudhary, 33, Balbir Singh, 67, and Harmeet Singh, 61, all residents of Jammu, they said.

Another accused, Harpreet Singh Khalsa, was later arrested, police said.

Wazir was found dead in a flat on the 2nd floor of a build-



ing in Basai Darapur on March 9, 2021. His body was found lying in a decomposed state in the washroom of the locked flat with a gunshot wound on his head.

It was Khalsa who had rented the flat and was hosting Wazir on the pretext of helping him obtain visa and air tickets to Canada, where his family was living.

Initially, the motive for the murder was conjectured to be an extortion bid. However, it was later found that Wazir's family received no ransom call, a senior police officer said.

The latest arrests came at the instance of Khalsa, who revealed their names to po-

lice in interrogation, said Ravindra Singh Yadav, Special Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch).

The officer said that Sudershan Singh Wazir, a businessman in Jammu and the victim's cousin, had a rivalry with Trilochan Singh Wazir and Nagar Singh, another businessman in Jammu.

Nagar Singh's son had murdered the nephew of Sudershan, an accused in the case. Both Trilochan Singh and Nagar Singh were also arrested in the high-profile 2006 Chopra murder case in Jammu, he said.

"In 2018, Trilochan Singh and Nagar were planning to murder Sudershan in Delhi. This came to the knowledge of Sudershan through Harmeet Singh and Harpreet Singh.

"In retaliation, accused Sudershan, Harjinder Singh Raina and Jagpal Singh succeeded in conspiring to murder Trilochan Singh Wazir in Delhi with the help of accused Harpreet, Harmeet, Rajender Chaudhary and Balbir," he added.

Law & Order Situation Reviewed In Doda

Observer News Service

DODA: A virtual meeting of the Civil Administration and Police Department was held here to review the Law and Order situation in Doda district, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

The meeting was chaired by District Magistrate, Vishesh Paul Mahajan and attended by Senior Superintendent of Police, Abdul Qayoom; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr Ravi Kumar Bhartil ADC Bhaderwah, Chowdhary Dil Mirl ACR, Sanjeev Kumar, SDMs, Dy. SPs, SD-POs, Tehsildars and other concerned officers and officials.

The meeting discussed threadbare various issues with regard to law and order, measures to fight drug menace, prevention of bovine smuggling and maintaining communal harmony and peace in the district.

The meeting also underlined the need to adopt an effective strategy to ensure that the schemes reach the last man standing in the queue. Keeping a close check on illegal constructions, illegal mining and intensifying anti encroachment drives was also stressed upon. The necessity for de-radicalisation in the society was also felt.

Speaking at the meeting, the SSP stressed on maintaining close coordination between police and civil administration for eradicating social evils and ef-

ficient tackling of law and order situation, including drug addiction and trafficking in the district.

Emphasis was laid on maintaining record of all history-sheeters, trouble mongers and chronic antisocial elements by sharing of Intelligence inputs between the Civil and police administration.

The officers of Civil and Police administration gave feedback to the DM and SSP about the basic concerns of the people in their respective jurisdictions.

The DM said that Civil Administration as well as Police have common goal of working for the welfare of the people. "District Administration is a composite Team of Magistracy and Police and it is the endeavour of both to work together for public good and policy implementation" he added.

The DM directed the participants to remain vigilant against any attempt by any person or group to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in the district or indulge in any illegal activity. He informed that the war against drug menace, action against anti-social/ anti national elements and anti encroachment shall be taken forward with full strength and this is not possible on the ground without the joint effort of the Magistrates and the Police officers.

He suggested for dedicating the year 2023 for the eradication of the drug menace in the District.

DC Seeks Help Of People, PRIs In Making Anantnag Drug, Garbage Free



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The weekly Block Diwas was held on Wednesday at three locations in Anantnag viz. Khoveripora, Qazigund and Achabal. Deputy Commissioner Anantnag and other senior officials of the district presided over the events.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom presided over the Block Diwas at Khoveripora block.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the massive participation of people reinforces the belief of the people in grievance redressal mechanisms. He said that line departments should ensure an objective approach towards grievance redressal so that in the minimum duration, genuine issues of the people are resolved.

He appealed to people to focus on genuine demands and works of community benefit while devising development plans to accelerate the rapid transformation of the area.

Dr Basharat appealed to people that they must be active collaborators in making the panchayats of Anantnag drug free and garbage free. He said that for achieving both these goals, the main contribution has to come from the people while the Government pro-

vides institutional support.

He said a healthy and clean panchayat is the productive ground for young minds to prosper and become active contributors to nation building. He highlighted the role of PRIs, religious leaders, SHGs and public icons in mobilizing people against the menace of drugs.

The locals from Khoveripora and adjacent villages had gathered in large numbers and shared several issues with the DC who gave a patient hearing to the people.

The issues included functioning of street lights at Rambirpora, water supply for Rambirpora, driver for allotted Ambulance at Rambirpora, desilting of Martand canal, blanket ban on bang and poppy cultivation etc.

The sarpanch of Badigam and Fohar raised the demands like upgradation of primary school Manzgam and construction of dispensary at Fohar, WSS for Ganispora Fohar. The DC solicited answers from line departments on the spot and issued necessary directions.

The DC was accompanied by Joint Director Planning and other senior officials from line departments. BDC Khoveripora, BDO and other PRIs were also present on the occasion.

25 Shops Sealed In Sopore For Non-Payment Of Rent

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The authorities in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday sealed at least 25 shops for non-payment of rent.

An official told a local news agency KNO that at least 25 shops were sealed over non-payment of rent towards the Municipal Council for the last several years. He said that the shops are situated near Iqbal Park.

"They were already informed through notices from time to time, however, they failed to pay the rent, which led to sealing of these shops," he said.

one year, he added.

Mughal said the questioning of the arrested accused revealed that these highly sophisticated ready-to-use IEDs with over 1,000 ball bearings were smuggled from across the border to set off blasts at vulnerable places and create a law and order problem for the government.

"They are trying to disturb peace and do not want to lose any opportunity. We are alert to the threat and making efforts to neutralise the threats," the officer said.

With the busting of this module, many innocent lives were saved, he said.

Asked if the same module was also involved in the Dhangri attack or smuggling of drugs, he said it is premature to say anything right now.

LeT Module Busted In Rajouri

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday claimed to have busted a module of terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba, tasked with carrying out blasts in crowded places and to target security vehicles, with the arrest of three people.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Rajouri, Haseeb Mughal said the module was busted after an investigation was launched following the recovery of sophisticated improvised explosive devices (IEDs), having pressure and timer mechanisms, in the district.

"The IEDs were smuggled from across the border to set off explosions at crowded public places and target security vehicles and camps. The arrest of the trio, including the kingpin, prevented nefarious designs of the terror hand-

dlers (from being executed)," Mughal told reporters in Rajouri.

An IED planted inside a tiffin box was seized from Kheora locality near Government Medical College (GMC), Rajouri, on January 18 and another IED was found in Budhal area of the district 10 days earlier.

The detection of the IEDs followed a terror attack in Rajouri's Dhangri village in early January that claimed seven lives and injured 14.

"After the recovery of the IEDs on January 8 and 18, it was clear that the terrorists were looking for another major strike to harm common people. Investigation was speeded up and the first accused, Majid Dar of Kheora, was arrested," the DIG Mughal said.

He said Dar's questioning led to the arrest of Zohaib Khan of Manjakote and Mohammad Jabbar of Dharati village of Balakote, who turned out to be the kingpin of the module.

Two more sophisticated IEDs were recovered on the basis of disclosures made by them, the officer said, adding that they are in remand till February 10 and more arrests and recoveries are expected at their disclosure.

"Jabbar, whose residence falls beyond the border fence, is directly linked with the LeT. He is physically handicapped and was taking directions and guidance from terror handlers sitting across the border," he said.

Jabbar's brother Mohd Ibrar is also linked with terror activities and is in jail for the last

KASHMIR OBSERVER
Thursday| 02-02-2023

Budget 2023

As was expected from an election year, the union government has offered tax relaxation to people in budget 2023-24. There will be no tax on income up to Rs 7 lakh a year, up from Rs 5 lakh. The government has increased agricultural credit target to Rs 20 lakh crore and raised the allocation for PM Awas Yojna by 66 per cent to over Rs 79,000 crore.

In another important announcement that directly concerns the common man, the government has declared the Permanent Account Number as a common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies. Similarly, the KYC process will be simplified and a one-stop update of identity will be established through Digilocker service and Aadhaar.

The finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the budget will focus on 'Amrit Kaal', which means a highly auspicious time to begin any new work. The government has identified the Amrit Kaal as the next 25-year period during which India will go from India@75 to India@100. So the budget, according to the finance minister, marks the blueprint to steer the Indian economy over the next 25 years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a televised address that the budget in the 75th year of independence would lay a strong foundation for building a developed India. The PM said that the government has taken several steps to make the lives of women, in rural and urban areas, easy, adding the pecial savings scheme will be started to empower women in households.

However, the opposition has expectedly expressed disappointment over the budget. Congress has said that the budget was yet another example of "Over Promise and Under Deliver." Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said that the union government doesn't deliver on budgetary proposals. The government has also been accused of ignoring "welfare schemes" and issues such as the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers, employment, and youth. The activist, psephologist and politician Yogendra Yadav has accused the government of slashing the outlay for education and health.

The budget 2023-24 has come at a time when India's economy is doing better than most other economies in the world. The International Monetary Fund has called India a bright spot while predicting that global growth will dip from an expected 3.4 percent in 2022 to 2.9 percent in 2023, then increase to 3.1 percent in 2024. On the other hand, according to the Economic Survey released by the union government a day ahead of the Union Budget. India's economic growth is forecast to be 6.5 percent in fiscal 2024 compared to 7 percent in the current fiscal. The projection is by and large similar to the one provided by multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, the IMF, and the ADB and by the Reserve Bank of India domestically. The budget will hopefully facilitate the economic growth, helping India retain its position as one of the world's fastest growing economies in the world.

OTHER OPINION

Water woes

The government's decision to issue notice to Pakistan, calling for negotiations to amend the Indus Waters Treaty, must be considered carefully. New Delhi says this extreme step is due to Pakistan's intransigence over objections to two Indian hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir: the 330MW Kishanganga hydroelectric project (Jhelum) and the 850MW Ratle hydroelectric project (Chenab). India has argued since 2006, when the objections began, that the projects were within the treaty's fair water use. However, Pakistan has refused to conclude negotiations with India in the bilateral mechanism — the Permanent Indus Commission of experts that meets regularly — and has often sought to escalate it. As a result, the World Bank appointed a neutral expert, but Pakistan pushed for the case to be heard at The Hague. India has objected to this sequencing, as it believes that each step should be fully exhausted before moving on to the next. While India was able to prevail over the World Bank to pause the process in 2016, Pakistan persisted, and since March 2022, the World Bank has agreed to have both a neutral expert and a Court of Arbitration (CoA) hear the arguments. India attended the hearings with the neutral expert last year, but has decided to boycott the CoA at The Hague that began its hearing on Friday. New Delhi says as talks have hit a dead-end, it wants the entire treaty to be opened up for amendments and renegotiations. India's accusations against Pakistan may be valid, given that Islamabad has failed to provide material evidence of the two projects hampering its water supply. The World Bank's decision to hold two parallel adjudication processes is also perilous as there could be contradictory rulings. However, opening up the treaty for review has its own problems that India must deliberate on with a cool mind.

To begin with, the Indus Waters Treaty that decided the distribution of the six tributaries of the Indus or Sindhu between the two nations took nearly a decade to negotiate originally before its signing in 1960. Built in were mechanisms for coordination and dispute resolution that have held the treaty in good stead for at least half a century, and it has often been used as a template between upper riparian and lower riparian states worldwide. That it has endured despite conflict and political rhetoric between India and Pakistan is a testament to its text. In addition, if India and Pakistan have not been able to resolve issues over one case in their Indus Commission talks over 16 years, what guarantees are there that they can renegotiate the whole treaty within any reasonable time-frame? At a time when there is no political dialogue, trade and air or rail connectivity between them, reopening negotiations could open a new flank for India-Pakistan confrontation.

The Hindu

Mushtaq Hurra

“
Only a man in the government services is considered worthy of being an eligible suitor. Why is this the case? Honour and dignity are not restricted to Sarkari jobs. A labourer toiling hard to earn his livelihood through legitimate means, is far better than a government employee who evades his assigned work or goes for illegitimate ways to earn extra bucks

A Suitable Boy

JAMMU and Kashmir in general, and Kashmir valley in particular is known across the globe for its picturesque beauty, pleasant weather, rich biodiversity, unparalleled hospitality and uncluttered social setup. But, of late, the erstwhile border state of the Indian republic is grabbing headlines for diabolical reasons. From drastic climate changes to our cultural dilution, the quondam state of India is confronting swingeing social issues which have not only assumed dangerous proportions but have lacerated our social health. Consequently, our fragile social fabric is torn and stained.

Since marriage is the most important institution of human societies, fiddling with it and setting new standards for it, have blemished our great cultural ethos and legacy. The social health of the valley is not all well. Many evils which were considered alien to us, have now crept into our social system.

It is shocking to learn that no metropolitan city, no industrially advanced state or union territory of India but Jammu and Kashmir tops the list of unmarried youth in the entire country. According to reports, the number of both male and female never-married youth has considerably gone past 29% during the last decade. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's 'Youth in India 2022' study, Jammu and Kashmir has a higher percentage of 29.1 percent of young people (aged up to 29 years) who are not married compared to the national average. According to the most recent study, it is the highest percentage reported by any state or union territory in India.

The above figures are alarming, appalling and a matter of concern for us all. Something is terribly wrong with our social setup. Contrary to our ancestors and forefathers, we have probably set difficult benchmarks and standards for our marriages and married lives. Extravaganza and lavish spending has deepened the crisis. In contrast to our beautiful old traditions and teachings, we have infused materialism into the veins and arteries of



our youth. We often see everything through the prism of materialism.

For instance, we prioritise earning men for nuptials. That's the minimum eligibility and is justified to some extent. However, in Kashmir, this has assumed more stringent forms. Only a man in the government services is considered worthy of being an eligible suitor. Why is this the case? Honour and dignity are not restricted to Sarkari jobs. A labourer toiling hard to earn his livelihood through legitimate means, is far better than a government employee who evades his assigned work or goes for illegitimate ways to earn extra bucks. We haven't stopped here. Infact, women without government jobs are not considered for marital matches now. I pity this mindset!

This perception has been a stumbling block in our social renaissance. Now, if the earning men are made a benchmark, it should not be synonymous to government services and luxurious lifestyle only. Hefty and heavy amounts as wages should not be the yardstick to measure one's earnings. Ways and means must be fair though the amount is meagre and scanty.

Happy and prosperous married life is

not subject to swanky ways of life. Here, I am reminded of an anecdote of Ali and Fatima's (RA) marriage. When Fatima Binti Moham-mad (SAW) was about to leave for her in-laws home, prophet Muhammad (SAW) went to bid farewell to His most beloved daughter. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) witnessed melancholic symbols on her daughter's face, and said, "O the light of my eyes! Are you dejected and sad because Ali is very poor? Wallah! There is no parallel of Ali (RA) in the entire Arab. Fatima (RA) bowed her head down, and didn't open her mouth. And it is pertinent to mention here that Ali (RA) had no house of his own. But, still, prophet Muhammad (SAW), preferred Ali (RA) as the groom of Fatima (RA).

Marriage, a few decades ago, was considered a fundamental religious obligation and was easy to solemnise. But, now, the very thought of marriage sends shivers down the spine of people. Commoners don't want to marry off their sons and daughters prior to their safe induction into government services. Our marriages are restricted to government jobs, mansion type houses and plenty of dowry. Our young people are

excessively obsessed with government jobs because they have been programmed to weigh their lives in terms of material achievements. Our youth is mad after it. I wonder if degrees, diplomas and certificates have really educated us at all! Education is not all about fetching us a government job. Our education has infatuated us more than enlightening us.

Preferring people with government jobs for marital knots over those who earn through other means, has worsened the situation. With the growing number of unmarried youth, we are caught up in serious social conundrum. The growing number of unmarried youth is not just confined to the number of married and unmarried people, but it has caused ripples in our society, and its repercussions have taken an ugly turn. When marriages are made difficult, cohabitation and fornication prevail like dirt. Incidence of rape attempts and molestation bids have awfully increased. Immorality and indecency among youth has terribly shot up. Thousands of girls have crossed the marriageable ages. Young people have fallen prey to substance abuse. Infertility among married couples is rapidly increasing. Thousands are seen circumambulating clinics and diagnostic labs. Yet, we consider ourselves prosperous, wise and advanced. Our materialistic perspective regarding marriages must change, otherwise we may end up worse than savages and beasts.

Now, the onus is on us all. We must educate our masses about the ill effects of the menace. We should take concrete steps to nip the evil in the bud. Our clerics and scholars should edify people to make our social fabric immaculately clean. Youth, particularly educated ones must set glaring examples of courage to curb the peril of late marriages.

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

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All that Glitters is Litter

Today's glitter is a combination of plastic and aluminium. Frequently found in well-known makeup products is glitter. Wrapping paper, holiday decorations, greeting cards, craft projects, and even personal cosmetics all contain glitters, which are clingy, scintillating specks. Glitter made of plastic is probably present in almost anything that glitters. Due to their small size, glitter particles are regarded as micro-plastics, a significant contributor to soil, air, and ocean pollution. Studies explain that glitter is notoriously difficult to clean up due to its small size and

propensity to produce a lot of static cling. The sparkly stuff in our homes and the surroundings is nearly impossible to eradicate due to its tenacious nature. And because these tiny plastic particles can take hundreds of years to decompose, every piece of glitter ever produced is still in existence. The eye-catching shimmer of a substance like water, glass, or precious metal was referred to as glitter for centuries. The plastic is metalized on both sides by applying ultrafine layers of aluminium, which gives the glitter its colour and bling factor. The plastic is made from sheets of both polyvinyl chloride and polyethylene terephthalate,

the same plastic found in water bottles. A third, thin layer of the plastic styrene acrylate is present in many types of glitter. However, secret formulas keep the ingredients used in glitter a secret inside the walls of the factories. The glitter is then removed from the sheets, mostly in the form of tiny, pointy hexagons. Glitter's tenacity explains its role in plastic pollution. Because most glitter is small from the start, it does not degrade and remains intact from the cradle to the grave. The majority of glitter ends up in the water bodies as a result of wastewater generated in our homes and landfill run-off. Because marine organisms, such as fish, can-

not distinguish the tiny synthetic bits from their natural food supply, microplastic has become one of the world's most prolific and intractable pollutants. As these plastics bioaccumulate in the food chain, humans end up consuming enough plastic to fill a credit card every week, primarily through the water we drink and the sea-food we eat. According to the findings, glitter may play a larger role in microplastic pollution than previously thought, particularly in terms of soil health. so outlaw of glitters is badly needed.

Vijay Kumar

ON WORLD WETLAND DAY

Of Migratory Birds, Poaching, Wetlands: A Chat With Wildlife Warden

Auqib Javed

Some 11 lakh migratory birds are likely to visit the Kashmir valley in year 2022-23, following the start of the seasonal avian arrival this past October.

"We're likely to receive around 11 lakh migratory birds till early next year," says Ifshan Dewan, Wildlife Warden Wetlands. "This is a sign of Kashmir being a favorable place for the avian guests."

Migratory birds start coming in the month of October and stay in the valley till ending March. Last year, the warden said, the "same number"—11 lakhs—of avian birds arrived in the valley.

But the wetlands woes and poaching problems continue to pose a fatal danger.

"There's tranquility in Kashmir wetlands right now due to wildlife vigilant efforts," Ifshan says. "But we cannot say that poaching has completely stopped."

In a chat with Kashmir Observer, the wildlife warden talks about the ongoing flutter in the wetlands of the valley.

A group of NGOs lately visited the Hygam wetland and reported non-sighting of migratory birds there. Isn't this a matter of serious concern?

No, it's their viewpoint. As per our information, there're around sixty thousand birds present there. All of them are migratory birds.

The NGOs you're talking about went in a hurry and denied the presence of migratory birds. This is not based on facts.



When do migratory birds usually visit Kashmir valley?

Migratory birds start coming in the month of October and stay in the valley till March.

How many migratory birds are expected to come this year?

Last year, we hosted around 11 lakh birds. I presume it must be the same number this time around as well.

But then, the migratory birds left Kashmir early last year. Has your department taken any initiatives to make their long journey a source of comfort in the valley?

See, migration is a very vast—and yet

a least researched—subject worldwide. The migratory birds have their own set procedures. They follow their own time period, just like they did last year.

When they arrive in the valley, we take all necessary measures to make their stay comfortable. But when they decide to leave, they leave. You cannot stop them.

But what steps have you taken to stop poaching?

We've local volunteers and informers alerting and updating us about the situation. Based on their tipoff, we depute teams to the sites of violation and seize hunting devices from poachers.

Due to this hyper-vigilance, the order has been restored in many wetlands. Someone living nearby the Hokarsar

wetland told me lately that they no longer hear gunshots ringing around. But despite this difference, we can't say that poaching has been completely stopped.

But has any poacher been arrested this year?

No, but our teams are monitoring the situation and doing everything needed to maintain the order.

Is it true that the wildlife department is developing eco-spots for migratory birds?

Yes, in Hokarsar wetland, we've already developed an eco-spot for migratory birds. The same will be done for Hygam and Shalbugh.

But then, the condition of wetlands remains worrisome?

See, we're intensifying the initiatives to protect wetlands. We're developing eco-spots, eateries and parks for sightseers with an active public involvement. The aim is to engage locals and help them grow economically.

However, our main focus is on eco-restoration. We're deploying machinery and are reviving channels. We're axing the illegally-planted trees and retrieving a lot of land.

But won't these wetland works affect the ongoing migration?

No, not at all. In fact, the area under migratory birds is spreading. At Hokarsar, at least 40,000 birds are present. The number of avian guests is also increasing in Soibugh and other areas. So, there is no disturbance.

But then, again, some areas of wetlands are without water?

Wetland ecology is another subject. It's not like Dal or Wular lake. Different birds need different types of wetlands. We're taking steps against siltation especially after the 2014 floods.

The article is being reproduced on the occasion of World Wetlands Day



“WE'RE DEVELOPING ECO-SPOTS, EATERIES AND PARKS FOR SIGHTSEERS with an active public involvement. The aim is to engage locals and help them grow economically. However, our main focus is on eco-restoration. We're deploying machinery and are reviving channels. We're axing the illegally-planted trees and retrieving a lot of land.”



The Science in Fatherhood

Jo Adetunji

The time fathers devote to child care every week has tripled over the past 50 years in the United States. The increase in fathers' involvement in child rearing is even steeper in countries that have expanded paid paternity leave or created incentives for fathers to take leave, such as Germany, Spain, Sweden and Iceland. And a growing body of research finds that children with engaged fathers do better on a range of outcomes, including physical health and cognitive performance.

Despite dads' rising participation in child care and their importance in the lives of their kids, there is surprisingly little research about how fatherhood affects men. Even fewer studies focus on the brain and biological changes that might support fathering.

It is no surprise that the transition to parenthood can be transformative for anyone with a new baby. For women who become biological mothers, pregnancy-related hormonal changes help to explain why a new mother's brain might change. But does fatherhood reshape the brains and bodies of men – who don't experience pregnancy directly – in ways that motivate their parenting? We set out to investigate this question in our recent study of first-time fathers in two countries.

Pregnancy's effect on a new mom's brain

Recent research has found compelling evidence that pregnancy can enhance neuroplasticity, or remodeling, in the structures of a woman's brain. Using magnetic resonance imaging, researchers have identified large-scale changes in the anatomy of women's brains from before to after pregnancy.

In one study, researchers in Spain scanned first-time mothers before conceiving, and again at two months after they gave birth. Compared with childless women, the new mothers' brain volume was smaller, suggesting that key brain structures actually shrank in size across pregnancy and the early postpartum period. The brain changes were so pronounced that an algorithm could easily differentiate the brain of a woman who had gone through a pregnancy from that of a woman with no children.

All across the brain, these changes are visible in gray matter, the layer of tissue in the brain that is rich with neurons. Pregnancy appears to affect structures in the cortex – the most recently evolved, outer surface of the brain – including regions linked with thinking about others' minds, a process that researchers call "theory of mind." Mothers also show brain changes in the subcortex – the more ancient structures nestled deeper within the brain that are linked with more primitive functions, including emotion and motivation.

Why do these structural brain changes happen after pregnancy?

Researchers believe these brain changes may facilitate mothers' sensitive caregiving of newborns, who demand constant attention and cannot verbalize their needs. Indeed, when mothers see photos or videos of their own infants, it activates many of the same brain regions that changed the most across pregnancy. It seems plausible that new mothers' brains change in ways that help them to respond to and care for their newborns.

But what about fathers? They do not experience pregnancy directly, but may take care of the new baby, too.

Dads' brains change, too. As with practicing any new skill, the experience of caring for an infant might leave a mark on the brains of new parents. This is what neuroscientists call experience-induced brain plasticity – like the brain changes that occur when you learn a new language or master a new musical instrument.

A sparse but growing body of research is observing this type of plasticity in fathers who experience the cognitive, physical and emotional demands of caring for a newborn without going through pregnancy. In terms of brain function, for instance, gay male fathers who are primary caregivers show stronger connections between parenting brain regions when viewing their infants, compared with secondary male caregivers.

To learn more about plasticity in new

dads' brains, our research groups at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and the Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Gregorio Marañón in Madrid, associated with the BeMother project, collaborated on a new study. We recruited 40 men – 20 in Spain and 20 in California – and put each into an MRI scanner twice: first during their partner's pregnancy, and again after their baby was 6 months old. We also included a control group of 17 childless men.

We found several significant changes in the brains of fathers from prenatal to postpartum that did not emerge within the childless men we followed across the same time period. In both the Spanish and Californian samples, fathers' brain changes appeared in regions of the cortex that contribute to visual processing, attention and empathy toward the baby.

What remolds a new father's brain?

The degree of brain plasticity in fathers may be linked with how much they interact with their baby. Although fathers in many parts of the world are increasingly taking part in child care, paternal involvement varies widely across different men. This range of involvement may explain why we found more subtle brain changes in these fathers compared with those observed in first-time mothers. In fact, brain changes in fathers were almost half the magnitude of the

changes observed in the mothers.

Social, cultural and psychological factors that determine how much fathers engage with their children may, in turn, influence changes to the fathering brain. Indeed, Spanish fathers, who, on average, have more generous paternity leaves than fathers have in the U.S., displayed more pronounced changes in brain regions that support goal-directed attention, which may help fathers attune to their infants' cues, compared with Californian fathers.

This finding raises the question of whether family policies that boost how much time dads spend on infant care during the early postpartum period may help support the development of the fathering brain. On the flip side, perhaps men who show more remodeling of the brain and hormones are also more motivated to participate in hands-on care.

Much more research is needed to tease out these questions and to figure out how best to intervene with fathers who may be at risk of having trouble adjusting to the parenting role. Despite the importance of fathers to child development, funding agencies have not tended to prioritize research on men becoming dads, but this may start to change as more findings like these emerge. Future studies with more detailed measures of postpartum caregiving can reveal more about parental brain plasticity in both men and women.

By arrangements with The Conversation

New Biomaterial Can Reduce Tissue Inflammation, May Repair Tissue Damage From Heart Attack

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have developed a new biomaterial that can be injected intravenously, reduces inflammation in tissue and that could be used to repair the damage to cardiac tissue resulting from a heart attack.

The researchers at the University of California (UC) San Diego, US, also provided proof of concept in a rodent model that the biomaterial could be beneficial to patients with traumatic brain injury and pulmonary arterial hypertension, the study said.

The biomaterial was tested and proven effective in treating tissue damage caused by heart attacks in both rodent and large animal models, according to the study.

"This biomaterial allows for treating damaged tissue from the inside out," said Karen Christman, a professor at UC San Diego, and

the lead researcher on the team that developed the material.

"It's a new approach to regenerative engineering," said Christman.

A study on the safety and efficacy of the biomaterial in human subjects could start within one to two years, Christman said.

The study is published in the journal Nature Biomedical Engineering.

After a heart attack, scar tissue develops, which diminishes muscle function and can lead to congestive heart failure. There is no established treatment for repairing the resulting damage to cardiac tissue that follows a heart attack.

"Coronary artery disease, acute myocardial infarction, and congestive heart failure continue to be the most burdensome public health problems affecting our society today," said Dr. Ryan R. Reeves, a physician in the UC San Diego Division of Cardiovascular Medicine.

"As an interventional cardiologist, who treats patients with coronary artery disease and congestive heart failure on a daily basis, I would love to have another therapy to improve patient outcomes and reduce debilitating symptoms," said Reeves.

The team wanted to develop a treatment that could be administered immediately after a heart attack. This meant developing a biomaterial that could be infused into a blood vessel in the heart at the same time as other treatments such as angioplasty or a stent, or injected intravenously, the study said.

"We sought to design a biomaterial therapy that could be delivered to difficult-to-access organs and tissues, and we came up with the method to take advantage of the bloodstream - the vessels that already supply blood to these organs and tissues," said Martin Spang, the paper's first author.

According to the study, one advantage of the

new biomaterial is that it gets evenly distributed throughout damaged tissue, because it is infused or injected intravenously.

Researchers in Christman's lab started with the hydrogel they developed, which was proven to be compatible with blood injections as part of safety trials. But the particle size in the hydrogel was too big to target leaky blood vessels, the study said.

Spang, then a PhD student in Christman's lab, solved this issue by putting the liquid precursor of the hydrogel through a centrifuge, which allowed for sifting out bigger particles and keeping only nano-sized particles, the study said.

The resulting material was put through dialysis and sterile filtering before being freeze dried. Adding sterile water to the final powder results in a biomaterial that can be injected intravenously or infused into a coronary artery in the heart, the study said.

Researchers then tested the biomaterial on a rodent model of heart attacks. They expected the material to pass through the blood vessels and into the tissue because gaps develop between endothelial cells in blood vessels after a heart attack, the study said.

But something else happened.

The biomaterial bound to those cells, closing the gaps and accelerating healing of the blood vessels, reducing inflammation as a result. Researchers tested the biomaterial in a porcine model of heart attack as well, with similar results, the study said.

The team also successfully tested the hypothesis that the same biomaterial could help target other types of inflammation in rat models of traumatic brain injury and pulmonary arterial hypertension. Christman's lab will undertake several preclinical studies for these conditions, the study said.

Scientists Working To Increase Shelf Life Of Millets-Based Products, Validate Health Benefits

Press Trust Of India

After putting Indian millets on the global stage, scientists are working on ways to increase the shelf life of products made from the coarse grains without compromising on the nutritional value.

Scientists at Mysuru-based CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI) are also working on validating the numerous health benefits attributed to millets as they make a comeback as superfoods.

Millets have an active enzyme called lipase that reduces the shelf-life of millet-based products by giving off-odours and rancidity, Sridevi Annapurna Singh, Director, CSIR-CFTRI told PTI here.

She said scientists at CFTRI are now working on methods and processes to inactivate the lipase enzyme in millets, which could enhance their shelf life.

Some food processors remove the outer layers of millet that takes away the fibre and minerals of the coarse grains.

But, it should not become devoid of vitamins and minerals and be left with only starch and a little bit of protein. We are working at CFTRI on increasing the shelf life of millets without compromising on the nutritional value, Singh said.

She said scientists are also working on



validating the efficacy of millets, which are known to have immense health benefits.

We have anecdotal versions on the efficacy of millets that were handed down by our grandparents. But we do not know the active component and how it acts. Till such time we do not validate .. we cannot put a health claim to that, Singh said.

Consumption of millets is known to benefit diabetics, but it is still not known how it works and this can be achieved through research and development.

We have to isolate the bioactive components that are responsible for health benefits. We have to ascertain at what concentration it works and we are working towards that at CFTRI, Singh said.

The United Nations has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets to spread awareness about millets a more affordable, sustainable, and nutritious alternative to cereals such as rice and wheat.

India is one of the leading producers of millets in the world with an estimated share of around 41 per cent in the global production.

India's top five millet producing states are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

India's major millet exporting countries are UAE, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Oman, Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, the UK and the US.

The varieties of millets exported by India include Bajra, Ragi, Canary, Jowar, and Buckwheat.

Government of jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Principal Government Medical College Baramulla

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF BOOKS TO CENTRAL LIBRARYGMC BARMULLA

.E-Tender reference No: 02-GMCB of 2023, Dated: 31-01-2023

On behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, e- tenders are invited through Principal, Government Medical College Baramulla for as per the **Annexure “A”** to this tender notice from **firms/companies** for supply of Books to Central Library **Government Medical College** against the terms and conditions laid down in our tender document. The tender document can be downloaded from the website **www.gmcbaramulla.com** and **www.jktenders.gov.in** or can be collected from the office of **Procurement Office GMC Baramulla w.e.f. 31-01-2023 to 15-02-2023.**

The tender details and schedules as per following

Item Description	Tender Fee	EMD
Supply of Books to Central Library Govt. Medical College Baramulla	1,000/-	1,00,000/-

Date & Time of release of bid	31-01-2023(04:00PM)
Last date for entertaining any clarification/representation	02-02-2023(09:00AM)
Online bid submission start date	02-02-2023(09:00AM)
Last date for submission of online bids	15-02-2023(09:00AM)
Opening of Technical bids	15-02-2023(11:00AM)

Any query to clear can be done through email id on principalmedicalcollegebla@gmail.com. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders received or cancel the whole tendering process without assigning any reason thereof.

“Annexure A”

Tender Reference No: 02-GMCB of 2023 Supply of Books to Central Library GMC Baramulla

S No.	Name of the Book	Author	QTY.
1.	Cunningham's manual of practical anatomy vol.1	Rachel koshi	10
2.	Cunningham's manual of practical anatomy vol.2	Rachel koshi.	10
3.	Cunningham's manual of practical anatomy vol.3	Rachel koshi..	10
4.	Textbook of anatomy vol.3	Vishram singh	10
5.	Grays anatomy	Standring	05
6.	Bd chaurasia's human anatomy vol.1	Chaurasia	10
7.	Bd chaurasia's human anatomy vol.2	Chaurasia.	10
8.	Bd chaurasia's human anatomy vol.3	Chaurasia..	10
9.	Bd chaurasia's human anatomy vol.4	Chaurasiaa	10
10.	Human anatomy regional and clinical vol.1	A.Halim	10
11.	Human anatomy regional and clinical vol.2	A.Halim.	10
12.	Human anatomy regional and clinical vol.3	A.Halim..	10
13.	Tandon's textbook of human anatomy vol. 1	Dr.BK Tandon	10
14.	Tandon's textbook of human anatomy vol 2	Dr.BK Tandon.	10
15.	Self-assessment and review of anatomy	K.kaushal	10
16.	Grants atlas of anatomy	Anne M R Agur	05
17.	Medical physiology for undergraduates students	Indu khurana	10
18.	Physiology prep manual for undergraduates	V d joshi	10
19.	Ross and wilson anatomy and physiology	Anne Waugh	10
20.	Concise textbook of physiology	Khuranaa	10
21.	Essentials of medical physiology	k Sembulingam	10
22.	Basics of medical physiology	D.venkatesh	10
23.	Guyton & hall textbook of medical physiology	John e hall	10
24.	Best & Taylors physiological basis of medical practice	O P Tandon	10
25.	Essentials of human physiology	Chandrani sanyal	15
26.	Comprehensive textbook of medical physiology	G k paul	10
27.	Textbook of physiology vol.1	Dr.A K Jain	10
28.	Textbook of physiology vol. 2	Dr.A K Jain.	10
29.	Ghai's textbook of practical physiology	Vp varshney	20
30.	Textbook of medical physiology	Indu khurana.	10
31.	Textbook of biochemistry for medical students	Vasudevan	10
32.	Voets biochemistry	Voet	10
33.	Practical biochemistry	Rajagopala	20
34.	Ambika shammugms biochemistry for medical students	K Rama devi	20
35.	Fundamentals of biochemistry	Rambabu	20
36.	Textbook of biochemistry	Rambabu.	20
37.	Case studies in clinical biochemistry	Michaal j murphy	10
38.	Textbook of medical biochemistry	Dinesh Puuri	10
39.	Textbook of medical biochemistry	Harold senfey	10
40.	Illustrated practical biochemistry	Sabhiya Majid	20
41.	Pandemic solutions how to fight covid 19 and other corona viruses	Christy lopez	10
42.	Principles and techniques of biochemistry and molecular biology	Keith Wilson	10
43.	Essentials of medical pharmacology	K d Tripathi	10
44.	Medical pharmacology	Padmaja Udaykumar	20
45.	Textbook of pharmacology	Prasan R bhandri	20
46.	Textbook of pharmacology and therapeutics	Prcy Louis platy	15
47.	Textbook of clinical pharmacy practice: essential concepts and skill	Parthasarath	10
48.	CBME essential of practical pharmacology	Ajoy borah	20
49.	Activity book of medical pharmacology (CBME Curriculum)	P.k.sharma	20
50.	Pharmacotherapy a pathophysiologic approach	Joseph diporo	02
51.	A complete textbook of medical pharmacology	S.K.Srivastava	20
52.	Pharmacology for MBBS	S.K.Srivastava.	10
53.	Pharmacology essentials	Harsh joshi	15
54.	Rang and dayle's pharmacology	H.P.Rang	10
55.	A manual on clinical surgery	S Das	10
56.	SRB'S clinical method in surgery	Sriram Bhat	10
57.	Farquaharson's textbook of operative general surgery	Holling head	03
58.	Manipal manual of surgery	Raigopal shinoy	10
59.	Recent advances in surgery	Roshan lal gupta	05
60.	Smiths urology	Smith	4
61.	Handbook of surgery	Jain	10
62.	Panikar's textbook of medical parasitology as per the competency based medical education curriculum	Sujata josh	10
63.	Lange clinical cases microbiology	Toy	10
64.	Textbook of microbiology	Surinder kumar	10
65.	Kuby immunology	Punt	03
66.	Essential sof medical microbiology	Apurba sankar	10
67.	Essentials of medical parasitology	Apurba sankar.	10
68.	Essentials of practical microbiology	Apurba sankar..	10
69.	Review of microbiology and immunology	Apurba sankar...	10
70.	Diagnostic bacteriology a study guide	Bartelt	10
71.	Complete microbiology for MBBS	Baveja c.p	10
72.	Lippincot's illustrated review of immunology	Doan	05
73.	Clinical microbiology made ridiculously simple	Gladwin mark	10
74.	Lippincott's illustrated reviews microbiology	Harvey	05
75.	Anantnaraan and panikars textbook of microbiology	Reba kanungo	10
76.	Medical parasitology a self instructional text	Leventhal	10
77.	Microns microbiology simplified	Malathi Murugesan	10
78.	Practicals in microbiology	Mandeepa Sengupta	10

THE ANNEXURE B	Atlas of nasal cytology	Gelardi	03
120.	Cummingsahs review of otolaryngology	Lin	03
121.	Ear surgery otitis surgery text and atlas	Narayana	10
122.	Otolaryngology at the eleventh hour	Mishra	25
123.	Comprehensive ophthalmology	A k khurana	10
124.	Theory & practice of optics & refraction	Ak khurana..	10
125.	Parason's diseases of eye	Ramanjit silota	10
126.	Anatomy & physiology of eye	Ak khuranaa...	10
127.	Basic ophthalmology	Renu jogi	10
128.	Starabismus simplied	Pradeep sharma	10
129.	Ophthalmology clinics for post graduates	Prafulla kumar	05
130.	Clinical examination in ophthalmology	Pk mukharjee	05
131.	Essentials of ophthalmology	Samar k basak	10
132.	Recent advances in ophthalmology	Hb neema	10
133.	Disorders of lens & cataract surgery	Ak khurana	10
134.	Clinical methods in ophthalmology	Dadapeer -k	10
135.	Exam prepatory manual for undergraduates ophthalmology	K moham raj	10
136.	Basics and clinical ophthalmology	Nitin neema	10
137.	Manual of ophthalmic diagnosis	E ahmad	05
138.	Profile & management of ocular trauma	Ak khurana	10
139.	Handbook of ophthalmology	Lp agarwal	10
140.	Exam prepatory manual for undergraduates pathology	K Ramanarayan	05
141.	Textbook of pathology	Harash Mohan	05
142.	Concise pathology for exam preparation	Geetika khana	10
143.	Review of pathology and genetics	Gobind rai garg	05
144.	Essentials of hematology	Kawthalkar	05
145.	The Washington manual of surgical pathology	Amrit kaur	05
146.	Essentials of medical parasitology	Apurba s sastry	10
147.	Clinical pathology hematology & blood banking	Nanda Maheshwari	10
148.	Textbook of pathology for postgraduate students	Sandhya Sundaram	10
149.	Textbook of pathology for allied health sciences	Ramadas nayak	10
150.	Review of pathology	Nitin chawla	10
151.	Histopathology techniques & its management	Ramadas Nayak	05
152.	Robins basic pathology	Kumar Abbas	05
153.	Community medicine practical manual	Rajkumar Patil	10
154.	Community medicine with recent advances	Ah suryakantha	05
155.	Essentials of community medicine a practical approach	D A hiremath	10
156.	Review of preventive & social medicine	Vivek jain	10
157.	Textbook of community medicine	Rajvir bhalwar	10
158.	Epidemiology principles & practice	Susmita Bhattacharya	10
159.	A short book of public health	V k Muthu	10
160.	Short textbook of preventive & social medicine	G n prabhakara	10

THE ANNEXURE C	Textbook of community & social pediatrics	SR Banerjee	05
162.	DK Taneja's health policies & programmes in India	Bratati Banerjee	10
163.	The essentials of forensic medicine and toxicology	Reddy	10
164.	Forensic pathology principles and practice	Dolmak	02
165.	Forensic science in criminal investigation and trials	Sharma	04
166.	A guide to laboratory investigations	Meghee	04
167.	A textbook of medical jurisprudence and toxicology	Kannan	05
168.	Essentials of forensic medicine and toxicology	Chand	10
169.	Forensic medicine nothing beyond for PGMEE	Magendran j	10
170.	Guide to forensic pathology	Dix	05
171.	Parikh's textbook of medical jurisprudence, forensic medicine and toxicology for classrooms and courtrooms	Subrahminiam	10
172.	Company law manual	NA	05
173.	Forensic medicine and toxicology for MBBS	Anil agarwal	10
174.	Forensic medicine solved question papers	Singi	10
175.	A textbook of medical jurisprudence and toxicology	Modi	04
176.	Essentials of forensic medicine and toxicology	Prasad	10
177.	Forensic medicine, prep manual for undergraduates	Babu	10
178.	Singhal's forensic medicine and jurisprudence	Singhal	10
179.	Singhal's toxicology at a glance	Singhal.	10
180.	Textbook of forensic medicine and toxicology	Pillay	10
181.	A textbook of medical jurisprudence and toxicology	Modi and kannan	04

DIPK-16898/22

dated: 01-02-2023

Sd/-

Principal/Dean

Govt. Medical College,

Baramulla

Fuel Subsidies Are Back: Oil Cos To Get Rs 30,000 Cr For Holding Petrol, Diesel Prices

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Union Budget for 2023-24 will dole out Rs 30,000 crore to state-owned fuel retailers to make up for the massive losses they ran because of holding petrol and diesel prices despite rise in cost in a bid to help the government contain inflation.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has allocated the money under the head "capital support to oil marketing companies". It offered no explanation why the blue chip, cash rich oil PSUs should need capital support.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) haven't changed petrol and diesel prices since April 6, 2022, despite input crude oil prices rising from USD 102.97 per barrel that month to USD 116.01 per barrel in June and falling to USD 80.92 per barrel this month.

Holding prices when input cost was higher than retail selling prices led to the three firms posting net earnings loss. They posted a combined net loss of Rs 21,201.18 crore during April-September despite accounting for Rs 22,000 crore announced but not paid LPG subsidy for past two years.



That freeze had led to record high losses of Rs 17.4 per litre on petrol and Rs 27.7 a litre diesel for the week ended June 24, 2022. However subsequent softening led to losses on petrol being eliminated and diesel coming down to Rs 10-11 a litre. Retail rates haven't been changed when oil prices well to help the oil companies recoup the massive Rs 50,000 crore under-recovery they ran for holding prices.

Sabyasachi Majumdar, Senior Vice President & Group Head - Corporate Ratings, ICRA Limited, said the budgetary allocation towards capital support to oil marketing companies (OMCs) is Rs 30,000 crore as against the industry's ask of Rs 50,000 crore to compensate for losses incurred on the sale of auto fuels and LPG.

"The Government of India in October 2022, approved a one-time grant of Rs 22,000 crore to PSU OMCs for losses incurred on the sale of LPG which only partially compensates for the losses incurred," he said.

TV Prices To Be Reduced By Rs 3,000 As Govt Cuts Down Custom Duty On Imported Parts



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Locally manufactured television sets will become cheaper by up to Rs 3,000 with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday announcing reduction in basic customs duty (BCD) on imported parts to 2.5 per cent from 5 per cent. The reduction of customs duty on parts of open cells will help to effectively reduce the price of TVs by around 5 per cent, according to some industry players.

Open cell panels account for over 60-70 per cent of the cost of manufacturing LED TV sets. Most TV makers import these panels.

In her Budget speech, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said "... to promote value addition in the manufacture of televisions, I propose to reduce the basic customs duty on parts of open cells of TV panels to 2.5 per cent." Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) President Eric Braganza said this move will help to increase the domestic value addition and

growth of the sector.

"This is a good step for the industry and a fillip for domestic manufacturing. Most of the manufacturers will extend the benefits to the consumers," he said. Super Plastronic Pvt Ltd (SSPL), which has licences for international brands including Blaupunkt, Thomson, Kodak and White-Westinghouse - for the Indian market, said a reduction of customs duty to 2.5 per cent will reduce the final price of the TV set by 5 per cent.

"This is a welcoming move by the government of India to reduce customs duty on the open cell to 2.5 per cent, we will pass this benefit to customers. Television prices can come down up to Rs 3,000 on larger screens," said SPPL CEO and founder Avneet Singh Marwah. Sony India Managing Director Sunil Nayyar said: "The newly announced reduction in basic customs duty for several television component imports is a big boost for the television industry. We welcome this budget in its entirety and we are optimistic about our future business plans in India."

Sitharaman Presents Budget Amid Applause, Chants Of 'Modi, Modi'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget speech on Wednesday was marked by the usual thumping of benches by the ruling alliance members, but the loud-est cheer was reserved for her announcement of income tax relief, which was welcomed by "Modi, Modi" chants in Lok Sabha that also witnessed a few instances of protest by the Opposition.

Sitharaman's follow-up statement that the tax relief will only be available to those opting for the new regime might have dampened spirits, but another round of applause from the treasury benches came when she announced a massive 33 per cent hike in the capital expenditure to Rs 10 lakh crore.

The treasury benches frequently broke into chants of "Modi Modi".

Congress members welcomed their former president Rahul Gandhi with the slogan of 'Jodo, Jodo, Bharat Jodo' when he entered Lok Sabha a few minutes after Sitharaman had started her speech.

Some Opposition voices also shouted "Adani Adani", a reference to the controversy following an adverse report from a short-selling firm against the corporate czar's conglomerate.

Many ministers, some tightly squeezed into their seats to accommodate others as the



ruling alliance members were present in the full strength, and a few Opposition members were seen making notes during the speech.

If Gandhi was a few minutes late, actor-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha, now a Trinamool Congress MP, arrived over 50 minutes later.

The one opposition member who rose a few times to lodge protest was Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the Leader of the Congress in the House. However, his lone voice was often drowned out by the treasury benches as the finance minister continued her speech.

The Lok Sabha chamber witnessed camaraderie before the House assembled for the day with National Conference members Farooq Abdullah and Hasnain Masoodi having a chat with Home Minister Amit Shah.

Sitharaman was wearing a red Pochampally saree with a black border, a weave of Telangana, with kasuti embroidery

which is a speciality of Karnataka, the state she represents in the Rajya Sabha.

She was welcomed with a huge round of applause by the treasury benches and was seen taking out her tablet PC from the red coloured bahi-khata pouch with a golden coloured national emblem on it.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi walked in shortly before 11:00 am, welcomed by the chants of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai'.

Soon after, Congress Parliamentary Party chief Sonia Gandhi, draped in a black saree with pink border, walked in the House with deputy leader Gaurav Gogoi in tow.

A bearded Rahul Gandhi entered the Lok Sabha with Congress members chanting Jodo, Jodo, Bharat Jodo' after Sitharaman.

The Congress members' action left several ministers and BJP members visibly irritated, but Sitharaman continued with her speech calmly.

Budget: Health Sector Allocation Sees 13% Hike; Mission To Eliminate Sick Cell Anaemia Announced

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The health sector has been allocated Rs 89,155 crore in the Union Budget 2023-24, a hike of around 13 per cent over Rs 79,145 crore allocated in 2022-23, with the government also announcing a mission to eliminate sickle cell anaemia by 2047.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for 2023-24 on Wednesday and said 157 new nursing colleges will be established in co-location with the existing 157 medical colleges established since 2014.

"A mission to eliminate sickle cell anaemia by 2047 will be launched. It will entail awareness creation, universal screening of 7 crore people in the age group of 0-40 years in affected tribal areas, and counselling through collaborative efforts of central ministries and state governments," she said.



The finance minister said facilities in select Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) laboratories will be made available for research by public and private medical college faculty members and private sector research and development teams for encouraging collaborative research and innovation.

The budget allocation for the AYUSH ministry has been increased from Rs 2,845.75 crore to Rs 3,647.50 crore, recording a 28 per cent increase.

Out of Rs 89,155 crore, Rs 86,175 crore has been allocated to the Department of Health and Family Welfare, while Rs 2,980 crore to the Department of Health Research.

From the new financial year, the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) has been bifurcated into two sub schemes, the first being the PMSSY itself and the second one is the establishment expenditure of 22 new AIIMS for which Rs 6,835 crore has been allocated.

The budget allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana for 2023-2024 is Rs 3,365 crore.

Among these central sector schemes, the budget allocation for the National Health Mission has been increased from Rs 28,974.29 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 29,085.26 crore in 2023-24, and for Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), it has been hiked from Rs 6,412 crore to Rs 7,200 crore.

The allocation for the National Digital Health Mission NHM has been increased from Rs 140 crore to Rs 341.02 crore.

Dulloo Reviews Progress On 'One Nation One Fertilizer' Scheme



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired a meeting to review progress on Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendra-PM-KSK (One Nation One Fertilizer) here at Civil Secretariat.

Directors Agriculture, Jammu and Kashmir, Director Law Enforcement, DBT Coordinator and representatives of fertilizer companies including CCFL, IF-FCO, IPL and NFL attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

Additional Chief Secretary was briefed about progress on implementation of PM-KSK in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dulloo took stock of present status of district and company

wise list of PM-KSK besides seeking details about districts allotted to fertilizer companies for developing PM-KSK in J&K and Ladakh UTs.

He was informed that four PM-KSK are already functional in different districts while more PMKSKs would be made functional in other districts soon.

He impressed upon the fertilizer companies to ensure that the work on other PMKSKs would be started soon while ensuring completion within stipulated timelines.

Dulloo asked the Fertilizer Companies to develop all the district HQ retailers as PM KSK as per guidelines given by the Department of Fertilizer, Government of India within the time frame ensuring all facilities at the outlets.

Highest-Ever Capital Outlay Of Rs 2.40 Lakh Crore For Railways In Budget

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The capital outlay for the railways has been increased to the highest-ever Rs 2.40 lakh crore in the Union Budget for 2023-24, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday.

Presenting the budget in Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said the outlay for the railways is nine times the amount provided in 2013-2014. She said 100 critical transport infrastructure projects for last- and first-mile connectivity for coal, fertiliser and food grain sectors have been identified and will be taken up on a priority basis with investment of Rs 75,000 crore, including Rs 15,000 crore from private sources, she said.

With increased passenger expectations, the railways is planning to refurbish more than 1,000 coaches of premier trains such as Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto, Humsafar and Tejas. The interiors of these coaches will be improved with a modern look and for enhanced passenger comfort.

A significant allocation is likely



to be made to replace old tracks as the railways plan to speed up trains and launch Vande Bharat Express in more destinations. Aimed at attracting tourists, the railways is proposing to manufacture 100 more Vistadome coaches.

In the budget, the government proposed to manufacture 35 hydrogen fuel-based trains, 4,500 newly designed automobile carrier coaches with side entry, 5,000 LHB coaches and 58,000 wagons.

The railways was allocated Rs 1.4 lakh crore in the Union Budget for 2022-23, of which Rs 1.37 lakh crore was earmarked for capital expenditure and Rs 3,267 lakh crore for revenue expenditure.

Gautam Adani Out Of Top 10 Richest List, Loses Asia Title

Reuters

BENGALURU: Billionaire Gautam Adani lost his title as Asia's richest person on Wednesday as his conglomerate plunged again in the wake of a US short-seller report.

Wednesday's stock losses saw Mr Adani slip to 15th on the Forbes rich list with an estimated net worth of \$76.8 billion.

Before the critical report by U.S. short-seller Hindenburg, Mr Adani had ranked third.

The rout has wiped out around \$92 billion of the value of the conglomerate's listed units since last week, Bloomberg News said. The industrialist's personal fortune has plummeted by more than \$40 billion in the same period.

The losses mark a dramatic setback for Mr Adani, whose business interests stretch from ports and airports to mining and cement. Now, the tycoon is fighting to stabilise his businesses and defend his reputation.

It comes just a day after the group managed to muster support from investors for a \$2.5 billion share sale for flagship firm Adani Enterprises on Tuesday, in what many saw as a stamp of investor confidence.

The report by Hindenburg Research last week alleged im-



proper use by the Adani Group of offshore tax havens and stock manipulation. It also raised concerns about high debt and the valuations of seven listed Adani companies.

The group has denied the allegations, saying the short-seller's narrative of stock manipulation has "no basis" and stems from an ignorance of Indian law. It has always made the necessary regulatory disclosures, it added.

Shares in Adani Enterprises, often described as the incubator of Adani businesses, plunged 30 per cent on Wednesday. Adani Power fell 5 per cent, while Adani Total Gas slumped 10 per cent, down by its daily price limit.

Adani Transmission was down 6 per cent and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone dropped 20 per cent.

Adani Total Gas, a joint venture with France's Total, has been the biggest casualty of the short seller report, losing about \$27 billion.

CS Flags Off Walkathon To Raise Public Consciousness About Paying Taxes



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Wednesday flagged off a 'Walkathon' organised by the State Taxes Department under the theme 'Ek Kadam Vikas Ki Aur' for creating awareness about the importance of taxes in the development and progress of the nation.

Around 200 participants from the Finance Department along with students of IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu and University of Jammu walked in solidarity holding placards propagating the significance of billing, e-invoicing, digital payments & E-way bills.

The purpose of the 5 kms walk was to celebrate recent years in terms of revenue collection & compliance as well as to take every step from henceforth towards its accelerating growth. The participants emphasised the fact that this growth is not possible without all stakeholders being the partners in this process.

Dr Mehta who was the Chief Guest on the occasion acknowledged the sustained growth

registered in revenue collection by the UT government during the past 3 years. He observed that the growth in collections is higher than the national average, which indicates responsible behaviour of all stakeholders.

The Chief Secretary maintained that those paying their taxes honestly on time are the real builders of the nation. Their contribution towards the growth and development of the nation is direct and well acknowledged. He reminisced that these responsible citizens are the heroes who deserves accolades.

Dr Mehta encouraged the participants including the students to generate awareness among the public about taking authentic invoices and making digital payments. He asked them that the taxes paid by the people are proportionate to the welfare measures taken by the government for them. He also sensitized the businessmen about the link between the payment of taxes and easy access to credit from the financial institutions to them.

ACS Reviews Status Of Agriculture Apex Monitoring Dashboard

Exhorts developers, officers to work in 'Mission Mode' for timely achievement

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired a meeting to review progress on Agriculture Apex Monitoring Dashboard for Agriculture-allied projects.

Enumerating benefits of the dashboard, Dulloo exhorted upon the developers and the departments to work in a 'Mission Mode' so that the module would be dedicated timely to the targeted beneficiaries associated with farming and other agriculture-allied sector activities.

ACS set timelines for developing the online reporting, monitoring and analysis dashboard for projects which were already cleared by the Apex Committee. He said that the Agriculture Production Department is mulling to develop a skill plan under which Learning Management System (LMS) and offline courses would be important elements.

Earlier, a presentation was delivered wherein the progress on the Dashboard was given.

Dulloo asked the concerned heads of the departments to clear all the queries flagged by the developers so that remaining projects would be finished in given timelines. He also suggested that the dashboard should be linked with banks as the interface with banks is must so that the beneficiary would know the status of his pending application of loan or any other purpose.

He reiterated that the monitoring dashboard would be one among the several unprecedented interventions of the government towards transforming agriculture and allied sectors in J&K and these 29 projects are a part of that initiative.

The meeting also deliberated upon several monitorable indicators of 29 projects envisaging transformation of agriculture and allied sectors in J&K. These included development of seed

and seed multiplication chain, promotion of niche crops in J&K, promotion of vegetables and exotic vegetables under open and projected cultivation, strengthening of agriculture marketing, promotion of keep keeping and nutri cereals (Millets).

Among others the meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology, Purna Puri, Secretary in APD, Executive Officer, JKeGA, Director Sericulture J&K, Director Agriculture Jammu/Kashmir, Director Horticulture Jammu/Kashmir, Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu/Kashmir, Directory Animal Husbandry Jammu/Kashmir, Managing Director JKHPMC, State Informatics Officer NIC, Technical Officers APD, representative from J&K Bank, Projects Leads of Technical Working Groups (TWGs), IT Experts besides representatives of SKUAST-K, Animal Husbandry, IT and concerned departments attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

FM Unveils Income

to global headwinds and there is a need for increased spending on social sectors as well as ramping up incentives for local manufacturing.

She also announced customs duty relief on mobile phone components, as well as on capital goods for lithium batteries and other such items to boost green energy and exports.

This is the final full budget before the general elections in April/May next year. An interim budget, called vote on account, is to be presented in February next year and the new government will present the full budget sometime in July 2024.

For 2023-24, capital investment outlay has been increased steeply for the third year in a row by 33 per cent to Rs 10 lakh crore, which would be 3.3 per cent of the GDP. This will be almost three times the outlay in 2019-20.

Since coming to power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has ramped up capital spending, including on roads and energy, while wooing investors through lower tax rates and labour reforms, and offering subsidies to poor households to clinch their political support.

"This Budget hopes to build on the foundation laid in the previous Budget, and the blueprint drawn for India@100," Sitharaman said in her budget speech in Lok Sabha.

Indian economy, she said, is a "bright star" with the current 7 per cent GDP growth being the highest among all the major economies.

Sitharaman said that despite a global slow-down because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, the Indian economy was "on the right track".

Total expenditure is seen rising 7.4 per cent to Rs 45 lakh crore. The government would target a budget deficit of 5.9 per cent of GDP in 2023-24, down from 6.4 per cent for the current year. That would entail a gross borrowing of Rs 15.43 lakh crore.

Sitharaman said the Budget for 2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024), adopts seven priorities — inclusive development, reaching the last mile, infrastructure and investment, unleashing the potential, green growth, youth power and financial sector.

While the agriculture credit target has been increased to Rs 20 lakh crore with focus on animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries, the increased investment in infrastructure and productive capacity is aimed at having a multiplier impact on growth and employment.

Additional Rs 9,000 crore has been provided toward credit guarantee for medium and small enterprises

Railways has been provided a capital outlay of Rs 2.40 lakh crore — the highest ever and about 9 times the outlay made in 2013-14.

An Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) will be established for the creation of urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

The Budget has also provided Rs 35,000 crore for energy transition and net zero objectives.

Battery Energy Storage Systems with capacity of 4,000 MWh will be supported with viability gap funding. Rs 20,700 crore will be spent in building a transmission system to evacuate 13 GW renewable energy from Ladakh.

The outlay for the affordable housing scheme, PM Awas Yojana, has been increased 66 per cent to Rs 79,000 crore.

Other highlights of the budget include reviving 50 additional airports, heliports and water aerodromes, and establishing a National Digital Library to make available quality books across languages, geographies and genres.

The income tax relief provided for individual taxpayers would be a 25 per cent reduction in tax outgo of an individual with an annual income of Rs 9 lakh as he or she would be required to pay only Rs 45,000 as against Rs 60,000 crore.

Similarly, an individual with an income of Rs 15 lakh would be required to pay only Rs 1.5 lakh or 10 per cent of his or her income, a reduction of 20 per cent from the existing liability of Rs 1,87,500, Sitharaman said.

"This will provide major relief to all taxpayers in the new regime," she said.

Also, the Rs 50,000 standard deduction provided in the old tax regime has now been extended to the new tax regime.

The limit of Rs 3 lakh for tax exemption on leave encashment on retirement of non-government salaried employees will be increased to Rs 25 lakh.

The total revenue foregone from the reduction in direct and indirect taxes after accounting for a small gain from additional mobilisation will be Rs 35,000 crore annually.

"The narrower deficit forecast in the Union government budget for 2023-24 underscores the government's commitment to longer-term fiscal sustainability and supports the economy amid high inflation and a challenging global environment," Moody's Investor Service said in its initial comments on the Budget.

Although the gradual fiscal consolidation trend is intact and will help to stabilise the government's debt burden relative to nominal GDP, the high debt burden and weak debt affordability are constraints that offset India's fundamental strengths, including its high growth potential and deep domestic capital markets, it said.

J&K Allocated

Diu, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Delhi -- too got their share.

According to the Budget papers, Rs 35,581.44 crore has been allocated to Jammu and Kashmir, of which Rs 33,923 crore is central assistance.

This allocation is substantially lower than the current fiscal's revised estimate of Rs 44,538.13 crore. The central assistance given to the union territory is to meet the resource gap and a special fiscal support of Rs 9,486.13 crore.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration will have to spend the amount for mitigation of natural disasters, to meet the expenditure incurred on account of permanent restoration of infrastructure which was damaged due to the 2014 floods, rehabilitation, preservation and restoration of Dal-Nageen lake in Srinagar.

The funds will also be spent as equity contribution for 624 MW Kiru hydroelectric project, 800 MW Ratle hydroelectric project and 540 MW Kwar hydroelectric project, Jhelum Tavi flood recovery project and to meet the resource gap funding for infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Budget allocated Rs 5,987.14 crore to Andaman and Nicobar Islands as against Rs

5,508.05 crore allocated in 2022-23. Rs 5436.10 crore has been allocated to Chandigarh as against Rs 5,131.12 crore in the current fiscal.

The Budget allocated Rs 2,475.00 to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Rs 5,958 crore to Ladakh, Rs 1,394.75 crore to Lakshadweep, Rs 1,168.01 crore to Delhi and Rs 3,117.77 crore to Puducherry.

LG Thanks

a faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth path to achieve the goal of a 5 Trillion Dollar economy.

According to an official spokesperson, the LG said that the first budget of Amrit Kaal presented by Sitharaman under the guidance of Prime Minister is to ensure sustained, equitable & inclusive growth and to achieve the milestone of 5 Trillion Dollar economy & to transform India into a global powerhouse.

He said that the vision for Amrit Kaal-opportunities for citizens with focus on youth, growth & job creation, strong & stable macro-economic environment and priorities to farmers, women, marginalised sections, middle class & infrastructure will put the economy to its optimum growth path.

"Increased investment on infrastructure and employment generation, green growth, agriculture accelerator fund, targeted funding for animal husbandry & Atmanirbhar Bharat Horticulture Clean Plant Programme & tourism promotion will have a force multiplier impact on economy," Sinha said.

"Rapid growth & welfare of Aam Aadmi is at the centre of Budget 2023-24. Grateful to the Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji & Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for accelerating the tempo of growth in Handloom & Handicraft sector through PM VIKAS. It will greatly benefit lakhs of Artisans of J&K UT," he added.'

Defence Budget

expenditure that largely includes purchasing new weapons, aircraft, warships and other military hardware.

"The armed forces have to be battle ready to meet any eventuality. Towards that end, non-salary revenue outlay has been enhanced significantly from Rs 62,431 crore in Budget Estimates (BE) 2022-23 to Rs 90,000 crore in BE 2023-24, representing a 44 per cent jump," the defence ministry said.

For 2022-23, the budgetary allocation for capital outlay was Rs 1.52 lakh crore but the revised estimate showed the expenditure at Rs 1.50 lakh crore.

According to the budget documents, an allocation of Rs 4,22,162 crore has been made for revenue expenditure that includes expenses on payment of salaries and maintenance of establishments.

The amount included Rs 1,38,205 crore for defence pensions, Rs 2,70,120 crore for defence services and Rs 13,837 crore for the Ministry of Defence (Civil).

The ministry said the capital outlay is expected to close critical gaps in combat capabilities and equip the forces in terms of ammunition, sustenance of weapons, assets and military reserves.

The capital outlay for the Indian Air Force was the highest at Rs 57, 137.09 crore which included Rs 15,721 crore for procurement of aircraft and aero-engines and Rs 36,223.13 crore for other equipment.

An amount of Rs 52,804 crore was set aside as the capital outlay for the Indian Navy as against Rs 47,590 crore given to the force in 2022-23.

The capital outlay for the Army has been pegged at Rs 37,241 crore against last year's outlay of Rs 32,015 crore.

Dr Laxman Kumar Behera, Associate Professor at Special Centre for National Security Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, said the increase in the allocation has been satisfactory considering the economic headwinds in view of the impact of various global developments.

"The budget has given the armed forces a modest hike. The capital outlay for the Indian Navy has been on an upswing for the last few years because of China's increasing presence in the Indian Ocean Region. This is a significant aspect in the defence budget for 2023-24 as well," Behera told PTI.

With a focus on boosting border infrastructure, the capital outlay for the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has been increased to Rs 5,000 crore as against Rs 3,500 crore in 2022-23, marking an increase of 43 per cent.

"MoD is committed towards infrastructure strengthening in the border areas, particularly the northern borders. Accordingly, the capital budget of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has increased by 43 per cent to Rs 5,000 crore in FY 2023-24 as against Rs 3,500 crore in FY 2022-23," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been earmarked an outlay of Rs 23,264 crore which is a hike of nine per cent against last year's allocation.

"The Union Budget for the Financial Year 2023-24 envisages a total outlay of Rs. 45,03,097 crore.

"Of this, the Ministry of Defence has been allocated a total Budget of Rs 5,93,537.64 crore, which is 13.18 per cent of the total GoI Budget," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted.

The capital allocations of Rs 1,62,600 crore marked a hike of Rs 10,230 crore over last year's outlay and it is a 6.7 per cent increase.

Former Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen (retd) Subrata Saha said the budget intends to boost manufacturing and build on India's strength in the digital domain.

"In defence, domestic manufacturing will get further impetus with efforts to also increase exports from India," he said.

Saha said the increase in the allocation for the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will push the border connectivity infrastructure.

The defence ministry said the increase in the capital budget since 2019-20 has been Rs 59,200 crore which it said is a 57 percent rise.

"This increase is a reflection of the government's commitment towards sustainable augmentation in the area of modernisation and infrastructure development of the defence services," it said.

According to the budget documents, an allocation of Rs 2,70,120 crore has been made to the armed forces for revenue expenditure that includes expenses on payment of salaries and maintenance of establishments.

The budgetary allocation of revenue

expenditure in 2022-23 was Rs 2,33,000 crore.

In the budget for 2023-24, the capital outlay for the Ministry of Defence (Civil) has been pegged at Rs 8774 crore. The total capital outlay considering Rs 1,62,600 crore for the armed forces and Rs 8,774 crore to defence ministry comes to Rs 1,71,374 crore.

The revenue expenditure for the Army has been put at Rs 1,82,649 crore followed by Rs 44,345 crore for the IAF and Rs 32,284 crore for the Indian Navy.

Under the revenue outlay, the Indian Navy has been allocated an amount of Rs 32,284.20 crore as against a budgetary allocation of Rs 25,406.42 crore and a revised estimate of Rs 30,734.58 crore for 2022-23.

The revenue expenditure of the Indian Air Force has been projected at Rs 44,345.58 crore as against a budgetary outlay of Rs 32,873.46 crore and a revised estimate of Rs 44,728.10 crore for 2022-23.

The defence pension budget of Rs 1,38, 205 crore is a jump of 15.5 per cent against Rs 1,19,696 crore in 2022-23.

The revised estimate of defence pension for 2022-23 was pegged at Rs 153,415 crore which is a jump of Rs 33,718 crore over the budget estimate.

"This includes an amount of Rs 28,138 crore to meet the requirement on account of revision of Armed Forces Pensioners/Family Pensioners under One Rank One Pension (OROP)," the defence ministry said.

It also said that Union Budget 2023-24 has provided "Exempt-Exempt-Exempt (EEE)" status to the Agniveer Fund.

China A Major

about China and Russia, Sullivan said, "A big part of the story is fundamentally about a bet on high tech and an industrial innovation policy. That's at the core of the president's entire approach to his presidency. So the China-Russia factors are real, but so is the idea of building a deep democratic ecosystem with high technology."

Sullivan acknowledged the geopolitical dimension of the initiative, saying, "The backdrop of geopolitical competition with China has been a feature of the US-India relationship now for more than a decade."

"There is much more about India's rise and the US desire to participate in that rise. This is important with regard to China. I think that they've proven themselves time and again, to be a challenge for India and for the world. And I think working together as like-minded countries is a beneficial and necessary part of our Indo-Pacific strategy," the official added.

A key element of the initiative is semiconductor supply chain diversification, U.S. announced its plan is to help India grow its legacy chip-making capabilities while continuing the flow of top engineers that study and work in the United States, Sullivan said.

On Washington's position on India's semiconductor industry, senior administration officials said the US supports the Indian National Semiconductor Mission.

"We welcome the supply chain diversification that it would bring, as also the opportunities for research and development, cooperation, and talent exchange. It sends a very clear signal on our views about India playing a larger role in the global semiconductor, ecosystem and value chain. It is true that the United States has imposed controls on some of the most advanced chips for AI applications," he added.

Pahalgam Coldest

a low of minus 0.5°C against minus 0.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.9°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 8.2°C against minus 8.4°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at minus 1.4°C against minus 0.8°C on the previous night and it was above 0.9°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 6.7°C against 7.1°C on the previous night. It was 1.7°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 2.2°C (above normal by 1.4°C), Batote 2.5°C (above normal by 0.4°C), Katra 6.8°C (0.2°C below normal) and Bhadarwah minus 0.4°C (0.2°C above normal).

Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 12.0°C and minus 17.6°C respectively, the official said. Drass, the second coldest place after Siberia, recorded a low of minus 24.9°C.

The MeT department has forecast it will be mainly dry in the next 24 hours and isolated very light rain and snow for subsequent two days. The weather department has already ruled out the possibility of any major snowfall in the next nine days.

Shooting Stones

district early on Wednesday morning. Sources said a major slide occurred near Rampadi, leading to the closure of the strategic highway.

"The highway is still closed," a traffic department official said at 11 a.m., adding, "After clearance of debris and halt in shooting stones, traffic will be released." The highway reopened last evening after remaining closed for two days due to shooting stones and mudslide besides snowfall at several places along the thoroughfare.

Govt Speeds Up

while Divisional Commissioners were asked to furnish the compiled reports through Financial Commissioner Revenue, J&K by 5 pm to the Administrative Department Revenue in a set format.

According to official spokesperson, in South Kashmir's Anantnag district, where district authorities on Tuesday removed illegal encroachments of three influential families, including two ex-Ministers and heirs of former chief minister Syed Mir Qasim, stones crushers build on state and Kahcharai lands faced wrath of the administration on Wednesday.

According to the official spokesperson, encroachment by 5 stone crusher units in Nipora area of Anantnag was retrieved by Tehsildar Anantnag.

Sharing details, he said, the 5 crusher units, out of which three were completely operating from state land, were put to notice a few days ago and on Wednesday demolition drives were held as they failed to pay heed to the Government notices.

"A total of 50 kanals of land was retrieved which lies at a short distance from NH44 and is

valued in excess of Rs 20 crores. Teams from the District Mineral Office were also present and the operation of crushers has been seized," he said, adding that the crushers have been given a week's time to remove the machinery from the spot failing which the machinery will also be seized.

Besides it, another stone crusher operating on state land in Panzath, Qazigund was also demolished. The spokesperson said that 14 kanals of land was retrieved by the revenue team from Tehsil Qazigund.

It is in place to mention that in widespread anti encroachment drives held in the district, more than 2700 kanals of State/ Kahcharie lands were retrieved in a single day.

A senior officer said that several commercial establishments had been identified who were operating from encroached lands and raking in profits at the cost of resources of common people.

He appealed to all such people to voluntarily stop operations and surrender the lands to the Government failing which similar legal action will follow.

Pertinently, on Tuesday, the district administration Srinagar had claimed to have freed 494 kanals of prime land worth whopping Rs 509 crores from land grabbers, besides sealing two hotels in the city. Besides, about 40 kanals of land allegedly occupied by the owners of Hotel Nedous at MA Road here were also retrieved.

Nedou's owners are in relation with the Abdullahs of the National Conference. (With PTI inputs)

20 Shops Sealed

More than two kanals (10,880 sq ft) of prime land where these shops have been built were illegally occupied, they said.

Eviction notices were sent to the shopkeepers, but they failed to vacate the establishments, following which the action was taken, officials said.

Meanwhile, the shopkeepers held a protest and claimed they have been regularly paying rent to the SMC.

"We have shops here since 1970. We have all the supporting documents. These shops were constructed by the municipality in 1970. We have receipts of rent paid to the municipality, Tawseef Ahmad, a shopkeeper, told reporters.

He, however, said the sealing has nothing to do with the anti-encroachment drive being carried out by the administration.

We have paid our rent till March, how can they seal our shops, he asked.

Two days back, we got eviction notices, saying this was a private property. If that is the case, then where was this private person from 1970 till now, the shopkeeper said. (PTI)

'90 Lakh Saplings

within and outside forests with the involvement of stakeholders.

"Green J&K Drive" aims at creating a people's movement at a massive scale with the involvement of all stakeholders, particularly village panchayats, women, tribal communities, students, Urban local bodies, institutions, NGOs and civil society," the report said.

The government has involved different departments and planting agencies like Department of Higher Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, Medical Education, Irrigation & Flood Control, Rural Development, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Industries & Commerce and PWD in the "Green J&K Drive" with large scale participation from Educational Institutions including Eco-Clubs of Schools and similar groups from Colleges.

The report further notes that the "Green J&K Drive: 2022-23" is planting 1.35 Cr. saplings, however the Government has advised the department to make efforts to achieve 1.50 Cr planting along with around 95 lakh low-cost planting interventions of greening like seed balls, patch sowing and dibbling of seeds.

It says that the assigned target is the highest in the history of tree planting in Jammu & Kashmir.

Green J&K drive also focuses on distribution of fast-growing Agroforestry tree species like Poplar, Eucalyptus, Willow, Robinia, Shisham, Siris, Melia along with other commercial varieties to farmers by the Forest Department, Department of Social Forestry and J&K FRI.

"Special emphasis under the scheme is being given on biodiversity conservation by rehabilitation and rejuvenation of habitat," the report said.

The drive is being carried out through programs such as "One Beat Guard, One Village Program", "Ped Lagayen Beti Ke Naam" under the campaign "Har Gaon Hariyali" with the involvement of stakeholders such as PRIs, Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), Village Panchayats Plantation Committees (VPPCs), Tribal communities, Self-help Groups, Eco-clubs and several line Departments.

Two Polish Skiers

been declared a "no go zone", police said.

The Hapathkhud Kangdori area where the accident took place had been declared off limits due the possibility of an avalanche following heavy snowfall two days ago, the sources said.

At 12.30 pm, those fears came true when the gigantic wall of snow rolled down, trapping the group of mostly Polish and Russian tourists and two local guides.

"Three teams of 21 foreign nationals and two local guides went to Affarwat for skiing this morning. A snow avalanche struck Hapathkhud Kangdori around 12.30 pm," Baramulla Senior Superintendent of Police Amod Nagpure told PTI.

Asked if there was an avalanche warning for the area where the accident took place, Nagpure said an investigation has been ordered.

Two skiers died while the other 21 who were on the slopes when the avalanche struck were rescued, he said.

Those who died were identified as Krzysztof (43) and Adam Grzech (45).

Their bodies have been recovered and moved to hospital for medico-legal procedures while the rescued tourists and locals are being given medical attention, he said.

Several people saw the tragedy unfold.

"We saw the dance of death before our eyes. A 20 feet wall of ice fell on the skiers and they got buried under it. It's all about nature's fury," All India Congress Committee member Deepak Chinchore from Karnataka, who happened to be at the spot, told PTI.

Officials said the cable car which ferries tourists up the 14,000 ft Afarwat mountain was used for the rescue operations.

Videos of the avalanche, showing people running for their lives, circulated widely on social media.

The Russians rescued today were identified as Ekaterina, Maxim, Vladimir, Vasilii, Engine, Leo, Nikita Mastryukov and Anna Chornyak, police said.

The Polish nationals were Rafat Kaqmaren, Narcin Wieklux, Eukasz Potaczewck, Tukasz Pasek, Katarzyna Filip, Marcin Raczzyk, Bartomie Szkop, Bartosz Domagata, Adrian Anirowsu and Macie Kowalczyk.

Besides, three guides, Bartos from Poland and two locals, Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh and Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, were also rescued.

Snow avalanches are frequent in higher reaches of Kashmir during January and February, especially after fresh snowfall.

Kashmir witnessed heavy snowfall on January 29 and 30.

The last big avalanche in Gulmarg was on February 8, 2010 when 17 soldiers in an Army camp were killed.

Avalanche Warning

snowfall in the Valley.

"Avalanche with medium danger level is likely to occur above the altitude of 2,400 metres over Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Bandipora in the next 24 hours," an official said here.

He said the possibility of avalanches was high due to an approaching western disturbance.

People have been advised not to venture out in the avalanche-prone areas, the official said.

The warning comes on a day when two Polish skiers were killed and 19 other foreign tourists had to be rescued following an avalanche in the Gulmarg area of Baramulla district

Govt Panel Flags

Rationalization of Higher Education Institutions has stated that out of 51 Colleges 50 were sanctioned by the State Administrative Council (SAC) in the year 2019-20.

"The colleges were made operational in the makeshift arrangements with a present enrollment of 12206. The funds for construction of 45 college buildings have been provided under UT Capex Budget," the document reads.

The documents read that construction of three Colleges (Paddar, Vilgam and Singhpora Pattan) expenditure was being met out of Centrally Sponsored Scheme under RUSA approved by GOI.

The committee report has pointed out a grim picture of some of the newly established colleges in terms of the enrollment and the status of the infrastructure.

For instance, Government Degree College (GDC) Ashmuqam Anantnag was the 51 new GDCs sanctioned by the J&K government in 2019-20.

"Despite the lapse of three years, the dispute between two localities regarding the selection of college site could not be resolved," the document reads.

The committee has reported that no admission was made since its inception following which the committee decided to take up the matter with DC Anantnag to resolve the dispute between two parties.

GDC Mongri Panchari Udhampur has also reported zero admission in the last three years due to pending finalization of site for establishment of the College.

Similarly, GDC Chatisinghpora Anantnag started functioning from a makeshift arrangement in Government Middle School Building.

"The enrollment of the College in the two academic sessions remained at 10 students. The principal along with the supporting staff was posted for the establishment of the College. However the department under the rationalization initiative shifted these 10 students to the nearby Colleges of Government Degree College Mattan and Women College Anantnag," read the official document.

"It was decided by the committee that the reasons for low enrolment and measures to improve the same shall be worked out by the Director Colleges in consultation with Deputy Commissioner Anantnag," it reads.

As per the official documents, out of 50 colleges around 22 colleges have enrolment up to 200 students since establishment of these Colleges in the year 2019-20.

To ascertain the reasons for low enrollment in these colleges, despite huge investment involved in building infrastructure and human resource development of these Colleges, the government had recommended to constitute a sub-committee headed by Director Colleges with Nodal Principal Jammu and Kashmir and concerned College Principals as its members.

The sub-committee will examine the reasons for low enrolment and measures to improve the same and submit its reply within one month," the document reads.

The committee had also recommended that in-case the enrolment does not improve, measures for rationalization of colleges may be suggested by the committee.

A top official said the Higher Education Department (HED) is deliberating on low enrolment and lack of infrastructure in the newly established colleges.

"The government is scheduled to convene a meeting in this regard and further decisions on functioning of these colleges will be taken accordingly," the official said—(KNO)

AEE Terminated

an official spokesperson said.

As a part of this process, he said, the PDD examined a few cases of employees who have remained unauthorizedly absent for long spells, violating the relevant service laws and also creating a sense of indiscipline in the department.

In one such scrutiny, the spokesperson said, Shah had been continuously absent from his legitimate duties for a long time, without having any sanctioned leave from the competent authority.

"The case was viewed seriously in the department and the concerned officer was asked to explain his position. Despite having been given fair chances to submit his statement of defense as provided under service rules, the concerned officer failed to submit his reply satisfactorily," he said.

The spokesperson said that the Jammu and Kashmir government, in its endeavor to make the administration more efficient, accountable and transparent besides streamlining work culture among the government employees, has been scrutinizing the service records of employees.

India Beat NZ By 168 Runs In 3rd T20I, Clinch Series 2-1

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Shubman Gill smashed a whirlwind unbeaten maiden century in the shortest format as India thrashed New Zealand by 168 runs, their biggest ever win in terms of runs, in the third and final T20 International to pocket the hard-fought series 2-1 here on Wednesday.

India's second highest margin of victory was 143-run win over Ireland in Dublin in 2018.

It was also the highest margin of victory between two full member teams.

Gill continued his fine form and showcased his array of shots, hitting the New Zealand bowlers to all parts of the Narendra Modi Stadium to score 126 not out off just 63 balls with the help of 12 fours and seven sixes.

Riding on Gill's brilliance, India posted 234 for 4 after electing to bat. New Zealand never got going in the huge chase as Indian bowlers performed in unison to bowl out the visitors for a mere 66 in 12.1 overs, the third lowest score for the Kiwis in this format.

Skipper Hardik Pandya led the bowling department with figures of 4/16, while Umran Malik (2/9), Shivam Mavi (2/12) and Arshdeep Singh (2/16) scalped two wickets each. New Zealand lost Finn Al-

len in the fifth ball of the opening over bowled by Pandya, caught by Suryakumar Yadav.

Left-arm pacer Arshdeep struck with his first delivery, as Devon Conway lobbed a fuller delivery to Pandya at mid-off.

New Zealand continued to lose wickets as Mark Champman got a faint inside edge which went straight to Ishan Kishan off Arshdeep's last delivery of the over.

Wickets kept on tumbling like of pack of cards for New Zealand with Glenn Phillips becoming the next victim, caught by Suryakumar at slips off Pandya.

Down at 13 for 4 after three overs, it was all but over for New Zealand.

The situation became even worst for New Zealand when Michael Bracewell was cleaned up by a fast delivery from Umran Malik.

New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner (13) and Daryl Mitchell (35) then added 32 runs for the sixth wicket before Shivam Mavi dismissed the former, caught by Suryakumar at deep midwicket fence as the left-hander tried to heave a short ball.

Mavi struck again a ball later, removing Ish Sodhi (0) caught by Tripathi at backward point as New Zealand slumped to 53 for seven in nine overs.

Thereafter, it was just a formality for India and the hosts romped



home in style.

Earlier, the start was far from rosy for India after electing to bat as Mitchell Santner made a master-stroke decision by handing Michael Bracewell the second over and the

off-spinner reposed his captain's faith by removing an out-of-form Ishan Kishan, who was adjudged LBW with the second ball of the over. In-form Gill struck two boundaries off Lockie Ferguson in the next over.

Gill was at his ominous best, be it pick up hits, drives or pulls to continue his onslaught. He hit Blair Tinkern for three fours in the fifth over as India reached 44 for 1. Young Rahul Tripathi (44 off 22),

who has immense potential but yet to fire in the series, then struck Ferguson for a boundary and a six in consecutive balls to keep up the tempo.

Tripathi then pulled Santner over short-pitch leg before coming down and lofting the left-arm spinner for a straight six.

Tripathi showed his attacking class and dispatched Ish Sodhi over extra cover for his third six of the innings but perished in the next ball in search of one too many, holing out at deep square leg to Ferguson.

Gill reached his maiden T20I fifty off 35 balls with a single off Santner.

While Gill held one end, Suryakumar Yadav (24 off 13) showed glimpses of his class but fell in the 13th over, brilliantly caught by Bracewell at mid-off as the batter mistimed his shot.

Gill brought up his century with a four over the mid-off fielder off the bowling of Ferguson in the first ball of the 18th over.

He broke free and clobbered Ferguson over mid-wicket for a huge six in the next ball.

It was mayhem as skipper Pandya (30 off 17) too went ballistic.

But it was Gill who stole the show as he continued with his attacking shots after the ton, finding the boundaries at will as New Zealand attack looked listless.

Australia Calls J&K's Abid Mushtaq As Net Bowler For India Series

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a bid to better prepare for Indian spinners during the upcoming four-match Test series, Australian cricket team has invited J&K's left arm spin sensation Abid Mushtaq to their preparatory camp in Bangalore.

The Aussies arrived in Bengaluru on Wednesday, and will hold a five-day long camp in Alur before flying to Nagpur for the first Test match, which begins on February 9.

Bhaderwah-born Abid Mushtaq has been in sensational form and took 32 wickets in seven Ranji Trophy matches this season, including eight in one innings. The 26-year-old took 8 for 18 against two-time Ranji champions Vidarbha at their home ground VCA Stadium in Nagpur, which is also where the first India-Australia Test match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy will be played come February 9.

Apart from his bowling abilities, Abid is also a handy, albeit hard-hitting batter.

"When I got the call to do net bowling for the Australian team, it was very surprising for



me that I had been selected. It is like a dream come true," Abid Mushtaq told Sports India JK.

"I belong to Bhaderwah so I have had to face a lot of struggles. There isn't much sports infrastructure here. Going to Jammu and playing and staying there wasn't easy. But thanks to my mother and father, my coaches from my junior to senior level always believed in me and told me that I can make it. The selectors and JKCA have also believed in me that's why I'm here," he added.

Snow Ski Training Begins At Yousmarg



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services & Sports (YSS) started its annual snow skiing training for the first batch of boys on the newly explored ski slopes of Yousmarg on Wednesday here.

The training course in the adventure sport was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner Budgam Syed Fakrudin Hamid in presence of Joint Director (Kashmir) of the Department Bashir Ahmad, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Budgam Gurmukh Singh Dutta and other senior officers and officials of the Department.

In his address, DC Budgam congratulated and encouraged the participants for their interest in the training of the sport. He stressed the young trainees to work hard during the course in order to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills of the sport.

DYSSO Budgam briefed the participants regarding such ini-

tiatives of the Department under which youth are being engaged in productive activities. He thanked the Administration of District Budgam for their support and cooperation in making the course possible at the busiest tourist destination.

Pertinently 60 boy students from various government schools of Kashmir are taking part in the 15-day long course.

Such courses are a regular affair of the Department of Youth Services and Sports and are being run under the supervision of the Director of Youth Services & Sports J&K Subash C Chhibber in order to train aspiring students in the world-famous sport and in order to prepare and produce youth to take up this skill in a professional manner at national and international levels.

Besides others Olympian Gul Mustafa Dev, Shabir Ahmad Wani former Assistant Director of the Department of YSS were also present in the impressive inaugural ceremony of the camp.

Usman Khawaja Granted Visa To Travel To India; To Fly Out On Thursday

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Australia opener Usman Khawaja was granted the visa late on Wednesday to travel to India for the Test series after the Pakistan-born cricketer was forced to miss the morning flight due to delay in the issuance of travel documents.

The passport and visa were handed over to a Cricket Australia (CA) representative late on Wednesday night in Melbourne, said a report in 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

The Australian Test squad and support staff led by Pat Cummins had left for the team's training base in Bengaluru on two separate flights on Tuesday and Wednesday, but Khawaja couldn't board either as his passport and visa had not been delivered by the Indian high commission.

Khawaja will now board the flight from Melbourne to Bengaluru on Thursday and could attend the team's training session on Friday, said the report.



The cricketer, after coming to know his visa documents had not been processed, had taken to social media on Wednesday afternoon to express his frustration.

"Me waiting for my Indian Visa like... #stranded #dontleave #anytimenow," Khawaja wrote on Instagram.

The report added that the process for the issuance of visa had been initiated by CA in early January, and that Khawaja was the only member in the

touring party whose application was not processed in time.

The report quoted a spokesperson of the Indian High Commission as saying that the matter was being investigated.

The Pakistan-born batter has played 56 Tests, 40 ODIs and nine T20Is for Australia. The 36-year-old also featured in the Indian Premier League back in 2016.

He was named Australia's Test Player of the Year on Monday, an award named after the legendary Shane Warne.

Never Considered Coaching Pakistan Team Because Of Hate And Abuse: Akram



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram has said he has never considered coaching the national team because of the criticism, abuse and hate that are directed at coaches and captains in the country.

"I can accept criticism if the team is not doing well. But in Pakistan cricket, it is intolerable the way the captain and coaches are not only criticised but also abused by everyone," Akram said in an interview.

"The abuse and at times hate which the captain and coach have to bear, I don't think I am up to it. I don't have that tolerance level, especially when it comes to the use of social media. They are some people who I think only sit on twitter day and night to send out negative comments."

Akram added he didn't want the extra baggage of stress that comes with coaching the national side. "League cricket is different, the pressure and expectation levels are different, which is why I am involved

with the Karachi Kings side in the PSL."

The pace-bowling legend said that as coach of the Karachi side, some players routinely approach him and discuss cricket and he is always there to help and guide them.

"I am always willing to be of service to Pakistan cricket but not at the cost of having to bear unnecessary criticism and abuse from anyone out there."

Akram also advised Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to refrain from removing Babar Azam as captain in any format of the game.

"I think it will be a mistake. Because even if you change him as captain in any format it is not going to make any difference. What are the options. (It's) best if he is supported by all of us, including the board. He is young and he will get better as captain. My thinking is that no one is born a natural captain and leader, these things come with time and experience."

Akram added he had always supported Babar as captain because he had a lot of cricket

ahead of him and also because he was an automatic selection in the team.

"As a nation, I think for once we need to be positive and back Babar. Let's do it and see what happens. I am confident he will become a good captain."

Akram said he was embarrassed at the way pressure had been built around Babar in recent days. "People in other countries laugh at our cricket culture. We need to start being more positive. Win and loss is part of the game."

He pointed out that Babar had led the team to the T20 Asia Cup final and the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia, which is a big achievement for any captain.

Akram also refused to dwell on Ramiz Raja's performance when he was the PCB chairman.

"I don't want to talk about him. There is a misconception that only a former cricketer should head the board... I don't buy that because this is a job which requires a lot of administrative skills and the ability to have good communication with other boards etc," said Akram.

Saudi's Football Influence Grows After Winning FIFA Seat

Agencies

MANAMA: Saudi Arabia added to its influence in global soccer Wednesday, winning a seat on FIFA's ruling Council before being set to be confirmed as host of the 2027 Asian Cup.

The election win at the Asian Football Confederation's annual meeting followed Cristiano Ronaldo moving last month to play in the Saudi league and longstanding speculation about a likely bid to host the World Cup in 2030 or 2034.

Saudi soccer federation president Yasser Almoineh was among six Asian soccer officials elected by AFC members to represent them on FIFA's decision-making council through 2027. Saudi Arabia is the only candidate to host the Asian championship that year.

Qatar federation president Sheikh Hamad Al Thani, whose country hosts the Asian Cup next January, also was elected to a FIFA position for the first time. Sheikh Hamad was picked by 40 of the 45 voting federations and Almoineh got 35.

The 37-member FIFA Council is chaired by the governing body's president Gianni Infantino, who had a front-row seat



Wednesday to the election meeting in Bahrain.

The election results confirmed Saudi Arabia and Qatar at the heart of Asian soccer politics with the AFC presidency scheduled to be vacant in 2027.

AFC president Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa was reelected by acclamation Wednesday to a final four-year term in a job he has held since 2013. He is also formally No. 2 to Infantino as the most senior of FIFA's eight vice presidents.

FIFA Council positions — which pay a \$250,000 salary in Zurich — were also won by Japan's Kohzo Tashima and Mariano Araneta of the Philippines, who retained their seats, and newcomer Hamidin Bin Mohd Amin, the Malaysian soccer federation leader.

Chelsea Announce Record Signing Of Benfica's Fernandez

Agencies

LONDON: Premier League side Chelsea announced the signing of Enzo Fernandez from Benfica on Wednesday after a day of complex negotiations between the clubs as the Argentina midfielder joined for a British record 106.8 million pounds (\$131.46 million).

As the deadline day approached its end, it appeared a deal might not be reached but a statement from Benfica confirmed that it had been agreed shortly before 2300 GMT on Tuesday.

Chelsea announced the signing on Wednesday 1000 GMT via a video on Twitter, which showed a clip of a clock ticking down, making a reference to the deadline day.

Benfica's statement said Chelsea would pay the contract release fee for the 22-year-old, who has signed an eight-and-a-half year deal with the London club. It takes Chelsea's transfer spending in January alone to more than 300 million pounds.

According to media reports, Chelsea will pay the fee in several instalments.

Benfica signed Fernandez in July 2022 from River Plate, who have a 25% sell-on clause. He

bagged four goals and seven assists in 29 games in all competitions for Benfica this season. The 106.8 million pounds fee eclipses the 100 million pounds



Manchester City paid Aston Villa for England midfielder Jack Grealish in 2021.

Fernandez was instrumental in Argentina's World Cup-winning campaign in Qatar, breaking into the starting lineup and playing every game, scoring one of the goals in a vital victory over Mexico in the group phase. He capped off the tournament by bagging the Young Player Award.

Fernandez is Chelsea's eighth recruit in the mid-season transfer window after the London club signed Mykhailo Mudryk, Benoit Badashile, Noni Madueke, Andrey Santos, David Fofana and Malo Gusto while Joao Felix arrived on loan from Atletico Madrid. All of them are 23 or younger.



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