

Magsaysay Award Winning Ladakh Activist Says 'We Were Better Off With J&K'

Auqib Javeed

Sonam Wangchuk, Ladakh's top environmentalist and innovator, said on Friday that anger is brewing in the cold desert, where cases are being filed against people for even expressing their opinion on the rising prices of essential commodities.

Wangchuk, an engineer-turned education reformer observed a five-day climate fast at 18,380 feet high Khardung La Pass from January 26 to invite attention of the BJP-led Central government on the



demand of sixth schedule of the Indian constitution for Ladakhis.

A recipient of the Magsaysay Award in the year 2018, Wangchuk was awarded

LET ME TELL YOU THE WHOLE OF LADAKH HAS GOT UNITED. There is no party, no religion, and no community that doesn't support the sixth schedule. BJP introduced this idea, kept it in their election manifesto but unfortunately they later backtracked"

the seventh Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios Award by former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu in November last year.

On his last day of fast, Leh observed a half day bandh to support Wangchuk. Later a massive rally was held in Leh in support of the demands for

various safeguards for Ladakh.

Wangchuk claimed that the administration placed him under house arrest at his institution and was asked to sign the bond under Section 107 CRPC to ensure that he wouldn't make any statement or participate at public meetings for a month.

On 27 January, Wangchuk posted a video on Twitter accusing Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur of sowing seeds of militancy in the region.

"LG Sahib is dar pai toh mai kahunga ki aap bohat mehan-at kar rehay hai Ladakh jaisi shant shetr mai be militancy ka beach boney kay liye... jis tara apne nowjawan ko beroazgar rakha hai.. (LG sahib I must tell you that you are working hard to sow the seeds of militancy in an otherwise relatively calm region. The way you are keeping the youth unemployed...)" **More on P6**

Our Loans To Adani Group Are Secure: JK Bank

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Bank, which has an exposure of nearly Rs 250 crore in the Adani Group, on Friday said the bank investors have nothing to worry as its loans to the embattled business group are secured.

"Our loans to Adani Group are secured against the assets of the projects that were financed by JK Bank," JK Bank Deputy General Manager Nishikant Sharma told PTI.

Sharma said JK Bank had given a loan of Rs 400 crore to Adani Group to finance two thermal power projects one in Maharashtra and one in

Mudra, Gujarat. "When we financed the two projects 10 years ago, our exposure was Rs 400 crore, which has now **More on P6**

LG Reassures People On Ongoing Eviction Drive

'Only Influential And Powerful People Who Misused Their Position Will Face Law Of The Land'

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday reassured the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the ongoing anti-encroachment drive will not hit the common man but the influential and powerful people who misused their position and violated the law to encroach upon the state land.

Sinha also said that some people tried to spread misinformation that the common man will be impacted in the anti-encroachment drive.

"I want to assure the people that the Administration will safeguard the habitations and livelihoods of the common



man. Only influential and powerful people who misused their position and violated the law to encroach upon the State land would face the law of the land,"

the LG said during the inauguration of Civil Services Officers Institute (CSOI) here on Friday.

The LG reiterated that only those people who have grabbed

land illegally through unfair means are facing eviction.

"I have personally directed the DCs and SSPs to closely monitor and ensure no innocent person is affected in any manner during the anti-encroachment drive," said.

"Deputy Commissioners should have the knowledge of the activity of the next day and media should be made aware about the names behind the encroachment of land so that the common man will get to know the truth," he added.

Speaking about the Civil Services Officers Institute, the LG said that the institute will promote welfare of officers, their families and bring them together to build **More on P6**

CDS Reviews J&K Security Situation At High-Level Meet

DGP Dilbag Singh Calls For Intensified Anti-Militancy Ops



Observer News Service

Jammu: Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, who was on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, chaired a high-level security meeting here, officials said on Friday.

The meeting was attended by Udhampur-based northern Army commander Lt General Upendra Dwivedi and Director General of Police Dilbag Singh among others, they said.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh and General Officer

Commanding of Jammu-based 16 Corps, also known as White Knight Corps, Lt Gen Sandeep Jain and General Officer Commanding 26 Infantry division Major General Gaurav Gautam also attended the meeting, they said.

The Chief of Defence Staff visited forward areas and hinterland formations in Kashmir on the first day of his visit and was briefed about the security situation by field officers.

On his arrival in Jammu this morning, General Chauhan was received by Air Officer Commanding, **More on P6**

Light Snowfall Predicted In Kashmir Today

Agencies

Srinagar: The weather department here on Friday said that there was a possibility of light snowfall at scattered places of Kashmir in the next 24 hours.

Quoting a meteorological department official, news agency GNS reported that mainly dry weather was expected thereafter for two weeks.

Meanwhile, he said, the mercury witnessed a slight drop at most places as sub-zero temperature was also recorded in Srinagar that saw a low of minus 0.6 against 0.4°C on the previous night. **More on P6**

Avalanches Block Kishanganga

Multiple avalanches hit Tulail area of Gurez Valley in Bandipora district on Friday blocking Kishanganga river. An official said that water flow of the Kishanganga river was blocked after 3 avalanches hit three villages in Tulail, **More on P6**

Over 73 Hectares Of Encroached Land Retrieved In Jammu

Over 73 hectares of state land were retrieved during the ongoing anti-encroachment drive in different districts of Jammu division on Friday, an official spokesperson said. The highest -- 737 kanals -- were freed from encroachers across eight tehsils of Ramban district, he said. Several

illegal structures were demolished during the drive in Ramban, Pogal-Paristan (Ukhral), Khari, Ramsoo, Rajgarh, Banihal and Batote. In Jammu district, prime state land measuring five kanals and two marla at Deeli village was cleared of encroachments during the drive. The state land was allegedly encroached **More on P6**

FAA RECRUITMENT FRAUD

CBI Searches 37 Locations In J&K

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI Friday conducted searches at 37 locations in six districts of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with alleged irregularities in the recruitment exam of accounts assistants in the finance department held on March 6 last year, officials said.

CBI sleuths swooped down at the premises of middlemen and other accused at 30 locations in Jammu in R S Pura, Karan Bangh and several other areas on Friday morning, they said, adding the operation was conducted in other districts including Udhampur, Rajouri, Reasi and Doda.

The premises of several touts who helped candidates in the selection process were searched during the operation, officials said.

The CBI registered a case in November last year over alleged irregularities in the examination

conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), officials said.

It has booked 20 people in the case, including Neelam Khajuria, a former member of JKSSB, section officer Anju Raina, and Karnail Singh, who was then a medical officer of the BSF frontier headquarters and also an accused in the J-K Police Sub-Inspector recruitment examination scam case.

The examination was conducted by the board on March 6, 2022, and its results were published on April 21 that year.

The results showed a high percentage of selected candidates were from the districts of Jammu, Kathua and Reasi, leading to allegations of paper leak and other irregularities, officials said.

"There were allegations regarding malpractices in the examination and the Government of Jammu and **More on P6**

Panic Grips Doda After Houses Develop Cracks

19 Families Evacuated, Officials Rubbish Comparison With Joshimath

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Nineteen families were evacuated after their homes developed cracks at a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, officials said on Friday.

The authorities also declared unsafe a mosque and a religious school for girls at Nai Basti village in Thathri, 35 kilometres from Doda town along the Kishtwar-Batote National Highway.

A few structures in the village started developing cracks a couple of days ago but the situation was exacerbated by a landslide on Thursday with the number of buildings damaged reaching 21.



"We have shifted 19 affected families to a safer location after their houses were rendered unsafe. We are observing the situation and taking steps as per need to ensure their safety," Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Thathri)

Athar Amin Zargar told PTI. The deputy commissioner and the senior superintendent of police visited the spot and assured all help to the affected families, he said.

Zargar, however, refused to compare the situation to that in Uttarakhand's Joshimath -- the gateway to famous pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib -- that is facing a major challenge due to land subsidence.

"Comparing the situation in Nai Basti with the sinking town of Joshimath will be an exaggeration. We are faced with a problem of landslide and geologists **More on P6**

Geological Survey Team To Conduct A Study: Minister

New Delhi: Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday said that a Geological Survey team will conduct a study of the underlying factors of cracks developed in the houses in Jammu and Kashmir. Taking to social media, Singh also informed that a relief camp has been set up for the residents of the affected houses in the valley. "I am in touch with DC #Doda, Vishesh Mahajan. A Relief Camp has been set up for the residents **More on P6**

Rahul Writes To PM Over 'Plight' Of KP Employees

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to look into the "plight" of Kashmiri Pandit employees who do not want to return to the Kashmir Valley without a guarantee of their security, and accused the Union Territory administration of adopting an "insensitive" approach towards them.

In a letter to Modi, Gandhi flagged the issue of the recent spate of targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandits and others by militants, which he said, has created an atmosphere of fear and gloom in the Valley.

He wrote to the prime minister, saying a delegation of

Kashmiri Pandits met him during the Jammu leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra that was aimed at uniting the whole of India in a thread of love and unity.

"They (Kashmiri Pandits) said government officials are forcing them to go back to work in the Kashmir Valley. In these circumstances, forcing them to go back to the Valley without any surety of their safety and security is a cruel move," Gandhi said.

Till the situation improves, the government can take services from these Kashmiri Pandit employees in other administrative and public facilities, the former Congress chief said in his letter in Hindi to Modi.

"At a time when the Kashmiri Pandits are pleading **More on P6**

HC Junks Plea Against Withdrawal Of Selection Of 12 ReKs

6 Out Of Selected Candidates Were Found To Be Close Relatives Of Officials, Officers; Were Given Exceptionally High Marks In Interview By Committee Found To Be Incompetent By Court

Agencies

Srinagar- Jammu and Kashmir High Court has dismissed a petition, challenging withdrawal of provisional selection list of 12 candidates as regards zone **More on P6**

engagement of Rehbar-e-Khel for zone Drugmulla in Kupwara district of north Kashmir.

12 candidates had been selected; in pursuance to an advertisement notice issued by the Youth Services and Sports Department on 13 January 2018, as Rehbar-e-Khail in Drugmulla zone, reported news agency GNS.

In all, 223 vacancies were filled up across 13 zones in Kupwara but authorities withdrew the provisional selection list of 12 candidates as regards zone **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S

SIA Conducts Raids In Srinagar

The State Investigation Agency (SIA) Friday carried out raids at multiple locations in connection with a militancy-funding case in the summer capital, officials said. The SIA sleuths conducted raids in Parimpora, Jawahar Nagar, Natipora, Chanapora, Bulbul Bagh and Qamarwari areas of Srinagar, they said. According to them, the raids were part of an investigation into a militancy funding case.

Pak Drone Shot Down By BSF

An narcotics carrying Pakistani drone entering into India from along the International Border in Punjab has been shot down by the Border Security Force (BSF) troops on Friday, a senior officer said. The unmanned aerial vehicle was downed around 2:30 am near border post Rear Kakkar in the Amritsar sector of the state. The drone has been recovered this morning between the border fence and zero line of the India-Pakistan International Border. **More on P6**

Fire Erupts Near Vaishno Devi Shrine

A minor fire was reported in a temporary shed nearly a km away from the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, officials said. The fire was brought under control by security personnel and the incident had no impact on the pilgrimage which is going on smoothly, they said. Some labourers were putting up at the temporary shed near the horse stand enroute to Bharav Ghati and some of their belongings caught **More on P6**

Six OGWs Held In Kulgam: Police

Police on Friday claimed to have arrested six over-ground workers (OGWs) of Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) from South Kashmir's Kulgam district. On the basis of specific information regarding carrying out of subversive activities in Mirhama and Damhal Hanjipora areas of district Kulgam, Police and army's 9 RR in a joint operation arrested 6 terrorist associates, a police spokesperson said Friday. On their instance, he said, huge cache of arms & **More on P6**

Brain Tumour Could Now Be Detected Using Urine Test

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have used a new device to identify a key membrane protein in urine that indicates whether the patient has a brain tumour.

According to their study, the protein used to detect brain cancer could avoid the need for invasive tests, and increase the likelihood of tumours being detected early enough for surgery.

This research from Nagoya University, Japan, could also have potential implications for detecting other types of cancer, the study said.

The research was published in the journal ACS Nano.

Although early detection of many types of cancer has contributed to the recent increases in cancer survival rates, the survival rate for brain tumours has remained almost unchanged for over 20 years. This is partly due to their late detection.

Physicians often discover brain tumours only after the onset of neurological symptoms, such as loss of movement or speech, by which time

the tumour has reached a considerable size. Detecting the tumour when it is still small, and starting treatment as soon as possible should help to save lives, the study said.

According to the study, one possible sign that a person has a brain tumour is the presence of tumour-related extracellular vesicles (EVs) in their urine.

EVs are nano-sized vesicles involved in a variety of functions, including cell-to-cell communication. Because those found in brain cancer patients have specific types of RNA and membrane proteins, they could be used to detect the presence of cancer and its progression, the study said.

Although they are excreted far from the brain, many EVs from cancer cells exist stably and are excreted in the urine without breaking down, the study said.

"Urine testing has many advantages," explained Associate Professor Takao Yasui of Nagoya University Graduate School of Engineering.

"Liquid biopsy can be performed using many body fluids, but blood tests are invasive. Urine tests are an effective, simple, and non-invasive method



because the urine contains many informative biomolecules that can be traced back to identify the disease," said Yasui.

A research group led by Nagoya University, in collaboration with the

University of Tokyo, Japan, has developed a new analysis platform for brain tumour EVs using nanowires at the bottom of a well plate, according to the study.

Using this device, they identified two specific types of EV membrane proteins, known as CD31/CD63, from urine samples of brain tumour patients. Looking for these tell-tale proteins could enable doctors to identify tumour patients before they develop symptoms, the study said.

"Currently, EV isolation and detection methods require more than two instruments and an assay to isolate and then detect EVs," said Yasui.

"The all-in-one nanowire assay can isolate and detect EVs using one simple procedure. In the future, users can run samples through our assay and change the detection part, by selectively modifying it to detect specific membrane proteins or miRNAs inside EVs to detect other types of cancer."

"Using this platform, we expect to advance the analysis of the expression levels of specific membrane proteins in patients' urinary EVs, which will enable the early detection of different types of cancer," said Yasui.

Scientists Split Seawater To Produce Green Hydrogen

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have successfully split seawater without pre-treatment to produce green hydrogen.

According to the international study, the researchers split natural seawater into oxygen and hydrogen with nearly 100 per cent efficiency, to produce green hydrogen by electrolysis.

They used a non-precious and cheap catalyst in a commercial electrolyser, the study said.

A typical non-precious catalyst is cobalt oxide with chromium oxide on its surface.

"We used seawater as a feedstock without the need for any pre-treatment processes like reverse osmosis desalination, purification, or alkalisation," said Yao Zheng, lead researcher from University of Adelaide, Australia.

"The performance of a commercial electrolyser with our catalysts

running in seawater is close to the performance of platinum/iridium catalysts running in a feedstock of highly purified deionised water," said Zheng. The team published their research in the journal Nature Energy.

"Current electrolysers are operated with highly purified water electrolyte. Increased demand for hydrogen to partially or totally replace energy generated by fossil fuels will significantly increase scarcity of increasingly limited freshwater resources," said Zheng.

Seawater is an almost infinite resource and is considered a natural feedstock electrolyte. This is more practical for regions with long coastlines and abundant sunlight, the study said.

However, it is not practical for regions where seawater is scarce, the study said.

Seawater electrolysis is still in

early development compared with pure water electrolysis because of electrode side reactions, and corrosion arising from the complexities of using seawater.

"It is always necessary to treat impure water to a level of water purity for conventional electrolysers including desalination and deionisation, which increases the operation and maintenance cost of the processes," said Zheng.

"Our work provides a solution to directly utilise seawater without pre-treatment systems and alkali addition, which shows similar performance as that of existing metal-based mature pure water electrolyser," said Zheng.

The team will work on scaling up the system by using a larger electrolyser so that it can be used in commercial processes such as hydrogen generation for fuel cells and ammonia synthesis, the study said.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division, Pulwama

email : xenpheapulwama@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-IV

Subject:- Extension of last date for submission of tenders

Reference:- This office ENIT S. No. 44/PHEP of 2022-23 published under endorsement No: PHEP/4431-41 Dated: 01-12-2022, No. PHEP/4657-67 Dated. 12-12-2022, No. PHEP/4873-83 Dated. 27-12-2022 and No. PHEP/6086-96 Dated. 16-01-2023.

In view of no response received to the above-mentioned e-NIT, the online Bid Submission End Date and Tender Opening Date is hereby extended up to 13-02-2023 4:00 P.M. and 14-02-2023 02:00 P.M respectively. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division, Pulwama

No:-PHEP/ 6438-88 DPK-17019/22 Dated:- 03-02-2023



अखिल भारतीय आयुर्वेद संस्थान ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA (AIIA) (आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अंतर्गत स्वायत्त संस्थान) (An Autonomous Organization under the Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India)

Notification for Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Programs 2023-24

- Online applications are invited for admission in Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs in various disciplines of Ayurveda at All India Institute of Ayurveda under Delhi University.
- The candidates desirous of seeking admission to the aforesaid programs may apply for the same through www.aiaa.gov.in. Candidates are requested to go through PhD Bulletin from the website before applying for PhD Program.
- Starting date of Registration is 6th February 2023 & Last date is 27th February 2023
- Date of PhD Entrance Test is 5th March 2023. For further details kindly visit www.aiaa.gov.in

-SD-
Director, AIIA

cbc- 17219/12/0009/2223

Office Of The Principal Government Medical College, Anantnag, J&K

(Main Campus Dialgam, Anantnag)

e-mail: gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com ragmca2_2@gmail.com
Phone: 01932-227624

No:- GMCA/RA/SR/Interview/2023/195-204

Dated:- 02.02.2023

INTERVIEW NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of all the candidates who have applied for the post of Senior Resident vide Advertisement Notice No. 113 GMCA (RA) of 2022 Dated 26.12.2022 in the following below mentioned departments on academic arrangement basis under S.O-364 of 2020 dt. 27.11.2020 that the interview for the said posts is scheduled to be held on 08.01.2022 (Wednesday) at 11:00 AM in the office Chamber of Principal, GMC Anantnag at Associated Hospital Janglatmandi, Anantnag.

S. No.	Departments
01	Pediatrics
02	Community Medicine
03	Surgery

The concerned candidates who have applied for the said posts are advised to bring all original documents/testimonials and other relevant documents for verification by the selection committee on the date of interview. No TA/DA shall be paid to the candidates on this account.

DPK-17023/22
DATED: 03-02-2023

Sd/-Principal
Government Medical College,
Anantnag.

Fax/Ph. 01954230787 e-mail: eomcsmbal@gmail.com
Department Of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Officer Municipal Committee Sumbal

Subject: Auction of Old Office Building of Municipal Committee Sumbal.

E-AUCTION NOTICE
E-NIT No: MC/Sbl/2022-23/ 235-41
Dated: 31.01.2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons /parties /firms for auction of Old Office Building of Municipal Committee Sumbal. The Minimum reserved bid is fixed as Rs.1.26 lacs (Rupees One Lac Twenty Six Thousand Only).

Terms and conditions:

- The minimum reserve bid for the auction has been fixed Rs.1.26 lacs (Rupees One Lac Twenty Six Thousand Only).
- After finalization of auction proceedings, the highest bidder shall have to deposit the full payment in the chest of Municipal Committee Sumbal, after that he will be allowed to dismantle the old office building.
- The intending bidder shall be bound to accompany Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) for an amount of Rs.3,000/- (Rupees Three Thousand only) from any Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank pledged to Executive Officer Municipal Committee, Sumbal without which no bid document can be issued.
- The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in, as per the schedule of dates given below:

1. Date of issue of Tender Notice	01.02.2023
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02.02.2023 to 05.02.2023
3. Bid submission Start Date	06.02.2023
4. Bid submission End Date	07.02.2023
5. Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online)	08.02.2023 at 02.00 PM in the office of the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Sumbal.
7. Mode of Payment	100% at the time of declaration of successful bidder.

Instructions to the Bidders regarding E- Tendering process:

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquainted bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
- Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/challan in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Sumbal and bid securing declaration must be uploaded with the bid.
- The Bidder must have to upload (soft copies) of the following documents (Photostat/Original should be clearly seen in all respect with Ink Signed and Seal):-
 - Valid original Bank Challan/Receipt
 - Call Deposit Receipt (CDR)
 - BID Securing Declaration on stamp paper duly attested by Notary.
 - Valid GSTIN/ PAN Card No.
 - The Bidder should upload the Tender Document form attached below (Not Mandatory).
 - Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including
 - BID Securing Declaration and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document (s) which has /have not been uploaded shall not be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
 - The Highest Bidder will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded on e-tending portal before issuance of Allotment. Further details can be had from the office of undersigned on any working day during office hours.

Sd/-
Executive Officer,
Municipal Committee,
Sumbal.

DPK-NB-6287/22
DATED: 03-02-2023

Protest In Srinagar Against 'Desecration' Of Quran In Sweden

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Scores of people on Friday staged a peaceful protest against the 'desecration' of the holy Quran by far-right extremists in Sweden and Netherlands recently.

Scores of people, shouting anti-America and anti-Israel slogans, post Friday prayers, took out a protest rally from Abi Guzar to Press Enclave here, demanding exemplary punishment to the 'desecrators' of holy Quran.

Protesters alleged that anti-Islam forces spare no moment to hurt the sentiments of Muslims by their sacrilegious acts. They appealed to the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi to register strong protest with Sweden and Netherlands for burning and stomping over the holy Muslim book.

"We have assembled here to register our protest against the desecration of holy Quran by anti-Islam forces in Sweden and Netherlands recently, we could tolerate everything but not insult to our religion that only teaches love and equality," Syed Abid Hussain Razvi, who leads Friday prayers at Imam-e-Zaman mosque at Abiguzar told reporters.

Razvi said such acts are committed as part of America and Israel policy to intentionally hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims. He said Muslims across Kashmir will hit streets in case such sacrilegious acts are repeated in future.

"Our Prophet (SAW) is our pride, but some anti-Islam forces are hell-bent on creating rifts between different communities for their vested interests. We would like to warn such forces to refrain from provoking Muslims, who won't believe in violence, but if aggravated, will leave you unnerved," he threatened.

Sealing Of Shops At Aftab Market Was 'Outcome' Of Official 'Miscommunication': KEA

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The Kashmir Economic Alliance (KEA) claimed on Friday that the 'miscommunication' among officials of several departments, led to the sealing of shops at Aftab Market in city center Lal Chowk, a day earlier.

The Commissioner of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), according to KEA, an amalgam of several trade unions, acknowledged that since 1972, shopkeepers have paid their monthly rent to the civic body well on time.

Addressing a press conference at Aftab Market, KEA chairman Mohammad Yasin Khan said since the issue has been resolved with the higher-ups of SMC and Divisional Administration; it must be ensured that no such action is repeated in the future.

He said the shops at Aftab Market are essentially commercial property of the SMC and that the shopkeepers pay monthly rent to the civic body every month.

"Basically, miscommunication among the officials of different departments led to the sealing of shops at Aftab Market, had shops been illegally occupied, authorities would not have unsealed them the very next day, mistakes do happen and officials are humans as well," he added. He said shops were sealed following a complaint by some individual, claiming that the shopkeepers at Aftab Market have illegally occupied his commercial property. Khan said his allegations proved baseless later following which the authorities directed them (shopkeepers) to resume business.

'Domestic Violence Increased By 6.5 Percent During Covid-19 Lockdown'

'Women at home face more risk of domestic violence'

Agencies

Srinagar: Around 6.5 percent women in Srinagar started experiencing domestic violence during Covid-19 lockdown, a new study has revealed.

The study conducted by the Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Srinagar has revealed that the effects of preventing a COVID-19 health crisis have had unintended consequences on domestic abuse (DA) victimization, Social distancing measures inherently change micro level human interactions, as they force people to spend more time at home.

The online study using Google forms was conducted by Sabira Aalia Dkhar, Ruqia Quansar, and S.M. Salim Khan of the Department of Community Medicine and the study was published in the International Journal of Advanced Research (IJAR).

The members of the survey said that there is need to implement strict laws and policies to counter this and help the victim rather than criminalizing the victim and to reduce the frequency of the issue, it is central to acknowledge the extent of gender-based violence, create awareness and upkeep networks to make it easier for the victims to access them.

The study was done to assess the increase in domestic violence experienced by women especially during Covid-19. A total of 92 women participated in the survey, they said.

About 63.1% participants belonged to the age group of 30 years, 33.7% belonged to the age group of 31-40 years and only 3.2% belonged to the age group of >40 years and the importance of age in experiencing domestic violence is decreasing as in recent times; the prevalence of domestic violence has been seen across all age groups - children, adolescents and even elderly, they said.

The reason can be attributed to the fact that the perpetrator vents the anger on anyone and without any hesitation as any age group is vulnerable especially when confined at home during lockdown, said a doctor part of the study.

Approximately 65.2% participants were postgraduates, 17.4% were graduates, 13.1% had studied till 12th standard and only 4.3% were those who had studied up to 10th standard. The education level of a woman determines the extent of domestic violence one experiences as literate women are aware of their rights and may at times revolt back whereas the women who are illiterate or less educated don't have this advantage, he said.

"Almost 91.3% women were housewives and only 8.7% women were working. The women at home are at more risk of domestic violence as they are confined to their homes and the time of interaction with the abuser is more. The women who are not working have more stress at home during lockdown because there are restrictions for moving out and it causes more conflict and more chances of domestic violence," he said.

"About 54.3% women were unmarried and 45.7% women were



married. The women folk at home are at risk of violence irrespective of marital status. Some young girls are even abused as the family members are more in favour of a male child and thus risking them at the hands of their family members as they are cursed and at times beaten up. There are always chances of more gender-based violence which can be seen across the age spectrum. The women are considered a weaker gender and thus male gender tried to dominate and thus making women more prone to violence at the hands of their own family members or relatives. (7) Women are vulnerable irrespective of their class. Socio-economic status and age. Approximately 17.4% women reported to have experienced domestic violence at any point of their lifetime and 82.6% women nullified the reports of experiencing it. Women are abused since history as they are always considered a weaker gender with no voice of their own. The abuser usually abuses as they try to vent their frustration on their women at home," he added.

"About 10.9% women reported to have experienced domestic violence every time and 6.5% women reported to have experienced violence especially during Covid-19 times," he said.

"The Covid 19 times have led to lockdowns and restrictions all across the globe. The lockdowns have placed more chances of staying at the home of the abuser and thus increasing the interaction, conflicts and this more abuse. Lockdowns have led to clustering of family members in homes, more work load and more stress on the women folk of the families. The lockdowns have led to economic instability, economic insecurities and loss of jobs which have led to frustration and anger issues and thus more abuse. The loss of income also has led to more stress and thus conflicts and more abuse," he said.

"About 17.4% of women (all of those who experienced violence) confided to their family or friends about their condition on the pretext of feeling better and thus relieving them of their pain. Many women resorted to talking about it to take validation that they are not at any fault of getting beaten up or to take validation that this is normal. The women usually think that they experience violence because they are at fault or they are supposed to be silent and they are weak and don't have to raise a voice. Almost 6.5% of women who experienced violence looked for help to save themselves from this abuse and exactly 6.5% of women even received help, especially from their family or close friends. 10.9% women never asked for help as they consider that this is their fate and this is normal. The society will blame their women for their abuse and thus the image will be ruined. These women usually propagate male supremacy in families and thus indirectly increase the opportunities for the abusers to feel superior or right," he said. "Almost 17.4% of women reported that they are worried about their future and they may have to continue to face the abuse."

He said: "When asked about various reasons for not leaving their abusers or moving to a safer place, children at home was the common reason. Women usually have self-blame, confusion, hopelessness, guilt and shame on being abused and still they want to be with their abuser to save the child from being deprived of the family love and care. Women usually consider themselves to be weak and always at fault for being abused. Society also has made an illusion of male supremacy leading to propagation of false sense of dependence on men. If a woman leaves the abuser, society norms will always find faults with the women only rather than supporting them." (KNO)

'Prolonged Revamp Of Market Badly Affecting Our Business'

Agencies

Srinagar: The shopkeepers at the historic Polo View Market - named as 'High Street' under the Srinagar Smart City Project - say their business has dropped by 50 percent since the work began last year. The project was supposed to be completed by November 2022 but the work is nowhere near completion.

Haji Mohammad Ismail, president of the Polo View Market Association said that since the start of the project, the shopkeepers have been facing tough times.

"As this market has a global identity and is a favorite shopping zone for visitors, the removal of the parking zone and its absence has adversely affected the footfall with hardly any visitor coming here now," he said. "The ongoing project has cost us the business as we are witnessing a drop of 50 percent in sales."

Haji, however, said that



keeping in view the sketch of the revamped Polo View shown to them, the market will look more beautiful in the future. "But we only see the authorities missing deadlines for completion," he said. "We hope the project is completed very soon."

The authorities of Srinagar Smart City last year said they expected the completion of the project by the end of November 2022.

Another shopkeeper said

despite spending significant money on the project, the execution process has been "very poor". "The work is going on at a snail's pace," he said.

The president of the market said, "We want its completion at the earliest as the authorities have told us that the work on the project will be completed by the end of this month. The delay has taken a huge toll on our earnings and we cannot continue to bear further losses." (KNO)

Public Notice

I Abid Shah S/o Kurban Shah R/o Hameedpur Binjor-246701 Uttar Pradesh Stated That my name has been wrongly written as Mohammad Aabid In HDFC Life Policy No. 17874506 instead of correct name Abid Shah in my Aadhar Card Bearing No.965553916927 PAN NO. QIMPS0084J. Now i am applying for the correction of the same. Objection if any may conveyed to concerned authority within seven days.

mcb

میری زندگی میری توجہ میری مہارت میری مہم
آسان میری زندگی میری توجہ میری مہارت میری مہم



میری ماں کی 11 ویں برسی

11 ویں برسی آج ہی کے دن 4 فروری 2012ء میری والدہ مرحومہ ماجدہ بیگم صاحبہ نے رحلت فرما کر اپنے سفرِ آخرت کو طے کر لیا۔ ان کی یاد میں دعا ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ان کی روح کو جنتِ علیٰ میں داخل فرمائے۔ ان کی یاد میں دعا ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ان کی روح کو جنتِ علیٰ میں داخل فرمائے۔ ان کی یاد میں دعا ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ان کی روح کو جنتِ علیٰ میں داخل فرمائے۔

ماں آپ کی عظمت کے بارے میں کچھ کہنا سزاوار نہیں ہے۔ آپ کی شخصیت، خلوص، بے لوث محبت اور قربانی کا دھارا نام ہے۔ آپ دنیا کی وہ پیاری ذات تھیں جس کو سونپنے کی ایک محبت بھری غلطی، پیار اور سکون کا احساس ہوتا ہے۔ آپ کا مایہ میرے لئے غلطی چھڑانے کی مانند رہا۔ بیچھڑانے کے بعد میں اس کا دستِ شفقت خیر مایہ اور ان کی طرح سنا ہوا ہوں۔ آپ کی یاد میں دعا ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ان کی روح کو جنتِ علیٰ میں داخل فرمائے۔ ان کی یاد میں دعا ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ان کی روح کو جنتِ علیٰ میں داخل فرمائے۔ ان کی یاد میں دعا ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ان کی روح کو جنتِ علیٰ میں داخل فرمائے۔

ماں کے قدموں میں میری ساری محبتیں جمع ہیں۔ ان کی یاد میں دعا ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ان کی روح کو جنتِ علیٰ میں داخل فرمائے۔ ان کی یاد میں دعا ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ان کی روح کو جنتِ علیٰ میں داخل فرمائے۔ ان کی یاد میں دعا ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ان کی روح کو جنتِ علیٰ میں داخل فرمائے۔

منجانب: منیر احمد ڈار (تالپہ)، سمیر احمد ڈار (فرزین)

INF

- 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	6:01
ZUHR	12:45
ASR	4:24
Magrib	6:07
ISHA	7:28

This Day In History

- 1454 - In the Thirteen Years' War, the Secret Council of the Prussian Confederation sends a formal act of disobedience to the Grand Master
- 1508 - Maximilian I assumes imperial title without being crowned
- 1600 - Astronomers Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler meet for the first time near Prague
- 1620 - Prince Bethlen Gabor of Hungary signs peace with Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II
- 1699 - 350 rebellious Streltsi executed in Moscow
- 1783 - Worst quake in 8 years kills some 50,000 in Calabria, Italy
- 1789 - 1st US electoral college chooses George Washington as President and John Adams as Vice-President
- 1794 - French National Convention proclaims abolition of slavery
- 1797 - Earthquake in Quito, Ecuador kills 41,000
- 1859 - One of the oldest known copies of the Bible, "The Codex Sinaiticus" (Sinai Bible), is seen in Egypt by Constantin von Tischendorf who takes the manuscript home with him
- 1861 - Confederate constitutional convention meets for 1st time; Jefferson Davis elected President of Confederacy (US Civil War)
- 1922 - After boycotts and international pressure, Japan agrees to return Shantung Province to China.
- 1933 - German President Paul von Hindenburg limits freedom of the press
- 1938 - Adolf Hitler seizes control of German army and puts Nazis in key posts
- 1941 - British tanks occupy Maus, Libya
- 1941 - Former Dutch premier De Geer flies to Berlin
- 1941 - United Service Organization (USO) founded
- 1942 - Clinton Pierce becomes 1st US general wounded in action in WW II
- 1945 - Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin meet at Yalta in the Crimea to discuss the final phase of World War II
- 1949 - Failed assassination attempt on Shah of Persia Mohammad Reza Pahlavi
- 1961 - Sputnik 7 launches into Earth orbit; probable Venus probe failure
- 1967 - US Launches Lunar Orbiter 3
- 1969 - The Palestine National Congress appoints Yasser Arafat chairman of the PLO

From KO Archives

Counter-Insurgents Form Joint Front In J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU - In a bid to counter the growing menace of foreign militants of yesteryears under eleven different counter insurgency groups have joined hands and formed Muttahida Quomi Mahaz (Joint National Front). This group will give a befitting reply to Pakistan's Inter service Intelligence (ISI) and militants and agents in the state, chairman of the front and National Conference MLC Javed Hussain Shah told reporters here yesterday.

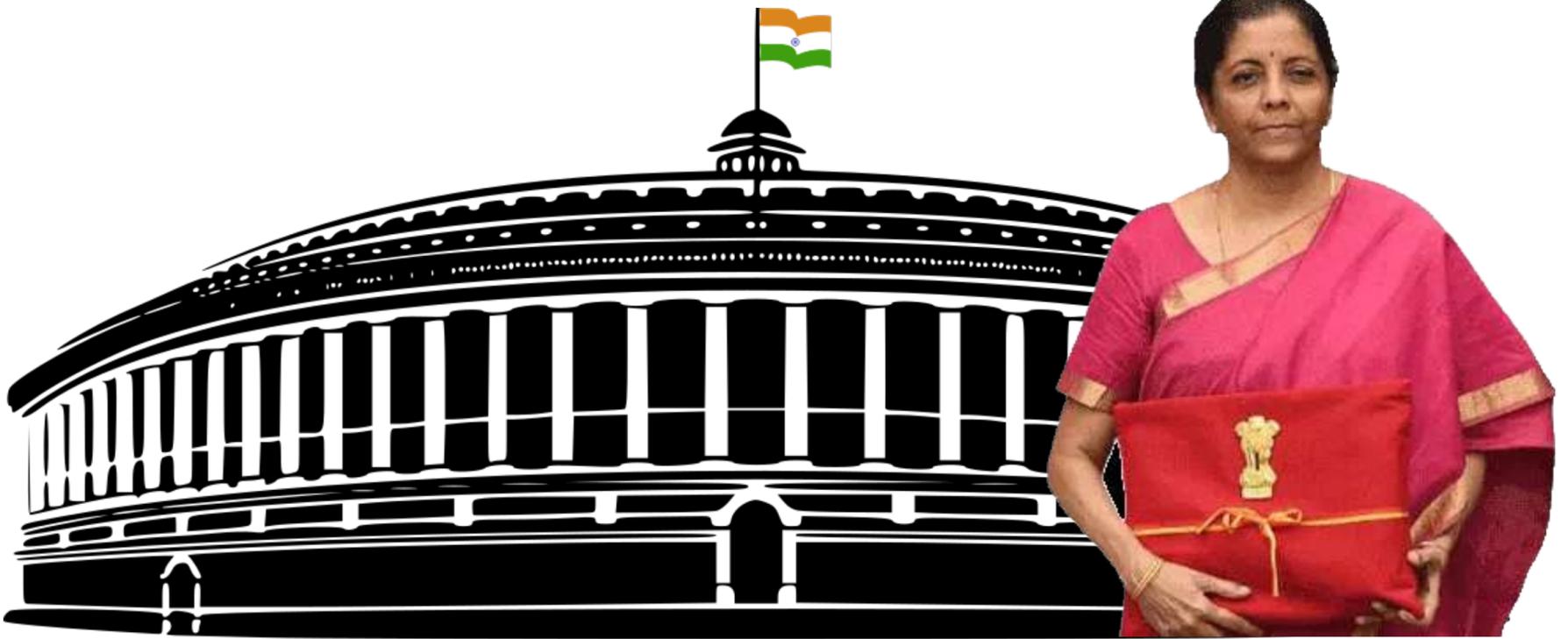
Shah, who also heads a counter insurgency group, national security organisation, said efforts were also on to bring J&K Awami League supremo Jamshed Shirazi alias Kukka Parrey and Liaquat alias Hilal Haider in the new front.

He said the Centre should not be soft toward the Hurriyat Conference and demanded arrest of the Hurriyat leaders who he alleged are involved in anti-national activities.

Besides holding rallies and mass contact programmes, the Mahaz would appeal to people to come to the streets against the Hurriyat and ISI.

Organisations which have joined the Muttahida Quomi Mahaz front include National Security Organisation of Javed Hussain Shah, all J&K People's Patriotic Front of Nabi Azad, Jammu Kashmir Welfare Forum of Sammad Khan, Militancy Mukhalif Murcha of Ch. Jalal-U-Din, Sada-i-Kashmir of Shabnum Shafiq, Aman Conference of Majid Khan, Muslim Mujahideen of Mukhtar-ul-Aziz, Kashmir Liberation Council of Mushtaq Ahmed Lone, Secular Awami Tehreek of Abdul Ahad, J&K Ikhwan of Bashir Ahmed Khan and Awami Tehreek headed by Wali Mohammad Wani.

(Kashmir Observer, 04 February, 2001)



Union Budget 2023-24

OF ANNOUNCEMENTS, OPTICS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Ejaz Ayoub

When the world's fifth largest economy, India, presented its annual budget on the 1st day of February 2023, everyone was watching. From global investors seeking risk and return trade-offs to housewives recalibrating their grocery bills, all the stakeholders were taking note. The much-awaited fiscal policy, however, preferred to maintain a very cautioned stance. Loaded with rhetoric, as has been the hallmark of the ruling NDA Govt, the finance minister started the ceremonious budget speech with her vision for the "Amrit Kal" — a slogan coined by the BJP aimed at capturing electoral imagination for the next 25 years in terms of growth and progress. Like the previous few budgets which came with themes like "Sabka sath sabka Vikas" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat", this one talks about "Saptarishi" — seven priorities aimed at areas like inclusive development, reaching the last mile, youth power, financial sector, green growth, unleashing the potential and infrastructure and investment. The halfhearted achievements in the last two themes were conveniently attributed to systemic factors like the pandemic, global geopolitical risks, and inflationary pressures in the global energy markets. The Government, therefore, hopes that the vision of Amrit Kal sees a better beginning with Saptarishi before the fight for Lok Sabha elections gets real in 2024.

The Context

The challenging backdrop in which this budget was presented demanded extreme caution. The negatively changing macroeconomic, geo-political and socio-economic factors, in and around India, have created a perfect cocktail of risks that has the potential to materialize into a major destabilizing force.

Firstly, there were electoral compulsions with as many as nine state elections lined up in 2023 and the very important general election in 2024. Therefore, the urge to shower freebies with a populist approach was there. Upcoming elections also kept the scope for reforms and investments out of question.

Secondly, the global slowdown on account of the unfolding recession in Europe, the US, and Japan was directly impacting exports. With uncertain private investment, plateauing exports and struggling consumption, the Government expenditure seemed to be the only engine left for doing the heavy lifting.

However, third and most importantly, the pile of debt which steepened during the previous two financial years, due to the pandemic, offered a claustrophobic fiscal space for raising more debt. Additionally, the continuously sticky inflation, which the central bank had been wrestling with through monetary policy maneuvering, demanded controlled government expenditure to remain within the tolerable zone. Moreover, the high-interest rate situation which has escalated the costs for private investments, required a tight borrowing program by the Govt, therefore leaving enough space for private players to borrow comfortably. Lastly, the unfolding hostile realities along India-China's Line of Actual Control

(LAC) were creating expensive demands for cranking up defense expenditure.

Growth vs Redistribution

The two main functions that the Government, as the custodian of the nation's collective wealth, is expected to perform, are growth and redistribution. The Government announced that it is confident in achieving a 7% growth in real GDP for FY 2022-23 and is expecting that the economic output will grow within a range of 6.0 to 6.8% for the upcoming FY. When it comes to growth, the larger picture of the budget depicts a push toward infrastructural development. With a year-on-year escalation of 33.4%, an outlay of Rs. 10.00 Lakh crore towards infrastructure and investment is aimed at railways, airports, ports, urban infrastructure, etc. It is assumed that with a comparatively higher multiplier effect, this investment will spur demand for men, materials, and machines across sectors. The expenditure of Rs. 5.94 Lakh crore on defense witnessed around 13% growth. This is the highest allocation among all sectors. This sizable enhancement has been allocated for advanced weaponry, modernization of armed forces, make-in-India military programs, and R&D.

For MSMEs, agriculture, and rural economy, the finance minister preferred to continue with the status quo, except for some minor tweaks.

The greatest casualty, however, has been



From global investors seeking risk and return trade-offs to housewives recalibrating their grocery bills, all the stakeholders were taking note. The much-awaited fiscal policy, however, preferred to maintain a very cautioned stance. Loaded with rhetoric, as has been the hallmark of the ruling NDA Govt, the finance minister started the ceremonious budget speech with her vision for the "Amrit Kal" — a slogan coined by the BJP aimed at capturing electoral imagination for the next 25 years in terms of growth and progress

generation scheme for the rural economy. It witnessed a drastic drop of 33% from Rs. 89,000 Crore (revised estimates 2022-23) to only Rs. 60,000 Crore for 2023-24. In wake of consistently high unemployment, the curtailed expenditure

expected right now.

In terms of redistribution which is mostly achieved through taxing the rich and passing the benefits to the poor through social sector spending, this budget seems to lack clarity. The recent Oxfam report on income inequality in India painted a very grim picture, with the top 1% owning 40% of total wealth and the 50% poorest paying 64% of the indirect taxes. Despite this, the Govt. went on reducing the effective tax rate on annual incomes of Rs. 2.5 Crore from an existing 42.74% to only 39%. A reduction of surcharge on similar lines has been announced for incomes above Rs. 5.00 Crore. The loss to the exchequer amounts to Rs. 35,000 crores.

Middle Class: The Fine Print

Another optically loaded announcement has been the changes in the personal income tax slabs under the new regime. Given the lukewarm response towards the new tax regime, which was introduced in 2020, this time the Government has tried to lure the taxpayers with more enhanced tax slabs. Pertinently, there has been no change in the old personal tax regime which enables a taxpayer to avail tax benefits through deductions like HRA, Home Loan interests, Provident fund, NPS, Health Insurance, etc. Over a period, the majority of personal taxpayers have made peace with the old tax regime by planning their long-term investments in instruments that help in tax deduction. Switchover to the new regime, despite better tax slabs, seems like a bad bargain for taxpayers as of now. The transition might take its own sweet time. Nevertheless, the change in the minimum tax slab from Rs. 5.0 Lakh to Rs. 7.0 Lakh has been a long-awaited change. It is expected to provide much-needed comfort to low-income groups. Furthermore, no tinkering with the capital gains tax was well received by the markets.

The bigger picture of fiscal math seems well-knit. The path toward fiscal consolidation, particularly the target of a 5.9 percent fiscal deficit, looks very prudent and achievable. Overall, the finance minister has been careful not to disturb the status quo much. Indirect taxes too, have been barely touched. Infrastructural push and defense expenditures are the major highlights with small and ambitious announcements like green projects, 5G labs, digital libraries, AI, Drones, coding, robotics, start-up incentives, skill development, etc adding as fillers to make the package look wholesome. However, the challenges of rampant unemployment, stagnating private investment, inflation, and rising inequality continue to pose serious threats. One can only hope that this seven-dimensional budget metamorphosizes the slogan of Amrit Kal into a tangible reality.

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

The author is an Economist and Economic Researcher at the National Institute of Technology Srinagar



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the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) which has otherwise been a very effective employment

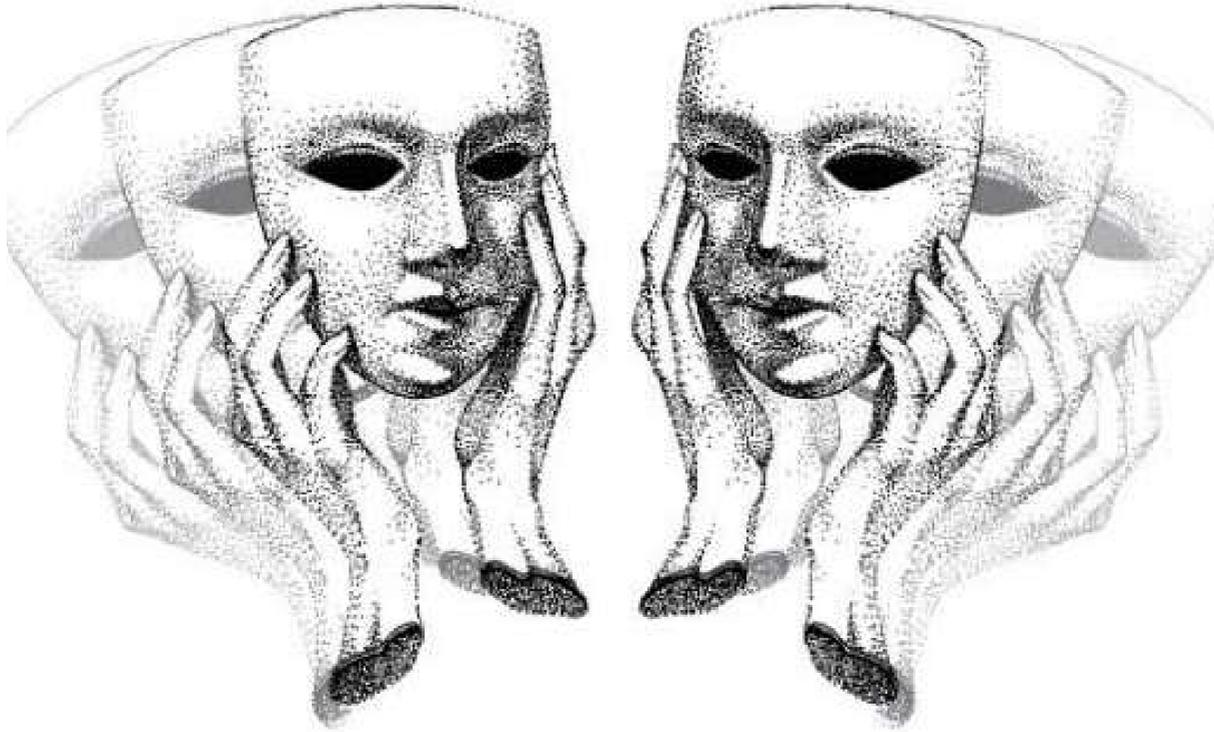
towards this scheme can have a direct bearing on the rural demand. That's the last thing that the consumption-dependent Indian economy

Omphalos of Attention

Abid Hussain Rather

Gone are the days when life used to run smoothly, little were our needs and every individual had enough time to take care of himself and focus on his development. Now, as we all know, we are living in the era of scientific revolution and materialistic progress of the world is going by leaps and bounds. The world is progressing quickly and to keep pace with this progressive change every individual has to keep himself busy in his daily schedule. When we look around, we find everyone busy and most people have hardly any leisure time to focus on themselves. In this hustle and bustle, almost every individual has lost his own existence. Hardly few people take heed of their existence and pay attention to themselves. It can not be denied that everyone among us is a social animal and we become an inseparable part of our society after our birth. Separating ourselves from our society is absolutely an absurd idea. So while living in a society, we have some duties unto our society (towards our family, friends, relatives, neighbours etc.) which inflates our responsibilities. But in no way it means that we should ignore our existence and defocus on our personal development. Our intellect hints that it is an oceanic blunder. Our existence demands balance of our thoughts and equipoise in our affairs and motives . We need to take consideration of our actions and set limits for all our activities, so that they may not trammel our personal development.

Walker Percy, an American author has written an important mock self-help book ' Lost in the Cosmos' which was published in 1983. In this book Walker Percy states that we are all essentially unstable and looking for something to make us feel whole and balanced. We are looking for something to remind us that we are here, in the universe, and that our individual personality matters. The main theme or central idea of this book is that since ancient times man has never given importance to his existence. We spend our entire life for others. In other words, we are always afraid of the opinions of other people. We are afraid about people's thoughts regarding our activities and we have a big concern whether we are righteous in other people's opinions instead of taking care about our own existence. We become villains of ourselves while trying to be heroes for others. Ironically, we remain unaware about the



WE SPEND OUR ENTIRE LIFE FOR OTHERS. IN OTHER WORDS, WE ARE ALWAYS AFRAID OF THE OPINIONS OF OTHER PEOPLE. We are afraid about people's thoughts regarding our activities and we have a big concern whether we are righteous in other people's opinions instead of taking care about our own existence. We become villains of ourselves while trying to be heroes for others

fact that we are destroying our own existence while taking care of others' opinions.

Now a question arises why are we usually unconcerned about our own existence? Is it natural or does our existence have no significance for us? While over-viewing our daily life routine we find that we are least concerned with many of our personal matters regarding our existence which demand our much attention. It is a harsh reality that besides being unconcerned, we altogether ignore our own existence. We often overlook our own exist-

ence in many social and economic issues. We put the significance of our existence in the back seat while choosing our priorities and ultimately we lose our own existence while giving preference to others. Walker Percy has beautifully discussed these points in his book and stated that ignoring our own existence is in no way beneficial for us.

Since his existence on planet earth, man has lived a life which has never been completely his own. He has always remained divided between his family, friends, colleagues and relatives. Despite his utmost

attempts, he has never been absolutely his own. The burden of his responsibilities have never given him a chance to spend some lonely moments with himself; to think about himself and to give priorities to his own needs while de-escalating the burden of his responsibilities. But we should not forget that life is actually all about equipoise : a balance between our own existential needs and our responsibilities and duties unto our society. Neither we can live in isolation by segregating ourselves from our societies nor should we forget our own existence

under the burden of our responsibilities. Both ways are harmful and have negative effects on us.

Our life becomes purposeful and beautiful when we discern and perceive all our affairs judiciously and maintain a balance in it by paying heed to our own existence and pampering others. Many people among us remain segregated from their societies and they remain confined only with their families. Over obsession of economic affairs over social affairs in our lives brings imbalance in it. Though it can't be denied that we have to give preference

and priority to our families at many times and sometimes we have to completely submit ourselves for their service but by no means we should ignore the rest of the things. Speaking more precisely, we can live our lives at different levels. Firstly, we can live solely for ourselves without caring for others. All our actions will be self centred and it will ultimately lead to egotism. Secondly instead of being heedful for ourselves, we can exclusively spend our lives for our family and relatives. Thirdly, sacrificing ourselves for the service of our society. But the best way to live is to maintain a balance between these three levels without prioritizing one over another as overlooking any of the above mentioned three levels may lead to negative results. According to psychologists nobody in the world can live a sound life either by completely ignoring his existence or by detaching himself from society. Life is all about balance, temperance and moderation but unfortunately most of us live in extreme zones and ultimately this imbalance destroys our existence. Neither we should completely ignore our existence nor we should totally be self centred. Rather we should maintain a balance in all the spheres of life. Besides social responsibilities, we all have some duties towards our own existence. Unless and until we fulfil these duties comprehensively, we can't serve our society in a good way because getting acquainted with our own selves is the first step towards serving others.

While writing the above paragraphs on the necessity of paying attention towards our own existence and its importance, I never meant that we should totally be self centred or egoistic, rather we should try to maintain a balance in our lives. As we all know, serving humanity is the best virtue and among the best deeds. Life spent totally for oneself is a waste and of no value. But the Almighty has also guided us to fulfil all duties towards our own existence besides fulfilling duties towards others. So maintaining a balance between these duties without ignoring either will ultimately lead to a successful life. As Diane Von Furstenberg has rightly said,

"It is so important to take time for yourself and find clarity. The most important relationship is the one you have with yourself"

The author can be reached at
rather1294@gmail.com

Why We Feel Like We're Failing At Motherhood

Kavita Srinivasan

I read an article a few years ago when researching 'birth plans'. A mother decided to let the umbilical cord fall away naturally instead of clamping it at birth. She preserved it in an ice bag and carried her baby everywhere for seven days till the connection slowly severed. She was onto something.

Delayed umbilical cord clamping, according to WHO and prominent medical bodies, has innumerable benefits, such as increased blood flow, nutrients and long-term neurological benefits.

The mother cord. Whether we chose to stay physically connected to our children for seconds, minutes or days, we forever remain their source — of life, of self, of love, just as our mothers were ours.

But what if our source was sullied? Corrupted by damage? What then? Is our mother's damage ours? Is her pain passed on? When a mother is unable to meet all of her child's needs, the child suffers. But then, is anyone ever able to give wholly like the umbilical cord that withers away after serving its cause?

Perhaps if we admit that we come from imperfection, we would see ourselves in plain sight and begin to piece together our broken parts. What we see, we can heal. But how do you begin to see the unseen? It's difficult to find the answers when we're trapped in our minds. Start asking yourself:

- Why do we do things we know aren't serving us?

- Why do we let people in our lives treat us a certain way when we know it's breaking us?

- Why do we treat people in ways we know are unfair?

- And above all, why can't we handle motherhood the way we want to?

It took me a few painful years to admit to my imperfect mothering. I wasn't the mother I hoped I would be. Far from it. I was guilty of making mistakes my mother had made. Mistakes that weren't even hers... They belonged to her mother, and her mother's mother and her great grandmother... you get the picture. I was the product of a lineage of emotional sloppiness, as was she. The scars ran deep.

Here's the undeniable truth: The way we are mothered is our version of unconditional love. And so, we give love the only way we know how to. How do you break this pattern? Look at the person who nurtured you, physically put pen to paper and answer: How does she treat herself? How does she navigate pain? How is she broken? Who wounded her?

Just this is everything. It's a place to begin; your very own personal compass pointing inward. The way she treats herself is the way you care for you. The way she navigates pain is the way you process yours. Her brokenness birthed you. The relationships that scarred her will reappear in your life.

The mother wound holds the heart of our suffering. The way we've been failed is how we will fail our children. Unless we stop, unless we see, unless we admit that everything we come from is inherently flawed and begin to be aware of our shortcomings.

Let your mother fall from the pedestal you placed her on. She was never meant to be out of your reach. When you embrace her imperfection wholly, you will learn to finally cut the cord.

- Khaleej Times



SC Directs Govt To Produce Original Records Relating To Decision To Block BBC Documentary On Gujarat Riots

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday directed the central government to produce original records relating to its decision to block a BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots.

A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and M M Sundresh issued notices to the government and others on pleas filed by veteran journalist N Ram, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, activist lawyer Prashant Bhusan and lawyer M.L. Sharma. Sharma had filed a separate petition and it has now been tagged with similar pleas challenging the government's decision to block the documentary.

The matter is listed for next hearing in April.

"We are issuing notices. Counter affidavit be filed within three weeks. Rejoinder within two weeks after that. The respondents will also produce original records before this court on the next date of hearing," the bench said.

At the outset, the bench asked the petitioners why they did not approach the high court in the matter.

Senior advocate CU Singh, appearing for Ram and the others, submitted that the government has invoked the emergency powers under the Information Technology (IT) Rules to block

the documentary.

He said he was seeking a direction to the Centre to place on record all the original records.

The Supreme Court said it is also a fact that people have been accessing the documentary.

It had earlier agreed to hear the plea taking note of the submissions of lawyers Sharma and Singh seeking urgent listing of the petitions against the government's ban on the two-episode BBC series using its emergency powers.

One of the petitioners has also alleged that the ban on the documentary 'India: The Modi question' was "malafide, arbitrary and unconstitutional".

Reacting strongly after Ram filed his plea, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju had tweeted, "This is how they waste the precious time of Hon'ble Supreme Court where thousands of common citizens are waiting and seeking dates for justice".

Ram and others, in their pleas, have sought a direction to restrain the government from curbing their right to "receive and disseminate information" on the documentary.

"All citizens, including the press, have the fundamental right to view, form an informed opinion, critique, report on, and lawfully circulate the contents of the

documentary as the right to freedom of speech and expression incorporates the right to receive and disseminate information...", the plea said and referred to several apex court orders on freedom of speech and expression.

The plea has also sought quashing of "all orders directly or indirectly censoring" the information, including those shared on social media.

"Issue a writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order, or direction to the respondents restraining them from giving effect to orders curtailing freedom of speech and expression without first putting them

in the public domain on a centralised database," the plea said.

The plea, which has made Twitter Communications India Private Ltd and Google India parties, has also sought a direction for the restoration of the tweets of the petitioners.

"The power of the executive under Section 69 A to lay down directions for blocking public access' is limited to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognisable offence relating to above," it said.

The contents of the BBC documentary are protected under Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech and expression) of the Constitution, it said, adding that the contents of the series do not fall under any of the restrictions specified in Article 19(2).

"On January 17, 2023, BBC released the first in a two-part documentary series titled, 'India: The Modi Question' which critically appraises the role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was the then chief minister of Gujarat in 2002 when riots broke out in which thousands of people lost their lives," the plea said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Magsaysay Award

Wangchuk said in the video.

In a candid chat with Kashmir Observer, Wangchuk talks about his climate fast, emerging political scenario and the concerns of the people of the mountainous region.

Here are the excerpts

In a tweet, you said that all is not well in Ladakh? Can you please explain it?

See, mine was just a simple climate fast to press people's demand in Ladakh for safeguarding the region under the sixth schedule of the Indian Constitution that grants considerable autonomy to tribal communities.

I wanted to spread awareness among the people of Ladakh and the country to adopt a lifestyle that is climate friendly. With this two-fold agenda, I planned to go to Khardung La Pass and observe the climate fast for five days. However, the UT administration restricted me to my institute.

Initially, I thought it wasn't serious but then I found I have been put under house arrest that too unofficially. When I tried to move out, I was stopped and manhandled by Leh Police. All tactics were used to silence me.

Did Leh Police ask you to sign a bond? What was it about?

Yes, I was asked to sign a bond which says that I won't make any statement or public appearance whatsoever. All this was aimed, to prevent my voice reaching social media. It was done with a purpose.

They could sense that with my voice in Khardung La pass, their own incompetence and mismanagement will come out because sixth schedule has been announced three years ago and nothing has been done.

They (BJP) kept it on their manifesto as the top agenda in two elections. But nothing was provided as promised.

Did Leh police give you the house arrest warrant?

No they didn't. This is the tactics the administration used—to put me under house arrest, unofficially. I observed the five-day-long fast at my institution at -20 degrees. I am the director of the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh (HIAL).

Do you apprehend a Kashmir like situation in Ladakh?

Anything is possible here now. The way they deal with things, it is becoming a Banana Republic. People are slapped with FIRs merely for saying oil and food is expensive. Some youth shouted slogans for the sixth scheduled, three of them were rounded up by police.

But why do you want Ladakh under the sixth schedule of the constitution? Aren't you happy with UT status?

Well, yes. The people of Ladakh were happy with the Union Territory status. This was a long pending demand but people were expecting a UT with legislature. The safeguards that were there with Article-370 are no longer there.

I think we were safe with the early arrangement. But since it is no longer there, people are looking for a sixth schedule which is given on the basis of tribal population. Since Ladakh has a 95 percent tribal population, it very much falls under the sixth schedule of the constitution.

Initially, the government assured people of it. However, they later backtracked and have now even stopped talking about it. Now, the situation has come when they consider it a crime if anyone is talking about it. They lodge FIR against the people who remind them about their promises.

Are you trying to say that you were better off with the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir?

Yes, we were happy with Jammu and Kashmir. But Ladakh always wanted to become a separate entity that would take care of the people in its own context.

See, Ladakh is another planet compared to Kashmir or Delhi. So, in that way we were always looking forward. However, the safeguards that these mountains need were there when we were with Jammu and Kashmir. And now, we are looking at the alternative that is in the sixth schedule.

How is the present political situation in Ladakh?

Let me tell you the whole Ladakh has got united. There is no party, no religion, and no community that doesn't support the sixth schedule. BJP introduced this idea, kept it in their election manifesto but unfortunately they later backtracked.

Our Loans To

come to Rs 240 crore to Rs 250 crore. The payments are regular and both the power projects are operational with power purchase agreements in place. The bank has the first charge on their sale. Not a single penny is overdue from the Adani account," he added.

Light Snowfall

Today's minimum temperature, he said, was above normal by 0.1°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of minus 2.6°C against 2.0°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C above normal.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 1.5°C against minus 2.9°C on the previous night and it was 4.6°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2.7°C against minus 1.9°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 7.0°C against minus 7.6°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C above 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 0.8°C against minus 2.3°C on the previous night and it was 1.5°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 7.2°C against 7.5°C on the previous night. It was 1.2°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 2.0°C (above normal by 1.2°C), Batote 4.2°C (above normal by 2.1°C), Katra 7.8°C (0.8°C above normal) and Bhadarwah minus 1.8°C (1.2°C below normal).

Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 11.0°C and minus 15.1°C respectively, the official said.

Avalanches Block

including Wazirthal, Neeru and Gujran villages.

He said the avalanche at Gugran Tulail also affected water supply to several habitations.

The official said teams have already been dispatched to the area to assess the situation and gather more data.

Meanwhile, residents have been asked to take caution and refrain from venturing near areas close to Kishanganga, mountains, or avalanche prone areas.

LG Reassures

close cooperation & interaction to reinforce our democratic values & to meet the challenges of nation building.

"CSOs in other states & at the Centre are playing important role as a nursery of ideas since many years. I am confident CSO in J&K will render yeoman service to UT with systematic and continuous improvement in governance through seminars & debates on civil administration," he said.

The institute, Sinha said, will work as a bridge between different fields of Civil Administration and officers will get the opportunity to learn a lot from each other's experiences.

"CSOI will strengthen the ethos of Good Governance and will evolve into a center for meaningful discussion on economic growth and social change," he said.

"The expectations of the people have increased and I have full faith that we all will work with dedication to meet their expectations and tackle the challenges of the future," he added.

The LG also noted that in today's inter-connected world, new skills of public administration and uninterrupted dialogue between common man and officers are required for smooth functioning of Civil Administration.

He also said that the success of Back to Village and My Town My Pride is testimony to his administration's commitment to people-centric governance.

"The successful conduct of the two Jan-Abhiyan is the best example towards social welfare and inclusive development," the LG said.

"I can proudly say that we have been able to establish the most transparent and active administrative system in Jammu Kashmir. The feedback received on RAS proves that the public service delivery has won the trust of the common man," he added.

Highlighting the initiatives of e-Governance, the LG said over 400 services have been made online.

"Remaining should also be made online soon in its true sense. The Public Services Commission has created a new milestone and declared the result in just three hours after the verification of the last candidate," he added.

Over 73 Hectares

on by a prominent media house and a businessman, the spokesperson said.

The boundary walls of the land were demolished and a "state land" board was installed on the site.

In another drive, 100 kanals of encroached land was retrieved at Palwan village in Akhnour while a chunk measuring 23 kanals and 13 marla was freed at Partap Singh Pura village in Bishnah.

In Kathua, nearly 495 kanals of state land was retrieved, taking the overall recovery in the district to 1,26,029 kanals and eight marlas, the spokesperson said.

On Friday, state land measuring 127 kanals and five marlas was retrieved in Hiranagar, 194 kanals and 15 marlas in Marheen, 57 kanals and 11 marlas in Dinga Amb, 27 kanals and seven marlas in Basohli, 29 kanals and 13 marlas in Lohai Malhar, 56 kanals and 15 marlas in Mahanpur and one kanal and 13 marlas in Nagri Parole, the spokesperson said.

The Rajouri district administration retrieved over 102 kanals of state land during the daylong drive from Jungrail, Sayal and Choki Handan areas of Nowshera.

Besides, the Sunderbani tehsildar removed encroachment on the Jammu-Poonch National Highway and handed it over to the Border Roads Organisation for road extension, the spokesperson added. (PTI)

CDS Reviews

Air Force Station Jammu, Air Commodore G S Bhullar, officials said.

"#CDS Gen Anil Chauhan accompanied by #ArmyCdrNC, Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi arrived at Jammu. The CDS chaired a high level security meeting attended by #ArmyCdrNC, DGP @jmuKmrPolice Shri Dilbag Singh, ADGP JKP, Lt Gen Sandeep Jain GOC 16 Corps & GOC 26 Infantry Div," tweeted A Bharat Bhusan Babu, principal spokesperson of the Defence Ministry.

Officials said General Chauhan later returned to Delhi after visiting Nagrota cantonment.

Meanwhile, calling for intensified anti-militancy operations in the border district of Rajouri, the Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh on Friday directed his men to identify hidden OGWs and their accomplices and take stringent action against each and every individual involved in anti national activities.

Singh passed these directions while chairing a high level meeting to review security scenario in the district, a police spokesperson said. The DGP was He was accompanied by the Special DG CID, R R Swain and ADGP Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh.

At the very outset of his address, the spokesperson said, the DGP congratulated Police for busting a package of LeT by arresting three of its members. Pakistan, Singh said, through its sponsored elements as targeting innocent people to harm the brotherhood and communal harmony of the UT.

Directing for alertness on borders as also in hinterland to foil evil intentions of Pak and its agencies, the DGP, the spokesperson said, emphasized upon the officers to put in stern efforts for tracking down the elements involved in Dhangri case ensuring justice to the victims.

Singh, he said, directed for dealing the case more seriously by taking into account every bit of evidence.

Stressing for utilizing the VDGs more efficiently, the DGP, he said, further stated that their training and weapon handling should be inspected by jurisdictional SHOs.

"The safety of the public has been and will continue to be the top priority of J&K Police. We have to be more cautious, alert and particular to avoid any harm to the public order," Singh said.

According to the spokesperson, the DGP directed for increasing anti terror operations to track down the hiding terrorists & their modules. Singh, he said, stressed for identifying hidden OGWs and accomplices providing any sort of support to terror activities and directed for stringent action against each and every individual involved in anti national activities.

The DGP, the spokesperson said, directed for strengthening the security grids by activating Naka checking points on different routes to track the movements of terrorists and their supporters. He also stressed for devising and executing a proper area domination plan.

"Pakistan after witnessing massive dent on its sponsored terrorism in J&K is now supplying drugs to target the younger generation of Jammu and Kashmir. Like terrorism there must be zero tolerance for narcotics and narco-terror trade. Both are equally dangerous for the people," Singh said.

The spokesperson said that DGP once again directed for taking serious note of any kind of misconduct with the general public brought into their notice by any means.

Singh, he said, has directed the officers to sensitise and advise their subordinate officers/officials to be fair in their conduct, adding that any act of misconduct must be taken with utmost seriousness.

"The officers present in the meeting apprised the DGP regarding the progress of investigation in the Dhangri terror incident. He was also briefed regarding the measures being put in place to ensure peace in the area as well as vigilance," the spokesperson added. (With PTI inputs)

CBI Searches 37

Kashmir constituted an inquiry committee to look into the same.

"The report of the committee revealed the alleged conspiracy among officials of JKSSB, a private company based in Bengaluru, beneficiary candidates and others causing gross irregularities in the conduct of the said examination," the CBI spokesperson had said after the FIR was filed on November 28.

It was also alleged that JKSSB violated rules in assigning the task of setting question papers to the Bengaluru-based private company.

Panic Grips

from Chenab Valley power projects and National Highways Authority of India have already inspected the site," Zargar said.

While some families have shifted to a temporary shelter set up by the district administration, many others have returned to their ancestral homes.

"We are making all necessary arrangements, including food and electricity, at the campsite," Zargar said.

Zahida Begum, whose family was shifted to a temporary site, said they lived in the village for 15 years and were surprised to notice cracks in concrete houses.

"There is panic among 50-plus households in the village. Majority of the structures developed cracks after Thursday's landslide," she said, demanding proper rehabilitation for the affected families.

Farooq Ahmad, another local resident, said 117 members of 19 families of policemen, ex-servicemen, defence personnel and labourers were relocated.

Nai Basti was developed about two decades ago and there was no such problem, he said.

"We request the NGOs and philanthropists to come forward and provide assistance to the affected people," Ahmad added.

Geological Survey

of the affected houses. Meanwhile, a Geological Survey team is already on its way to the affected spot to study the underlying causative factors. Short and long-term remedial measures, as required, will be undertaken," he wrote.

Rahul Writes

for their safety and families' concerns, and expecting sympathy and affection from the government, use of words like 'beggars' by the Lt. Governor for them is irresponsible. Prime Minister, you may not be familiar with this insensitive style of functioning of the administration," Gandhi said.

"I have assured the Kashmiri Pandit brothers and sisters that I will try my best to convey their concerns and demands to you. I hope that you will take appropriate steps in this regard as soon as you get this information," he said in the letter on Thursday.

A Kashmiri Pandit delegation had called on Gandhi during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Samba district and briefed him about their issues, including the "targeted killings" by terrorists and the resultant protest by those employed under the prime minister's package.

Nearly 4,000 Kashmiri Pandits are working in different departments in the Kashmir Valley after their selection under the prime minister's employment package announced in 2008. The package has two major components -- 6,000 jobs for the youth from the community and building as many accommodation units for the recruited employees.

However, many of the employees fled to Jammu after one of their colleagues, Rahul Bhat, was shot dead by militants inside his office in Budgam district on May 12 last year in what was described as a case of targeted killing.

HC Junks Plea

Drugmulla in May 2019 amid complaints of nepotism and favoritism by a selection committee.

The authorities had also ordered a fresh process for engagement against these positions. The action had followed report by a committee constituted by the authorities that, among others, did not dispute the allegations that six out of the 12 selected candidates were close relatives of the officers and officials working the Youth Services and Sports Department Kupwara and that some of the selected candidates were awarded exceptionally high marks in the interview though they were figuring at the bottom of the list as per the points calculated on the basis of their academic qualification.

"A look at the document (placed on record by officials) would reveal that all these 06 candidates, who are stated to be relatives of the officials of the Department, have secured very high marks as compared to the other selected candidates and the candidates who have been

rejected," a bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar said as per the order, adding, "This clearly gives an impression that the interview committee has been influenced by the officers/officials of the Department as a result of which they have awarded higher marks to these six candidates in the interview. Thus, a genuine doubt is cast on the fairness of the selection process."

Apart from it, the court said, the record shows that the interview of the candidates pertaining to Drugmulla Zone, was not conducted by a duly constituted Selection Committee.

"It is an admitted case of the parties that the interview was conducted by the Additional Deputy Commissioner in place of the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara," the court said.

As per Rehbar-e-Khel Scheme, the Selection Committee comprises District Development Commissioner concerned as its Chairman, District Youth Services & Sports Officer as its Member Secretary and District Employment & Counselling Officer and Zonal Physical Education Officer as its members.

"Thus, the interview of the candidates has not been conducted by a duly constituted Selection Committee because it was not headed by the Deputy Commissioner," the court said and rejected the contention by the counsel for the petitioners that Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara had the approval of the Deputy Commissioner to act on his behalf and that selection committee cannot be stated to be incompetent one.

"Without presence of the Deputy Commissioner, the Committee of the selection members is rendered defective. The authorization issued by the Deputy Commissioner that has been relied upon by the petitioners, would not clothe the Committee with the power to make the selection," the court said, "Even if it is assumed that the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, had issued any such authorization, still then it would not make any difference, as it was not within his competence to delegate his powers to any other officer."

The court also held that the petitioners do not have any vested right to seek a direction upon authorities concerned to take forward the selection process on the basis of provisional select list.

"It is a settled law that mere selection of a candidate does not entitle him to seek appointment to a particular post nor is a candidate, who finds his name in the select list entitled to seek a direction upon an authority to conclude the selection process so that the appointment orders are issued in his favour," the court

"In the instant case, even the selection of the petitioners was yet to be finalized as their selection was provisional in nature subject to the objections. Once the official respondents considered the objections, they withdrew the provisional select list. The same was well within their competence and jurisdiction particularly in view of the fact that the selection was made by an incompetent Selection Committee and there were a large number of misdemeanors observed in the selection process," the court said and dismissed the petition.

Pak Drone Shot

A three-kg weighing packet containing suspected heroin has been recovered along with the quadcopter, a BSF spokesperson said.

Fire Erupts

fire at around 1.30 pm.

Fire and emergency services, police, CRPF and shrine board employees swiftly put out the fire, they said.

Six OGWs Held

ammunitions, including 1 Pistol, one magazine and 18 rounds, 1 Hand Grenade, 4 UBGL Shells, 2 Motor Shells, 30 AK-47 rounds, 446 M4 rounds, 08 M4 Magazines, 1 AK-47 Magazine, 1 Insas Magazine, 1 Wireless Set, 4 Walky Talky and other incriminating materials have been recovered.

Police identified the accused as Shahid Ahmad, Ubaid Ahmad Itoo, Aabid Mushtaq, residents of Mirhama, Danish Ahmad Dar of D.H Pora, Nawaz Ahmad Ganie of Danganpora and Kifayat Ahmad Lone of Mohammadpora.

During preliminary investigation, the spokesperson said, it surfaced that the accused were linked with proscribed terror outfit JeM and were in touch with terror handlers across border via various social media platforms.

"The arrested accused persons were hell bent to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in district Kulgam by way of grenade attacks, intimidating innocent civilians, standoff fire attacks on PRI members, minority communities etc.," he said.

In this connection, he said, a case FIR No. 01/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station DH Pora, Kulgam. Further investigation into the case is in progress to expose the broader conspiracy.

Academics From Australia's Monash University Visit IIM Jammu



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A seven-member academic delegation from Australia's Monash University on Friday visited the Indian Institute of Management here, an official said.

The premier institutes discussed collaborative engagements, including student and faculty exchange, joint research, academic activities and strategic partnership, he said.

The discussions were fruitful and ended on a positive note, the official added.

Welcoming the delegation virtually from Spain where he is currently on a tour, Director, IIM Jammu, B S Sahay said the institution is looking forward to collaborating with Monash University.

"This will be a vital part of IIM Jammu's international endeavours and helpful in fostering the advancement in teaching,

research, and cultural understanding as well as the international reputation of both the institutes through student exchange, faculty exchange, technology transfer, and research programs," he said.

He said the coming together of both Institutes is sure to open new avenues and meaningful outcomes in the interest of all the stakeholders.

Professor of Management, Monash University, Amrik Sohal said, "Collaboration with IIM Jammu will help us to develop our competence in many key areas ranging from the development of educational and training programs, long-range planning, and Institutional development."

"The collaboration will give a leading edge to the research output of Monash University. We are looking forward to fruitful outcomes in the interest of both the institutes," he added.

JU Organises Discussion On PR For Its Media Students

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The University of Jammu organised a discussion on "Public Relations Strategies, Digital Landscape and Audiences" here on Friday for the students of its journalism and media studies department.

The department is actively committed to providing practical exposure to the students by regularly organising interactive sessions with academia and industry experts.

"This will help the media

students to gain opportunities both locally and nationally," Incharge Head of the department Garima Gupta said.

"It is very important for budding journalists to connect with different people in their surroundings and that public relations involves consistent effort in order to develop and maintain good relations with its various publics," she said.

The speakers also shared their views on how women are coming forward and taking up challenges in the field of journalism.

Work Plan For Amarnath Yatra 2023 Discussed At Ganderbal

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyamir on Friday convened a meeting of officers to discuss the work plan for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2023 (SANJY) in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, here.

At the outset, brief discussion was held on various developmental works that need to be upgraded like construction of steel bridges at various locations enroute Yatra tract, manpower, augmentation of health services, toilets, flood protection works, parking areas, mobile connectivity, transport service, contingency plan and other related arrangements to ensure foolproof SANJY-2023.

While discussing the mobile connectivity plan, the DC directed telecom companies (BSNL & Jio) that a plan should be submitted well in advance

for augmenting the capacity especially at Base Camp Baltal and enroute Yatra tract from Domail onwards.

The DC directed all the line departments to submit a detailed report of works that need to be upgraded at an earliest so that an action plan is framed accordingly.

On the occasion, the officers also shared their last year experience with regard to arrangements for SANJY and gave valuable suggestions for further augmenting the essential services for conduct of smooth Yatra.

After a detailed discussion, the DC gave necessary instructions to all the departments associated with Yatra via Baltal route for submitting action plans of concerned departments with priority of works that need to be upgraded to further augment the various essential services during Yatra period.

REAL TIME ATTENDANCE APP

School Edu Deptt Rolls Out Trail Run For Its Employees

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department Friday rolled-out a trial run of two applications in order to get the real time attendance of the employees of School Education Department with respect to their exact location and to get the students feedback for their teachers and School.

On these applications, the teachers are supposed to mark their attendance on an Android app that will run on a trial basis for now.

Director of School Education Kashmir in an official communication to Chief Education Officers (CEOs) said that there shall be trial run of JK Attendance—the application for online attendance of teachers and SAMIK-

SHA Portal, App developed for getting feedback of Students for their Teachers and Schools. "In this context, it is submitted that the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha under the aegis of School Education De-

partment, has developed two Apps and portals. One of applications—JK Attendance App for online attendance of Employees of School Education department, to get real time attendance with respect to their exact location with time, enabled by Geo tagging, besides

face recognition," DSEK said. Another portal—SAMIKSHA is for getting feedback from students for their teachers and School. "Before the formal Launching of these APPs and portals, trial run needs to be done, to fix any glitches or errors in the Apps or the portals, so that the same may be rectified well in advance and ensure proper monitoring in the Educational System across the UT of JK,"

it reads. DSEK has accordingly requested for full cooperation from School Heads and Zonal Education Officers during the trial run of these Apps and portals, so that the same may be replicated in all the Schools of the UT, in the coming days—(KNO)



Funding Case

4 Hizb Associates Plead Guilty In Money Laundering

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Four people associated with the Hizbul Mujahideen on Friday "voluntarily pleaded guilty" before a Delhi court in a money laundering case related to the Jammu Kashmir Affectees Relief Trust terror funding matter.

Mohammad Shafi Shah, Talib Lali, Muzaffar Ahmad Dar and Musthaq Ahmad Lone told the court that they did not claim trial in the matter and accepted the allegations levelled against them by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Special Judge Shailender Malik recorded the statements of each of the accused regarding the plea of guilt and posted the matter for February 16 for further proceedings, including arguments on the quantum of sentence to be awarded to them.

The four accused, who are currently in judicial custody, were produced before the court during the proceedings.

"After making them understand the process, the accused persons have voluntarily agreed to plead guilty. All the accused persons are being represented by their advocates who have also made them understand the process and consequences of pleading guilty," the judge said.

The judge also directed jail authorities to produce all the four accused on the next date of hearing.

The court had earlier noted that the case also involved Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) chief Syed Salahuddin and the terror outfit had created a frontal organisation in the name of Jammu Kashmir Affectees Relief Trust (JKART) to fund terrorist activities.

The ED, represented by its Special Public Prosecutor Nitesh Rana, had told the court that the accused persons, along with HM chief Salahuddin and others, laundered funds collected and received from Pakistan through different mediums for

its expenditure and distribution to active cadres of the HM and other terrorist outfits, purchase of material used for explosives and terrorist acts and abetment of terrorist acts.

The ED submitted before the court that the terror outfit was allegedly involved in funding around Rs 80 crore for terrorist activities in India.

It told the court that the ED had attached several properties in Kashmir that belonged to the accused persons.

The court had earlier declared Salahuddin and a few others proclaimed offenders in the case lodged under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED had filed a criminal case of money laundering in this instance after taking cognisance of a National Investigating Agency charge sheet filed against Salahuddin, Shah and others under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Shopian Shopkeepers Served Eviction Notice Seek LG's Help

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The shopkeepers in Nagbal area of South Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday observed a shutdown after they were asked to vacate their shops allegedly built on state land.

A local news agency KNO quoted the shopkeepers as saying that around 400 shops, mostly built on government land in Nagbal market, have been asked to vacate these shops within days.

They said vacating shops will lead to joblessness and a meager proportion of the population

earning their livelihood will also become unemployed where the majority of educated youth are already unemployed.

Shopian has already faced problem as they suffered huge losses due to low demand of apple and if now shops, the only source of income, will be snatched, then there will be no option other than suicide before us, said a shopkeeper.

He said that Kashmir is already challenged by unemployment and if the livelihood of more people will be snatched, "it will put Kashmir in more darkness."

Shopkeepers said that the government, especially LG Manoj Sinha, must look into it on humanitarian ground and revoke eviction orders immediately.

Government must take action against only those persons who have misused their power and grabbed land while poor people must be exempted as they must be allowed to earn their livelihood whether from shops or from agriculture/horticulture land, they said.

Notably, shopkeepers in Keller town of Shopian also requested the administration to revoke eviction orders.

DC Bandipora Reviews Physical & Financial Status Of JJM



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Friday convened a meeting of concerned Officers to review the physical and financial status of Jal Jeevan Mission of the district.

The meeting discussed threadbare physical and financial progress of various JJM Works, authorization for issuance of allotment for various works under JJM and Tendering, Execution and issuance of LOIs for JJM works.

The concerned officers apprised the chair that 120 schemes have been proposed under JJM including works of 17 Borewells, 38 Rapid Sand Filtration plants, 16 Slow Sand Filtration plants, 22 overhead tanks and 91 grounded service Reservoirs

The chair was apprised that out of 129 works of PHE Division Bandipora 113 works have been allotted and 05 works are completed and out of 27 works of special sub division Gurez, 15 works have been allotted and one has been completed.

Dr. Owais on the occasion said that JJM is aimed to provide a functional Household Tap Connection to all households and directed all the concerned officers to speed up the projects under JJM so that the works can be completed within the stipulated time.

He also stressed on regular monitoring of quality and progress on all allotted works.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Ali Afsar Khan; Joint Director Planning, Imtiyaz Ahmad and committee members of JJM in the district.

Secy Health Reviews Infra Projects Approved Under Emergency Covid Response Package



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary Health & Medical Education (H&ME), Bhupinder Kumar on Friday chaired a meeting to review the status of implementation of Projects approved under Emergency Covid Response Package (ECRP-II).

A detailed presentation was made by Ayushi Sudhan, Mission Director, NHM, J&K, delineating progress on establishment of infrastructural projects which included Maternal ICUs, Hybrid Paediatric ICUs, Oxygen supported Paediatric wards and 6 Bedded/20 Prefab structures approved under Emergency COVID Response Package (ECRP-II) for the UT of Jammu & Kashmir by the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

It was informed that a total of 75 state of art facilities are being established across the UT including 27 Maternal ICUs (245 Beds), 21 Paediatric Hybrid ICU (221 Beds), 14 Oxygen supported Paediatric Wards (346 Beds) besides 13 six-bedded and twenty-bedded Prefab structures (148 Beds) are being established at a cost of Rs. 102.06 crore. Out of which, 52 facilities (581 Beds) have been completed; and 19 facilities (301 Beds) are in progress and work of remaining four facilities (78 Beds) will be initiated soon.

Secretary impressed upon the

need for "esprit de corps" among the stake holders as it is pivotal for completion of these Projects. Secretary directed for conduct of Physical Audit of all the facilities developed under ECRP-II through joint inspections to remove all the bottlenecks at an earliest for timely completion of all the projects.

Bhupinder emphasized that the infrastructural facilities developed under ECRP-II shall act as a big leap for the healthcare department as by addition of these facilities the department will be able to extend Critical Care services to the remotest areas across the UT of J&K.

Further, directions were issued to all the Head of Departments to ensure compliance to norms such as AERB certifications, PNDD registrations and requisite formalities be completed at the earliest for dedicating these health care services to the public.

The meeting was also attended by the Principals Government Medical Colleges, Srinagar, Jammu, Rajouri, Doda, Baramulla and Anantnag, Director Finance, H&ME, Joint Director Planning, H&ME, Director Health Services Kashmir, CMOs of both the divisions and Medical Superintendents of GMCs/DHs and other senior officers of H&ME, National Health Mission and representatives from the HLL Life Care Limited.

Sanitation Is All About Bringing Change In Attitude: CS

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday remarked that the Sanitation involves simple steps to be achieved with determination. He maintained that it only takes a good resolve to make our surroundings clean.

Mehta made these remarks during his address on the eve of One day Divisional Level Capacity Building Program for officers of the Rural Development Department (RDD) on Management of All Components of Swachh Bharat Mission (G) for initiation of its 2nd phase.

Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; DCs from Jammu Division; Director, Rural Sanitation were present on the occasion.

Mehta observed that we all have to understand its relevance and see our role vis-a-vis its accomplishment. He made out that if we are unable to do our part we would fail to convince

others to do it as well. He maintained that first all of us need to set it as a goal for ourselves and believe that it can be done in time.

He exhorted upon the officers that there is no tomorrow to defer this significant task. He impressed upon them that either we have to do it now or we should vacate our positions voluntarily to let others to do it. He said that there is no question of not being able to complete the targets of this mission in the stipulated time frame.

The Chief Secretary gave out that the process of cleanliness is one to be done in a mission mode.

He stressed on doing the team work by understanding what, how and why it needs to be done. He stated that Sanitation leads to prosperity. He revealed that the bad sanitation costs us nearly 6% of our GDP. He further said that it takes toll on our prosperity as it even spoils our means of livelihood instead makes us to spend our earnings on treatment of



communicable diseases.

In her address the Commissioner Secretary, RDD, Mandeep Kaur revealed that the progress from last few months has been phenomenal in the UT. She made out that around 4400 of our villages are in the aspiring category of becoming ODF+ villages. She set out that the model

is lying with us and the process is underway to make whole of the UT as ODF+ within a year.

While highlighted the importance of capacity building she said that it helps us in implementation of our ambitious targets in a smooth manner. She remarked that the trainings are going to be imparted in every Panchayat in

order to learn to take the mission to its conclusion. She also advised the trainees to make best out of it and also give their feedback about any improvements to be made for future.

The Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar reminded the participants about the challenges faced in the initia-

tion of this mission due to the diversity of geography in the UT. He made out that the administration has been successful in surmounting these challenges and implementing the mission here. He stressed on laying focus on making our tourist places more hygienic so that it directly adds to our economy as well.

In his Welcome address, the Director Rural Sanitation, Charandeep Singh made out that nation has given top priority to sanitation of villages that actually gave birth to the concept of Swachh Grameen. He revealed that more than 140 villages have already been declared ODF+ in the UT. He said that this capacity building would enhance our ability to perform the task in an efficient manner. He termed the task more relevant towards bringing the behavioural change than creating the physical infrastructure.

He revealed that the UT has come a long way in meeting certain requirements. He said

that we have made available the DPRs to create the Soak pits, Composit pits, Leach pits, Twin pits besides the plans for solid, liquid and plastic waste management in our villages.

He acknowledged the role of Chief Secretary in giving this mission so much priority and revealed that sufficient funds have been made available to us and it is now our turn to live up to his expectations to deliver the results that are amenable to the support we received from him.

During the ceremony it was revealed that after this Divisional level workshop the trainings are to be held at district level to train master trainers. These Master Trainers would thereby impart trainings at panchayat level. It was given out that at least two trainers would be trained in each block. A pool of around 600-650 field trainers would be created to give trainings in all the 4280 GPs in 285 blocks across the 20 districts of the UT, as was learnt during this day long capacity building workshop.

Jay Shah In Bahrain To Attend ACC Meet On Pakistan's Asia Cup Hosting Rights

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian cricket board secretary Jay Shah has flown to Bahrain where an emergent meeting of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has been called at PCB chairman Najam Sethi's behest to decide fate of Pakistan's Asia Cup hosting rights.

If sources in the BCCI are to be believed, there is little to no chance of the Asia Cup being held in Pakistan in September. If at all, the tournament will either be shifted to UAE with PCB retaining the hosting rights or Sri Lanka could be the other option. "Jay is in Bahrain for the ACC meeting. The BCCI's stand will not change. We will not be travelling to Pakistan as we haven't got any go-ahead from the government," a BCCI source stated.

It is also understood that recent bomb blasts in Peshawar has again raised security concerns about holding cricket tournaments in Pakistan.

In December last year, ACC chairman Shah had released the itinerary of the continental body and the venue of Asia Cup wasn't



mentioned.

This led to Sethi accusing Shah of taking "unilateral decision", an allegation that ACC officially refuted stating that repeated emails to PCB seeking recommendations on the itinerary went unanswered.

In October last year, Shah, who is also the supremo of BCCI, had officially told the media that India will not travel to Pakistan.

The erstwhile PCB chief Ramiz Raja had back then threatened that Pakistan will not travel to India for this year's 50 over World Cup.

Anurag Singh Thakur To Attend Khelo India Winter Games Launch



Agencies

NEW DELHI: The mascot, theme song and jersey launch of the 3rd edition of Khelo India Winter Games will take place today, February 4 at the LG's House, Raj Bhavan in Jammu. The Winter Games are scheduled to be held from the 10th to 14 this month.

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur will be present alongside the LG of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha and other dignitaries. The

Khelo India Winter Games is supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and is organized by the J&K Sports Council as well as the Winter Games association of the J&K.

Approx 1500 athletes across the country will take part in the games that will take place in Gulmarg and will be played across nine sports events. The 1st edition of the Khelo India Winter Games took place in 2020 and hosts Jammu and Kashmir have come on top in both editions of the games so far.

JKCA Condolences Demise Of Member Shibani Lal Trakroo

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association held a condolence meeting at its office in Jammu to express grief over the demise of Shibani Lal Trakroo, Ex-President, Sangam Cricket Club, affiliated to Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association.

The meeting was attended by ex and present players, colleagues of Shibani Lal Trakroo, representative of Clubs and staff

of JKCA.

Among those who attended the meeting included Mithun Manhas, Member Cricket Operations, Majid Dar, Incharge Cricket Development Activities, Kashmir, JKCA and Anil Gupta, Member Administration, JKCA.

Mr. Shibani Lal had served JKCA in various capacities including Manager of different age group teams. He was fondly remembered by the ex-cricketers during the condolence meeting.

DC Kick-Starts Snow Sports Fest At Shopian



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The first ever Snow Sports Festival was on Friday organised by J&K Sports Council in collaboration with District Administration Shopian at Sports Stadium Batapora, here.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya who was chief guest on the occasion inaugurated the first ever one-day Snow Sports festival. Senior Superintendent Police, Shopian, Tanushree was the guest of honour on the occasion. CPO Khurshed Ahmad, Divisional Sports Officer, Nuzhat

Aara, other officers and officials were also present on the occasion along with sports enthusiasts and players.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the significance of the Winter Sports Festival and said that it will give a boost to the sports and tourism activities in the district.

The festival drew crowds from across the district and witnessed the participation of more than 300 athletes including a good number of females. The players participated in Snow Cricket, Snow Volleyball, Snow Shoe, Roll Ball and Ice stock events.

IOC Details Russia Stance For Olympics, Cites Human Rights

Agencies

GENEVA: The IOC stepped up efforts to explain its position on trying to help Russian athletes qualify for next year's Paris Olympics amid a backlash from Ukraine and its allies.

The International Olympic Committee's move last week to map a pathway to Paris for athletes from Russia and Belarus who have not actively supported the war provoked strong objections from Ukraine, which wants to see those countries remain banned from most international sports.

Publishing a series of explanations and rebuttals to its critics on Thursday, the Olympic body also responded to Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky's invitation for his IOC counterpart Thomas Bach to return and see the ruined city of Bakhmut.

"Currently there are no plans for another visit to Ukraine," the IOC said, noting that Bach visited Kyiv last July and had since spoken with Zelensky in telephone calls.

The IOC once more cited the opinion of two United Nations human rights experts who support the view that Russians and Belarusians should not face discrimination just for the passport they hold. Instead, they could compete under a neutral flag.

That view has been challenged in recent days by two Ukrainian medalists at the Tokyo Olympics, tennis player Elina Svitolina and high jumper Yaroslava Mahuchikh, and by boxer Wladimir Klitschko, who took gold at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. They want a total ban on Russia and Belarus from Paris.

Olympic officials in Ukraine have warned they could boy-

cott Paris and are meeting Friday to discuss it.

"It is extremely regretful to escalate this discussion with a threat of a boycott at this premature stage," the IOC said on Thursday.

Olympic officials in Latvia and Poland are also threatening a boycott, and those countries were joined by Estonia and Lithuania in a

line Jean-Pierre said the United States had "worked to hold Russia accountable for the brutal and barbaric war" before acknowledging the IOC's position.

"In cases where sports organisations and event organisers, such as the International Olympic Committee, choose to permit athletes from Russia and Belarus to participate in sporting events, it should be absolutely clear that they are not representing the Russian or Belarusian states," she said.

The IOC also responded to the comparison with Apartheid-era South Africa being excluded from the Olympics for more than 20 years, noting that UN sanctions were in place then and also when athletes from the former Yugoslavia competed as independent neutrals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

"There are no UN sanctions in place against Russia and Belarus at this moment in time," the IOC said.

Russia, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, can veto any of its proposed resolutions.

The IOC also pointed to having created an aid fund of USD 7.5 million that is helping more than 3,000 Ukrainian athletes.

"The IOC is deeply saddened to hear of the death of members of the Olympic Community in Ukraine who have lost their lives in this war," it said.

Government pressure on athletes and sports bodies should also be resisted, the IOC said, adding its stated mission is "to unite the entire world in a peaceful competition." Ultimately, the governing bodies of each Olympic sport should decide the conditions for athletes to be able to compete in Paris.



PARIS 2024



statement Thursday by sports ministers which suggested the sports debate was being used "as a distraction from the illegal aggression against Ukraine."

"It is natural that there are dissenting voices coming mainly from neighboring countries of Ukraine, given their specific situation," said the IOC, whose Olympic Charter obliges the 206 national Olympic bodies to send a team to the Summer Games.

At the White House on Thursday, press secretary Kar-

Will Lionel Messi Play In 2026 World Cup?

Agencies

PARIS: After hoisting his first World Cup trophy with Argentina in December, Lionel Messi said that tournament would be his last, but now it appears he's open to the possibility of playing in the 2026 event. "Because of age it'll be difficult to make 2026," Messi, 35, told Diario Ole, a sports newspaper in Argentina.

"I love playing football and while I feel like I'm in good shape and enjoying this, I'm going to keep at it. It seems like a long time until the next World Cup, but it depends on how my career is going."

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni would love to see the superstar -- who is one of only six players to compete in five World Cups -- suit up for the next World Cup, which will be held in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

"I think Messi can make it to the next World Cup," Scaloni



told Spanish radio Calvia FM last month. "It will depend a lot on what he wants and what happens over time, that he feels good. The doors will always be open. He is happy on the pitch, and for us (it) would be good."

After scoring seven goals in the 2022 World Cup, Messi could become the World Cup's all-time leading scorer if he suits up in 2026. He has 13 goals, three behind record-holder Miroslav Klose of Germany.

Ford To Partner Red Bull In F1 From 2026: Reports

Agencies

U.S. carmaker Ford will announce an engine partnership with Formula One world champions Red Bull from 2026 at the team's launch in New York on Friday, according to media reports in Europe. Italian media disclosed details on Thursday after an apparent embargo.

Britain's BBC reported Ford will part-fund an engine being designed and made by Red Bull Powertrains at their Milton Keynes headquarters in England. Red Bull's sister team AlphaTauri are also expected to use engines with Ford branding.

Formula One will have a new power unit from 2026 using 100% sustainable fuels and a greater

electrical component.

Red Bull are currently using V6 turbo hybrid engines made by former partner Honda in Japan and last year called off talks with Porsche. The team, who have U.S. software giant as their title sponsor, will be showing off their car's new livery in Manhattan with Dutch double world champion Max Verstappen and Mexican Sergio Perez.

There has been mounting speculation about a deal with Ford, who have a great record as an engine provider and whose Cosworth DFV V8 engine dominated in the 1960s and 70s. Ford sold their Jaguar branded team to Red Bull in 2004 and the current champions are still based at the same factory in central England.





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