

Quake Deaths Pass 6,000 As Turkiye, Syria Dig For Survivors

Press Trust Of India

Nurdagi (Turkiye)- Search teams and international aid poured into Turkiye and Syria on Tuesday as rescuers working in freezing temperatures and sometimes using their bare hands dug through the remains of buildings flattened by a powerful earthquake. The death toll soared above 6,200 and was still expected to rise.

But with the damage spread over a wide area, the massive relief operation often struggled to reach devastated towns, and voices that had been crying out from the rubble fell silent.

"We could hear their voices, they were calling for help," said Ali Silo, whose two relatives could not be saved in the Turkish town of Nurdagi.

In the end, it was left to Silo, a Syrian who arrived a decade ago, and other residents to recover the bodies and those of two other victims.

Monday's magnitude 7.8 quake and a cascade of strong aftershocks cut a swath of destruction that stretched hundreds of kilometers (miles) across southeastern Turkiye and neighbouring Syria. The shaking toppled thousands of buildings



and heaped more misery on a region shaped by Syria's 12-year civil war and refugee crisis. One tremor that followed the first registered at magnitude 7.5, powerful in its own right.

Unstable piles of metal and concrete made the search efforts perilous, while freezing temperatures made them ever more urgent, as worries grew about how long trapped survivors could last in the cold.

The scale of the suffering and the accompanying rescue effort were staggering.

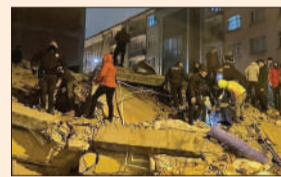
More than 8,000 people have been pulled from the debris in Turkiye alone, and some 380,000 have taken refuge in government shelters or hotels, said Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay. They huddled in shopping malls, stadiums, mosques and community centers, while others spent the night outside in

blankets gathering around fires. Many took to social media to plead for assistance for loved ones believed to be trapped under the rubble.

Turkiye's state-run Anadolu Agency quoted Interior Ministry officials as saying all calls were being "collected meticulously" and the information relayed to search teams.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said 13 million of the country's **More on P6**

Earthquake Devastation In Turkey And Syria Is A Warning For Kashmir



The earthquake occurrence in Turkey and the contiguous regions is not new. The hazards are well-known, mapped, and established by earthquake scientists long ago. Therefore, the potential of earthquake faults to host devastating earthquakes in Turkey was forecasted by geologists, which means that the ability of the fault to have earthquakes of magnitude seven and above was known. Yet, that crucial information was not put into practice, resulting in the devastation, which is yet to be fully scaled regarding the estimation of loss of life and assets. | **Read Article On Page 5**

Anti-Encroachment Drive DDC Member Among 4 Arrested Over Jammu Clashes



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Four more people, including a political activist, were arrested in connection with stone pelting incidents during an anti-encroachment drive here last week, officials said on Tuesday.

With this, nine people have so far been arrested in this connection, they said,

adding that two more people have been detained for questioning.

Three policemen were injured in stone pelting on February 3 during the anti-encroachment drive to demolish a vehicle showroom situated in Malik Market in Narwal bypass area.

"Nine people have been arrested and **More on P6**

BJP Seeks Probe Against Revenue Officials

Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday demanded a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) against revenue officials for changing revenue records of state lands and selling them to people. "They Changed the titles of the lands from state land to private lands in a massive way", he said, adding **More on P6**

PDP, AAP Hit Streets Against Ongoing Eviction Drive

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)** on Tuesday hit streets in Srinagar against the ongoing anti-encroachment drive, alleging that the drive was meant to render poor masses in Jammu and Kashmir 'homeless'. **More on P6**

Not A Single Structure Owned By Poor Demolished: BJP

MAJID NABI

Coming out in support of the ongoing anti-encroachment drive, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Tuesday said that not a single structure belonging to the poor has been demolished anywhere in Jammu and Kashmir. Former minister and BJP general secretary J&K, Sunil Sharma said the demolition drive has 'exclusively' been **More on P6**

2 Cops Suspended Over 'Custodial Death' In Kathua

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A 38-year-old man allegedly died under mysterious circumstances in a police lockup in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said on Tuesday.

The family of the deceased has alleged that he was tortured in the custody.

According to officials, Sonu Kumar was arrested after police recovered 7 grams of heroin from his possession in the Goond area of Kathua. He was sent to a police lockup at Nagari post on Saturday.

He died under mysterious

circumstances in the lockup on Monday night. His body has been shifted to the district's government medical college (GMC) for postmortem, they said.

Authorities have ordered a probe into the matter and suspended two cops.

"A magisterial probe has been ordered. Two cops have been suspended and post incharge has been attached with police lines", Kathua Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shivdeep Singh Jammwal told PTI.

Kumar's nephew Rahul alleged that he died due to torture in the police custody.

Sonu was **More on P6**

IF ONLY WE COULD LIFT THE CONCRETE SLAB we'd be able to reach her, My mother is 70-years-old, she won't be able to withstand this for long."

India Slams Pak For Raking Up Kashmir At UN

Press Trust Of India

United Nations: India has slammed Pakistan for raking up the Kashmir issue in the UN, saying Islamabad harbours a deep sense of insecurity and orchestrated hatred for India and its secular credentials.

Responding to Pakistan's raising of the Kashmir issue during a UN General Assembly (UNGA) meeting, Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission to the UN, Rajesh Parihar, said on Monday that Islamabad repeatedly utters falsehoods about India.

"I'm constrained to take the floor to respond to the frivolous remarks made by the representative of Pakistan against my country. While such a statement deserves our sympathy for a mindset, which repeatedly utters falsehood, it is important for me to set the record straight," he said in the UNGA.

Parihar said irrespective of what the representative of Pakistan believes or covets, the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were, are and will always be an "integral and inalienable" part of India.

"We expect nothing new from this delegation that harbours a deep sense of insecurity and orchestrated hatred for India and our secular credentials and values that my country stands for," he said.

Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked **More on P6**

25000 Vacancies Filled In J&K Till Dec 2022: MoS Home

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on Tuesday that over 25,000 vacancies have been filled and nearly 8,000 posts have been advertised in Jammu and Kashmir till December last year.

In a written reply to a question on vacant posts in Jammu and Kashmir, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai informed the Lok Sabha that large scale recruitment drive has been carried out after formation of the Union territory in the most transparent manner.

J&K government, he said, has carried out several governance reforms, including in the area of recruitments in Government.

"33,426 vacancies of Gazetted/Non-Gazetted categories have been identified in the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, out of which 25,450 vacancies have been filled till December, 2022. Recruiting agencies have advertised 7,976 vacancies for



recruitment," Rai said.

He said that the identification of vacancies in the Government and recruitment is a continuous and on-going process.

"The same is taken up under Accelerated Recruitment Drive," he said.

"The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has taken various initiatives to bring down un-employment by implementing various self employment schemes through different departments by providing subsidized loans for

establishment of their own sustainable income generation units," he added.

Giving further details, the Minister said that a number of self employment schemes like Mission Youth, Rural Livelihood Mission, Himayat, PMEGP, Avsar, Tejaswani are being implemented for providing employment opportunities.

During the current financial year, he said, 2, 01, 299 employments have been generated upto January 21, this year through such schemes.

"From the results of Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), estimates of unemployment rate is not available specifically for the educated youth in Jammu and Kashmir for the period April-June 2021," Rai said.

"However, from the PLFS conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) during July 2020-June 2021, estimate of unemployment rate according to **More on P6**

30 Civilians, 31 Security Men Killed In 2022

As many as 30 civilians and 31 security personnel were killed and 221 others injured in violence perpetrated by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir in 2022, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. Seven civilians and 23 others were injured in the first month of 2023, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in a written reply.

"The government has a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and the security situation has improved significantly in Jammu and Kashmir," he said. **More on P6**

3 OGWs Held With Rs 31L Cash: Police

Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested three over-ground workers (OGWs) and recovered over Rs 31 lakh and incriminating materials from their possession in the outskirts of this capital city.

3 suspicious individuals carrying a blue colour cricket kit bag, tried to avoid a checkpoint manned by cops of police station Nowgam on the highway near Lasjan, a police spokesperson said. The suspects, he said, were tactfully apprehended by the alert naka party. During searches of the bag carried by Umer Adil Dar, the spokesperson said, an amount of Rs 31, 65,200, a cell phone, besides three pages of LeT letterhead were recovered. He said five pages each of LeT letterhead were also recovered from Dar's accomplices identified as Bilal Asmad Siddiqi **More on P6**

Another Leopard Cub Caught



One more leopard cub was captured in Kralkhani Hatan Palpora area of Kangan in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district by the Wildlife Department, officials said. This is the second leopard captured in a span of 48 hours in the district. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that the cub was captured after the department received information **More on P6**

Extortionist Held In Pulwama: Police

Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested an extortionist, who was impersonating as a militant in South Kashmir's Pulwama district. In a statement, the police said that police Station Rajpora received a written complaint from one (Name withheld for security reasons) wherein stated that at about 1930 Hrs while on way to home from his clinic, some unknown person intercepted him and threatened him with weapons and asked for money & other valuable items & fled away from the spot by taking his valet containing Rs 3300/- and mobile phone. The police spokesman further said that, upon this report, a Case FIR No 8/2023 under relevant sections of law stands registered in PS Rajpora and investigation set into motion. **More on P6**

Driver Killed In Freak Accident

A driver died after being hit by an iron rod near an under construction tunnel at Sonamarg area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Tuesday.



Balvinder Singh was injured with an iron rod while he was offloading iron from his truck near an under construction tunnel, an official said. Singh, he said, was taken in an unconscious state to the sub-district hospital Kangan for treatment. However, the doctors declared him dead on arrival. The deceased was a resident of Ludhiana in Punjab state. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and have started further investigation—(KNO)

Pak Using Narco-Terrorism As New Tool: Senior Army Official

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Kashmir has witnessed a concerning rise in narco-terrorism as Pakistan is now using this as a new tool in its proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior army commander said on Tuesday.

Lt General Upendra Dwivedi, the General-officer-Commanding in Chief (GOC-in-C) of the army's Northern

Command, said the neighbouring country is sending drugs and weapons through drones in an attempt to disrupt the social fabric here.

Lt Gen Dwivedi exhorted all ranks of the Northern Command to be prepared for a variety of challenges on the internal and external security fronts.

"Kashmir has witnessed a concerning rise in narco-terrorism, as **More on P6**

'Will Give Appropriate Response To Any Aggression'

The Army on Tuesday said it was ready to give a befitting response to any Chinese aggression in Ladakh, maintaining that the integrity of the country was being **More on P6**



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2

Scientists Develop Completely Biodegradable Paper Straws

Press Trust of India

Researchers have developed eco-friendly paper straws that are 100 per cent biodegradable, perform better than conventional paper straws, and can be easily mass-produced.

The paper straws that are currently available are not entirely made of paper.

Straws made with 100 per cent paper become too soggy when they come in contact with liquids and cannot function as straws. Accordingly, their surfaces have to be coated.

The researchers from Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology synthesised a well-known biodegradable plastic, polybutylene succinate (PBS), by adding a small amount of cellulose nanocrystals to create a coating material.

The added cellulose nanocrystals are the same material as the main component of paper, and this allows the biodegradable plastic to firmly attach to the paper surface during the coating process.

The new paper straws do not become soggy easily or cause bubble formation in carbonated drinks because the coating material uniformly and strongly covers the



surface of the straws, the researchers said.

Also, the coating material is made of paper and biodegradable plastic and therefore will decompose and degrade

completely, they said.

"Turning a plastic straw we often use into a paper straw will not immediately impact our environment, but the differ-

If we gradually change from using convenient disposable plastic products to various eco-friendly products, our future environment will be much safer than what we now worry about

ence will be profound over time," said lead researcher Oh Dongyeop.

"If we gradually change from using convenient disposable plastic products to various eco-friendly products, our future environment will be much safer than what we now worry about," Dongyeop said.

The research, published in the journal Advanced Science, found that these eco-friendly paper straws maintain their physical integrity in both cold drinks and hot drinks.

The team also found that the straws did not become soggy when used to stir various beverages such as water, tea, carbonated drinks, milk, and other drinks containing lipids, or upon prolonged contact with liquids.

The researchers compared the degree of sogginess of the new paper straws and conventional paper straws.

The conventional paper straw was severely bent when a weight of approximately 25 grammes was suspended after the straw was dipped in cold water at 5 degrees Celsius for one minute, they said.

In contrast, the new paper straw did not bend as much even when the weight was more than 50 grammes under the same conditions.

The new straws decompose well, even in the ocean. In general, paper or plastic decomposes much more slowly in the ocean than in soil because of the ocean's low temperature and high salinity, which impede growth of microbes.

WhatsApp Rolls Out Ability To Create Avatars On iOS

IAN S

Meta-owned messaging platform WhatsApp, in its latest update to iOS, has rolled out the ability to create personalised avatars and use them as stickers and profile pictures.

Some users may already be able to configure an avatar on the previous update, but it is rolling out to even more people, according to WABetaInfo.

Users will need to open WhatsApp Settings in order to discover if the feature is already enabled for their account.

Moreover, in the latest update, the messaging platform introduced the ability to record videos hands-free by swiping left inside the WhatsApp camera.

Users also get the ability to undo "delete for me" for a few seconds in the latest update.

Further, the report mentioned that some accounts may receive the new feature over the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, WhatsApp is reportedly working on a new feature which will allow users to pin messages within chats and groups.

The feature is useful as it will allow users to pin important messages to the top of the chat, reports WABetaInfo.

If a message is pinned and the recipient is using an old version of the application, then the app will show a message in the conversation to ask to upgrade to the latest version available on the store.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Directorate Of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens. Jammu

Har Ki Poudi Bagh-e-Bahu Road Jammu
e-mail: floriculturejammu@gmail.com Tele- 0191-2435121

CANCELLATION OF e-NIT

Sub: Outsourcing of Coffee/Snacks Bax at Bhaur Camp Garden (Phase-1) Bagh- e- Bhaur Jammu.

Ref: This office e-NIT No: 08/2022-23/Floriculture Department Jammu Dated: 12-01-2023.

Due to Nil response, the tender invited vide e-NIT referred to above is hereby cancelled. The fresh tender for the same shall be invited separately.
No: DFJ/GS/6301-04 Dated: 06/02/2023

Accounts Officer

DIPK-17154/22 DATED: 07-02-2023

Directorate of Floriculture Parks & Gardens Jammu.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Office of the Medical Superintendent, Trauma Hospital Kangan

Email: traumakangan@gmail.com
phone no: 0194-2418309

AUCTION NOTICE

Subject: Notice for open auction of Dead/Unserviceable/Condemnbale hospital Machinery equipment/furniture items at SDH Kangan.

It is notified for information of General Public that auction for Dead Stock/un service / condemnable/Machinery Equipment/ furniture items at SDH Kangan will be held on 11/02/2023 in the hospital premises.

The details of auction notice/items available for auction can be collected from the office/store of SDH Kangan against non-refundable cash amount of Rs 200/= to be deposited in the office of the intending tenderers, for which necessary GR will be issued on any working day between 10:30 AM to 4 PM, with in Five days from the date of publication of the notice.

Terms and conditions:

1. That the interested parties will have to deposit Rs 20000.00 (twenty thousand only) in the shape of CDR for participation in the auction.
2. The bidder will be allowed in the auction with two helper.
3. The auction committee is at liberty to except or reject with out assigning any reason to the party.
4. That items will be sold to highest bidder on "as is where is basis".
5. That GST rates as applicable shall be charged over and above the value of high-est bid.
6. That the rates be quoted excluding GST.
7. That auction will be held separately for iron/plastic and wooden items.
8. That successful bidder shall have to deposit full bid amount on spot after the bid is over and declared successful by the Chairman Auction Committee (Medical Superintendent).

No:MS/SDH/KGN/2023 -147-152
DIPK-17148/22 Dated: 07-02-2023

Medical Superintendent
SDH/Trauma Kangan

Office Of The Medical Superintendent JLNM Hospital Rainawari Srinagar.

Subject: - Notice for Inviting Tender for Canteen at JLNM Hospital Srinagar

TENDER NOTICE

For and behalf of Lt. Governor UT of J&K, Tenders are invited from Registered, reputed and Licensed Agencies/Contractors with JKTDC Kashmir for running of canteen inside the premises of JLNM Hospital for staff and patient attendants for a period of two years, which may be extended further at the sole direction of the Hospital administration.

The interested bidders are advised to visit www.jktenders.gov.in for all the tender related details/ documents.
Tender schedule is given below: -

S.No	Particulars	Due date
1.	Date of Issue tender Notice	08-02-2023
2.	Date and time of Publish of NIT online	09-02-2023
3.	Date and time of downloading of NIT online	09-02-2023
4.	Date and time of submission of tender / Bid online	11-02-2023
5.	Last date of submission of tender / Bid online	28-02-2023
6.	Date and time of opening of tender / Bid online	02-03-2023
Checklist		
1.	Pan card.	
2.	Tender Fee Rs. 500/-	
3.	CDR Rs. 1.00 Lac/-	
4.	Experience/work Certificate (minimum of one year)	
5.	Agreement/undertaking for not being blacklisted	
6.	Shop Registration/Municipality Registration Certificate.	
7.	FSSAI Certificate	
8.	GST Registration certificate	
9.	Latest GST return challan	
10.	License from Food Safety Department as Food Safety and Food Act 2006	
11.	Letter of acceptance of terms and conditions	
12.	Scanned copy of tender fee and CDR.	

No:-MS/JLNMH/2023
DIPK-17168/22 Dated: 07-02-2023

Medical Superintendent
JLNM Hospital Srinagar

List of Food items

S.No	Items
1.	Rice
2.	Veg
3.	Non-Veg----Mutton/Chicken (Mutton/Kanti, Chicken Kanti)
4.	Beverages----Tea/Coffee/Green tea/Black Coffee/Kehwa
5.	Omelettes/Boiled Eggs
6.	Roti (Kashmiri)/Bakery/Biscuits

Jammu & Kashmir Power Development Corporation

Office Of The Executive Engineer Generation Division LJHP Gantamulla Baramulla

Email: xeneljhp@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE No. 02

Due to nil response to this office E-NIT No. 08 of 2022-23 dated 14-01-2023 issued vide this office No. GD/LJHP/1737-43 dated: 14-01-2023 for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of one Number 800Amp, 11KV Vacuum Circuit Breaker for outgoing feeder at Peernia with allied accessories compatible with existing panel of ABB make (Complete Job)

(ID: 2023_SPDC_202543_1), the critical dates are re-scheduled as under:

S.No	Activity	Date already tendered	Dates as per new schedule
1.	Tender publish date	14.01.2023	14.01.2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents.	16.01.2023 to 02.02.2023	14.01.2023 to 13.02.2023
3.	Bid submission start date	16.01.2023	16.01.2023
4.	Bid submission end date	02.02.2023	13.02.2023
5.	Last date of hard copy	03.02.2023	14.02.2023
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bid (Online).	04.02.2023	15.02.2023

All the terms and conditions shall remain the same.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
Generation Division LJHP,
Gantamulla Baramulla

NO: GD/LJHP/1933-39
DIPK-NB-6331/22 DATED: - 07.02.2023

Court Of The 2Nd Additional Munsiff JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS AT SRINAGAR

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTION FROM GENERAL PUBLIC
CNR: JKSG030022872023 Date of tiling 30.01.2023)

Zoona Begum W/o Mohammad Akbar Dar
R/o Gasoo Hazratbal Srinagar

Applicant

Versus

Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar

Non-Applicant

WHEREAS an application has been made before me that Mohammad Akbar Dar S/o Shaban Dar R/o Gasoo Hazratbal Srinagar has died on 25-08-1989 the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the death particulars, Mohammad Akbar Dar, in the concerned register of births and deaths.

Proclamation is hereby made that the any person having any objection(s) to this application may appear before this Court (or before me) to file objections within 07 days of this publication.

Dated, this 31th day of January 2023.

Sd/-
(AHTZAZ AHMED)

NJ

2nd Additional (JMJC), Srinagar

Office of the Sukhnag Educational Institute Peth-makhama (Zone Narbal)

Managing committee

S. No	Name	Deisgnation
01	Sajad Ahmad Mir	Chairman
02	Ghulam Mohammad Parray	General Secretary
03	Muzafar Ahmad War	Principa/Member
04	Saqib Ahmad Wani	Member
05	Aiaz Ahmad Dar	Accountant
06	Farooq Ahmad Dar	Member
07	Nazir Ahmad Dar	Member

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that i want to apply for Wholesale and Retail Fertilizer and Pesticides license. from the office of the Joint Director Agriculture Lal Mandi Srinagar . In this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the same in the office of the Joint Director Agriculture Lal Mandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Shah
S/o Ab Qadir Shah
R/o Malangam Bandipora

bb

ظہور احمد ترمبو کو تیسری بری پر خراج عقیدت

نہ جانے کس کی نظر لگ گئی زمانے کو

کئی شاخ ٹوٹ گئی میرے آشیانے کی

یقین نہیں آتا کہ آپ اس دنیا سے چلے

گئے۔ آپ کی جدائی ہمارے لئے ناقابل برداشت

ہے۔ کیا کریں موت اٹل ہے، یہ پیالہ ہر کسی کو پینا ہے۔ آپ کی محبت، خوشیاں

ہمارے دل میں ہمیشہ رہے گی آپ کی تیسری بری پر ہم اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا کرتے

ہیں کہ آپ کو جنت نصیب ہو۔ (آمین)



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Admin Asks Unregistered Courier Agencies To Get Registered

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to ensure proper regulation of courier service agencies as per SOPs for delivery of shipments, the Deputy Commissioner/ District Magistrate Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad in an order issued here on Monday has asked all unregistered Courier Service Providers in District Srinagar to get registered with competent Authority within a period of 7 days, failing which they will not be allowed to continue their operations in the district.

The order stated that "Whereas, it has come to the notice of DM Srinagar through the Drug and Food Control Department, that some Courier Services are being misused for peddling of Psychotropic substances in District Srinagar".

Accordingly, vide order No. DCS/DDMO/Thq/22/1211-15 dated 04-01-2023 a Committee headed by Sub Divisional Magistrate East was constituted for verification of Courier Service Providers operating in District Srinagar.

Subsequently, the Committee vide communication, No. ALC/SGR/2023/60-62 dated: 27-01-2023 provided list of unregistered Courier Service Providers in District Srinagar. In addition, the Office of Deputy Drug Controller/ Drug & Food Control Organisation, Kashmir vide communication number DFO/K/Drug/Misc-04 dated 03/02/2023 has sought registration of unregistered Courier Service providers in District Srinagar, to curb the misuse of the courier services for peddling of Psychotropic substances.

Therefore, in view of this, the District Magistrate has passed directions to all unregistered Courier Service agencies operating in District Srinagar to get registered with competent Authority within a period of 7

days, failing which they shall not be allowed to continue their operations.

The order further reads that "Moreover, all the Courier Service Providers shall install High Resolution CCTV Cameras inside the courier offices for better surveillance, adopt computerized systems to maintain records and accounts of both the consignors and consignees".

The order also stated that "The Courier Service Providers would ask for Aadhar identity proof, address, drug sale licence, purchase order copy of the medical products and other antecedents of the consignor and consignee while booking pharmaceutical preparations".

Furthermore, Courier Service Providers will adhere to SOPs for courier service agencies issued by Deputy Drug Controller Kashmir with respect to shipment of pharmaceutical consignments; else action under relevant provisions of law shall be initiated against the violators.

Pertinent to mention that during the month of January various instances have been brought into the notice of DM Srinagar with regard to trafficking of psychotropic substances through various Courier agencies for delivery to different parts of the Kashmir Division. Notably the DM was apprised by the Deputy Drug Controller Kashmir Shah Nighat that in the recent past on receiving credible inputs raids have been conducted during which huge quantities of psychotropic substances were seized. She said that in the month of October, during a surprise raid at Airport cargo logistic space of the Srinagar Airport about 7500 capsules of Spasmo-proxyvon were seized. Subsequently, special stress is being laid on strict adherence to SOPs for pharmaceutical procurement.

Islamia School Announces Free Admissions, Scholarships

Srinagar: The decades-old Islamia High School Bota Kadal, Lal Bazar, Srinagar, run by Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam while advancing its educational mission across Kashmir has, this year too, announced free admission from Nursery to 10th standard.

A statement issued today said that the institution has informed the parents to make the future of their children bright by admitting them at the earliest in the

school that offers computer, Arabic, religious and moral issues along with the mainstream education.

The school also has a special provision of scholarship for orphans and very poor children, Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam said in a statement, adding that along with qualified and trained teachers, the institution is officially recognised by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education.



Anti-Encroachment Drive Turns Ugly

Police Arrests 3 Corporation Employees, SMC Orders Time-Bound Inquiry

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday arrested three employees of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) for allegedly assaulting traffic cops who had issued a challan for violating the Motor Vehicle Act.

"An incident has come to notice wherein one SMC employee aggrieved by challan on not having HSRP, came back and broke a traffic booth with others, later assaulted traffic personnel on duty. In this regard FIR has been registered in Shergari PS against 3 delinquent SMC employees," the Srinagar police tweeted.

The police said all three accused employees were formally arrested after following legal formalities."The three had also kidnapped the traffic personnel in a car after creating a ruckus. FIR No 06/2023 stands registered in Shergari PS," it added.

However, the SMC employees alleged that they had demolished an encroachment of the traffic department which had infuriated the cops.

Pertinently, the officials of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Tuesday demolished a Traffic Police booth opposite Tagore Hall saying that it was an encroachment.

However, officials of the traffic department said the SMC officials demolished the booth after a vehicle of SMC was fined for not playing with High Security Registration Number plate (HSRP) and registration papers.

Videos of the incident have surfaced on social media showing the officials of the Traffic Department and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) trading

barbs at each other and accusing each other of misconduct.

The video which has gone viral on social media shows a traffic official accusing the officials of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) of demolishing the official Traffic Booth on the basis of personal grudge.

However, SMC officials refuted the allegation saying it was an encroachment.



"Why don't you remove street vendors, why was the traffic booth attacked. You take bribes from the street vendors that is why you are not removing vendors from the streets of the crowded marketplace" the traffic policeman can be seen yelling at SMC officials.

The SMC officials said the traffic booth was an encroachment that was the only reason it was demolished.

A traffic policeman can also be seen holding an SMC official by his arm and saying no notice was served to them before the demolition took place.

The SMC official responds by saying the traffic police cannot dictate terms to the officials of the municipality.

Meanwhile, SMC placed two employees under suspension.

"It has come to the notice of

competent Authority that Mr. Niyaz Ahmad Gabroo I/C Ward Officer Ward No. 30 and Ovais Farooq Khan Tax Assistant Ward 30 have indulged in a conduct, which is unbecoming on part of a civil servant. Pending enquiry into the matter Mr. Niyaz Ahmad Gabroo I/C Ward Officer Ward No. 30 and Mr. Ovais Farooq Khan Tax Assistant Ward 30 are put under suspension

with immediate effect and shall remain attached in the office of Secretary, Srinagar Municipal Corporation." Reads a suspension order issued by Joint Commissioner SMC," reads an order by joint commissioner SMC.

The police as well as SMC's action followed as videos of heated arguments between the traffic police personnel and the corporation employees have been widely circulated on social media here.

"Ghulam Hassan mir, Joint commissioner Planning SMC, shall do the detailed enquiry and submit report within 7 days," the order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

In the videos, the traffic cops can be seen asking the SMC employees for the notice of demolition before they remove the purported encroachment.

- 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
- PAMPOR: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS

FAJR	5:58
ZUHR	12:45
ASR	4:27
Magrib	6:10
ISHA	7:31

This Day In History

- 1622 - King James I disbands the English parliament
- 1672 - Isaac Newton reads 1st optics paper before Royal Society in London
- 1743 - Comet C/1743 C1 approaches within 0.0390 AUs of Earth
- 1744 - French and Spanish fleet leave Toulon.
- 1807 - Battle of Eylau ends inconclusively between Napoleon's forces and Russian Empire - 1st battle Napoleon isn't victorious
- 1809 - Franz I of Austria declares war on France
- 1849 - New Roman Republic established in Italy
- 1867 The Ausgleich results in the establishment of the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary.
- 1879 - Sandford Fleming first proposes adoption of Universal Standard Time at a meeting of the Royal Canadian Institute.
- 1883 - Louis Waterman begins experiment to invent the fountain pen
- 1905 - Cyclone hit Tahiti & adjacent islands, killing some 10,000 people
- 1912 - British Emissary journeys to Berlin to suggest that Britain might support German colonial aspirations in Africa if Germany agrees to hold her current naval strength
- 1920 - Bolshevik troops capture Odessa, bringing an end to foreign involvement in the resistance against Bolshevik rule
- 1926 - Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio becomes Walt Disney Studios
- 1927 - Belgian-Swiss treaty signed
- 1934 - Gaston Doumergue forms new French government
- 1936 Pandit Jawaharlal succeeds Mahatma Gandhi as chairman of India Congress Party.
- 1942 - Nazi architect Albert Speer appointed Minister of Armaments by Adolf Hitler after death of Fritz Todt in a plane crash
- 1943 - Red Army recaptures Kursk
- 1945 - Allied air attack on Goch, Klee, Kalkar and Reichswald
- 1946 - Premier Salazar of Portugal forbids opposition parties
- 1955 - The Government of Sindh abolished Jagirdari system in the province. One million acres (4000 km²) of land thus acquired is to be distributed among the landless peasants.
- 1960 - Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom issued an Order-in-Council, stating that she and her family would be known as the House of Windsor, and that her descendants will take the name "Mountbatten-Windsor".
- 1963 - 1st transmission of Clandestine Voice of Iraqi People (Communist)
- 1965 - President Johnson deploys 1st US combat troops to South Vietnam, with 3500 marines sent to protect key US airbase near Da Nang
- 1971 - Nasdaq Composite stock market index debuts with 50 companies and a starting value of 100.
- 1973 - Mushtaq & Asif Iqbal make 350 stand for 4th wicket v NZ
- 1974 - 3 US astronauts return to Earth after a 85 days in the US space station, Skylab
- 1978 - Crown Prince Sad Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah becomes Prime Minister of Kuwait
- 1979 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1983 - Ariel Sharon resigns from Israeli government after an inquiry shows he was indirectly responsible for the killings of hundreds of people in 1982
- 1984 - Soyuz T-10 launches with crew of 3 to Salyut 7
- 1988 - NASA launches DOD-2
- 1989 - US Boeing 707 crashes into Santa Maria mountain, 145 die
- 1992 - Ulysses spacecraft passes Jupiter
- 1994 - Kapil Dev sets world record for Test Cricket wickets with 432.
- 1998 - Finland beats Sweden, 6-0 at the Aqua Wing Arena in Nagano, Japan in the first female ice hockey game played in Olympic history

From KO Archives

Kupwara People Intrigued At Killings

Observer News Service

Srinagar - People in the border district of Kupwara are intrigued at the reports of some militants being killed by the security forces and the special operations group (SOG) personnel in various encounters during the past few days. The identity and nationality of the slain 'militants' has not been disclosed.

According to reports, troops" of 18 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) had claimed killing of two unidentified militants at the Patukhari behak in Dardpora area of the district last night. Giving the details, it said an encounter took place during a patrol in which one militant was killed on the spot while the other died of his own after being injured. Both were buried in the forests.

Earlier, personnel of 32 RR and SOG had claimed to have killed two militants in Kalaros forests during an encounter. Their identity was not disclosed and were buried in the forest.

People in Kupwara have expressed surprise at the unceremonious burial being given to the 'militants' without their identity being established or the last rites being performed as is otherwise required in such cases.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 08 February, 2001)

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER HYDRAULIC DIVISION URI

email: urihydraulic@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e_NIT_No_48/Hyd/Uri_of_2022-23Dated: 06/02/2023

For and on behalf of Hon'bleLieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tenders on item rate basis areinvited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Jammu and Kashmir UT Government, for the following works:-

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of Funds: Demanded/Committed

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs.in Lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head	Cost of Tender document (In Rs.)	TENDER-ID
	Improvement/ Stabilization of feeding main and new supply main to Mohallas of Bagna, WSS Bagna under District Mineral Fund.	9.04	18080/-	20-days	CEE/ DEE	District Mineral Fund – Deposit contribution	600/-	2023_IFC_204350.1

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

Publishing Date	07/02/2023from10:00AM
Download Date Start	07/02/2023from10:00AM
Tender Submission date Start	07/02/2023from10:00AM
Tender Submission date Ends	15/02/2023 up to 04:00 pm
Date of Opening	16/02/2023 at 12:00PM, in the Office of the Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri (H.Q.Chandanwari)

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Hydraulic Division Uri

NO: HDU/CC-02/5250-70

DIPK-17174/22

DATED: -07/02/2023

J&K Bank

Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department (IAPMD)

Zonal Office Srinagar

M.A. Road Srinagar, Kashmir-190001

Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (I) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Sajad Ahmad Wani, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 04.11.2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Mr. Tariq Ahmad Ganie to repay an amount of Rs.30,09,174.31 (Rupees Thirty Lac Nine Thousand One Hundred Seventy Four And Paisa Thirty One) being the balance outstanding as on 31.10.2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on 2nd day of February 2023.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 30,65,411.31 (Rupees Thirty Lac Sixty Five Thousand Four Hundred Eleven And Paisa Thirty One) together with future interest thereon from 01-01-2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)

Registered Mortgage of residential house built on a piece of land measuring 03 kanal falling under Khasra No.559 min of Khata No.18 and Khewat No.03 situated in estate Khimber Tehsil Srinagar North District Srinagar standing in the name of Abdul Majid Ganie through attorney Mr. Tariq Ahmad Ganie S/o Wali Mohammad Ganie.

Authorized Officer

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India

CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-6336/22

Dated: 07-02-2023

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Wednesday | 08-02-2023

Turkey, Syria Quake

At least 5000 people have died in the major earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria. Several thousand buildings have been flattened in cities across a border region that is witnessing war, insurgency and refugee crisis. There are fears that the toll could further rise as the rubble is cleared. World Health Organization officials are estimating that up to 20,000 may have died. Turkey has now declared a state of emergency in ten quake-hit provinces to deal with the crisis and the world is mobilizing help for the victims of the natural calamity. Many countries have dispatched aid, personnel and equipment to help the rescue efforts in the two quake-hit countries. India has sent the first batch of earthquake relief material to Turkiye aboard an Indian Air Force aircraft.

But as Turkey and Syria begin to deal with the unfolding tragedy, the calamity is a wake-up call to us in Kashmir. In 2005 a big temblor that was 7.6 on Richter scale led to the loss of around 80,000 lives. Pakistan controlled Kashmir was worst affected with a predominant number of the people killed hailing from there. On this side of the then state, the quake caused devastation along the villages bordering Line of Control, particularly Uri and parts of Kupwara district leaving around 1300 people dead. If anything, Turkey and Syria quakes should warn us as to a possible repetition of this natural disaster in the region.

Already, a study by a prominent US seismologist Roger Bilham has warned that Kashmir Valley is likely to be hit by an earthquake of largest ever magnitude. But the study has not specified any particular time-frame. In what can be an apocalyptic scenario, Bilham said the quake could trigger landslides that would dam the river Jhelum. He also urged India and Pakistan to develop a cooperative plan to deal with the aftermath of a mega-quake in the union territory. But ever since the 2005 earthquake which initially alerted the government and the people to build stronger, reasonably quake resistant structures, the complacency seems to have again set in. The quakes in Turkey and Syria have thus come as an important reminder to us to become more mindful of our vulnerability to the natural disasters – flood being the another – and take pro-active measures to lessen the damage should, if God forbid, we experience another disaster. It is incumbent on the government not only to get its act together but also create public awareness to help people to better prepare for a possible future calamity.

OTHER OPINION

Tragedy on Tragedy

Millions have taken refuge in rebel-held Idlib, where most of them are dependent on aid. Then came the Covid-19 pandemic and a cholera outbreak, which a threadbare health service in Idlib – deliberately targeted by airstrikes – is struggling to handle. Fuel shortages and skyrocketing prices have deepened the misery. Now those battling with freezing temperatures and inadequate food have been left without even temporary homes. This is, as the International Rescue Committee has warned, “a crisis within multiple crises”.

Turkey faces an immense challenge. It does so with trained and experienced rescue workers, due to its history of quakes, and support from 45 countries. Both rescue and relief efforts will prove far harder on the Syrian side of the border. Providing aid is likely to be diplomatically as well as logistically challenging. Its White Helmets have had to become expert at rescuing people from rubble. But they are in desperate need of search-and-rescue equipment, spare parts and fuel. The organisation also urged the international community to pressure Bashar al-Assad’s regime – and Moscow, which supports it – to hold back on airstrikes. Though conflict in Syria has faded from international attention, the complex regional struggle – not only of the regime against rebels, but of Turkey against Kurdish groups and Israel against Iranian-linked targets – continues to claim lives in the north and there are fears it could escalate.

The mandate for Syria cross-border aid via Turkey has, thankfully, been extended until July. But, at present, Damascus allows it to enter via only one border point. It would be unconscionable if the others remained closed at this time of desperate need. Though the regime bears the primary responsibility for the suffering of its people, others must step up. Ankara’s attempts to accelerate the return of Syrian refugees would exacerbate the situation were they to continue. The humanitarian response plan for Syria was already severely underfunded; less than half of the \$4bn needed has been provided – the lowest level since the crisis began. The need is all the greater now. Ensuring that aid reaches the most vulnerable will be difficult in the extreme. But every effort must be made. It would be not only tragic but shameful if the international community’s failures were to compound this disaster.

The Guardian



A portrait of Pervez Musharraf. Photo: AFP

What Musharraf’s Death Foretells

Former Pakistan president’s passing, in a sense, is symbolic of the new reality. Not only has Kashmir issue he painstakingly tried to resolve drastically altered in its complexion, but J&K as a geographical entity has also transformed

RIYAZ WANI

“Musharraf had made a dedicated effort to seek a lasting peace with India by finding what he then fondly called “out-of-box solution” to Kashmir. He sought to achieve this through unilateral flexibility - subsequently reciprocated by New Delhi - only to end up nowhere

The passing away of former Pakistan president General Parvez Musharraf couldn’t have come at a more telling moment in Kashmir’s history: not only is there no engagement between India and Pakistan but New Delhi has also decisively taken Kashmir off the table from any discussions with Islamabad - the 75 year old issue that Musharraf came closest to resolving during his tenure. If lawyers’ agitation hadn’t happened, which eventually forced his ouster, India and Pakistan may have reached a breakthrough over the issue. And who knows the relations between the two countries might have entered a happily ever after state.

Musharraf’s settlement blueprint popularly known as Four Point Formula had set out a four stage incremental process for Kashmir resolution. The steps were: identification of the regions in Kashmir for solution, demilitarization, self governance and a joint management or a consultative mechanism between India and Pakistan on the then state.

It was actually the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who had begun the promising negotiations with Musharraf, his then Pakistani counterpart, which were later followed up by the former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The process had nearly culminated in a Kashmir solution by the end of 2007 when Musharraf’s sudden loss of power as a result of the then lawyers’ agitation and the subsequent Mumbai attacks aborted it.

However, a lot has happened since then. The dynamics that made the engagement possible at the time no longer exist. Several new factors are at play in the regional geo-politics and in the relations between the two countries that have made it increasingly difficult to go back to the formula.

The biggest change that has since taken place is the withdrawal of Article 370, which granted J&K its semi-autonomous position within the Indian Union, and the splitting of the former state into two union ter-

ritories. This, from New Delhi’s point of view, has more or less ended Kashmir as an issue between India and Pakistan. India has now changed its goalpost. It seeks return of the part of Kashmir under the jurisdiction of Pakistan. And it is loathe to even resume dialogue with Islamabad except on its own terms. And Pakistan’s response to this so far shows that the country is in no position to challenge India’s altered position on Kashmir. While Islamabad may not have reconciled to the constitutional changes in region it claims, the country has now kind of gotten

“It was actually the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who had begun the promising negotiations with Musharraf, his then Pakistani counterpart, which were later followed up by the former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The process had nearly culminated in a Kashmir solution by the end of 2007 when Musharraf’s sudden loss of power as a result of the then lawyers’ agitation and the subsequent Mumbai attacks aborted it.

used to the new state of affairs in the region.

So Musharraf’s death, in a sense, is symbolic of the new state of affairs. Not only has Kashmir issue as we understood it drastically altered in its complexion, but J&K as a geographical entity has also transformed: It is no longer a state but divided into two union territories. And the once vaunted separatist conglomerate Hurriyat Conference has become extinct. Many of the grouping’s top leaders continue to be in jail or are under house arrest. This has hobbled its capacity to organize any political activity.

But even if the separatist leaders were free - and some of them are free - the situation would hardly be different. The government has outlawed any sign of separatist activity in whatever form and disproportionately raised the cost for any leader or an activist to go out and champion the cause.

It is now difficult to believe that during Musharraf’s term, when the peace process between India and Pakistan was in full

gear, billboards featuring his and Manmohan Singh’s images were up all around Srinagar. Then it was seen as the right thing to do. Musharraf had made a dedicated effort to seek a lasting peace with India by finding what he then fondly called “out-of-box solution” to Kashmir. He sought to achieve this through unilateral flexibility - subsequently reciprocated by New Delhi - only to end up nowhere.

In his term, Musharraf also presided over a progressive decline in the militancy, an ironic about-turn from the architect of Kargil war. The militant kill-

ings went from 961 in 2004 to just 100 in 2013. What is more, it was Musharraf who first instituted the ceasefire along the Line of Control in 2002. And it was this truce that India and Pakistan reaffirmed in February 2021. In a sense, one feature of the current uneasy calm between the two neighbours harks back to Musharraf era.

But in all other features, we have moved on from Musharraf’s time. Since then, Pakistan has become a weaker country and has also lost much of its bargaining power on Kashmir. And going by the words of its prime minister Shahbaz Sharif, last year the country was bargaining for a plan to freeze the Kashmir issue for 20 years, reportedly in lieu of trade with India.

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

The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer

Earthquake Devastation in Turkey and Syria is a Warning for Kashmir



Dr Afroz Shah

The earthquake occurrence in Turkey and the contiguous regions is not new. The hazards are well-known, mapped, and established by earthquake scientists long ago. Therefore, the potential of earthquake faults to host devastating earthquakes in Turkey was forecasted by geologists, which means that the ability of the fault to have earthquakes of magnitude seven and above was known. Yet, that crucial information was not put into practice, resulting in the devastation, which is yet to be fully scaled regarding the estimation of loss of life and assets. It is reported that populated regions in the border areas of Turkey and Syria were initially hit by the magnitude 7.8 quake, which

caused widespread devastation. And then, another 7.5 magnitude earthquake occurred in the nearby region and caused much more damage, which has not been fully accessed. We could only wish and pray for the safety of all. But the more significant question remains about our consistent failures due to our inability to secure life and assets. The earthquake hazard was known, but only the quake's timing was unknown, which perhaps we may never master because of the complexity of how faults behave. Therefore, we had enough time that we could have efficiently used to develop a robust scientific approach to building buildings to secure them from toppling like a deck of cards. We miserably failed, and that is our own fault. The earthquake hazard

What kind of structures and buildings have we constructed to withstand earthquakes? They are a deck of cards that are ready to topple. And we are not taking anything seriously, although we have all the information available to us that the region has the potential to cause a damaging earthquake in the future

was turned into a disaster by our failures to learn from our mistakes and to follow the available scientific wisdom. We are helping by

sending aid and other lifesaving facilities, akin to digging a water well when the fire is ongoing! The entire Jammu and Kashmir

region is battling a similar fate, where earthquake hazards could turn into disasters. There is everything available that is needed just to do that. We have no ground preparation to handle magnitude seven and above quakes, which should send shivers down our spines. What kind of structures and buildings have we constructed to withstand earthquakes? They are a deck of cards that are ready to topple. And we are not taking anything seriously, although we have all the information available to us that the region has the potential to cause a damaging earthquake in the future. The timing is not known, which is a global problem in earthquake research where the timing of the incoming earthquake cannot be established. We should take this as an opportunity,

prepare for the worst, and plan for any eventuality. Therefore, we must learn from the earthquake devastation in Turkey and use it as a warning to prepare ground for major earthquakes in Jammu and Kashmir. We are waiting for a major quake, which is based on scientific evidence, and that could cause devastation of enormous scales. Please follow the instructions on how to build earthquake-resistant structures and how to repair houses so that they can face major earthquakes. Time is ticking, we are on a tectonic clock, and we must prepare — now.

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

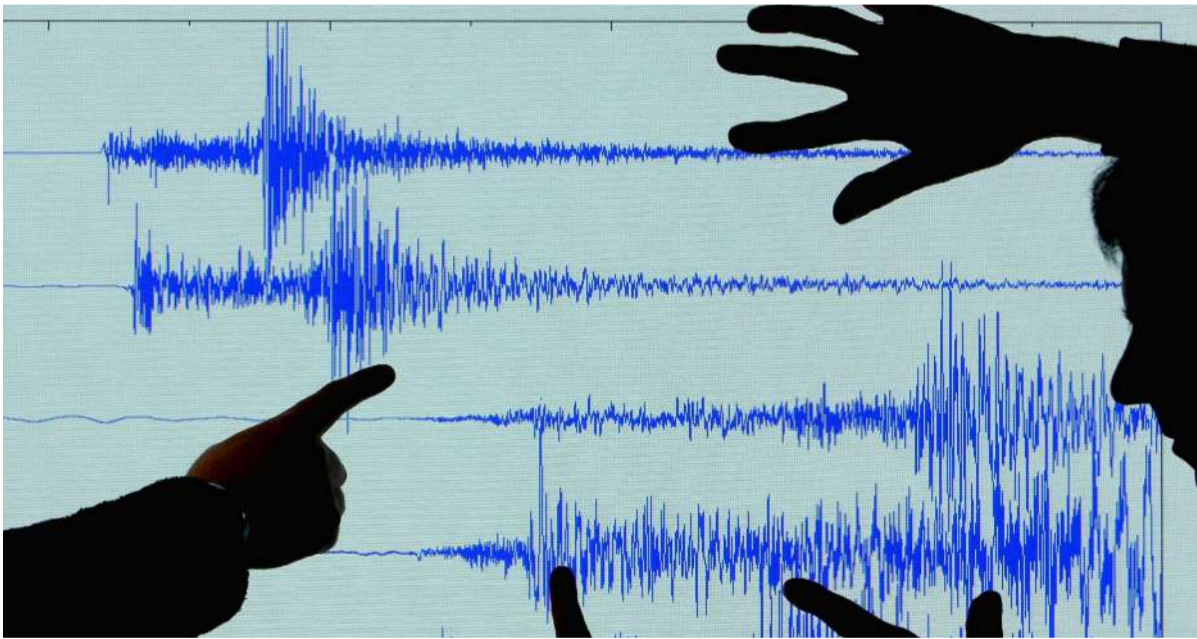
Can We Get Better At Predicting Earthquakes?

Michel Campillo,
Rob van der Hilst

Given the devastation earthquakes cause, seismologists and public officials have long wanted to know when earthquakes will happen, and after the powerful 1964 Alaska earthquake, U.S. scientists proposed a worldwide research program on earthquake prediction. In covering the initiative, Science magazine emphasized that “carrying out the proposal (i) would offer a fair chance to develop a method of giving warnings ‘hours to days’ in advance of major earthquakes and (ii) would, through engineering research, provide means of minimizing loss of life and property damage, even if a warning system were not achieved.” The public has been interested more in prediction than in mitigation, however. And in spite of major progress among scientists in understanding the earthquake process and what causes disastrous shaking, it seems there is substantial disappointment in the apparent failure of “earthquake prediction.” To some extent, this is an issue of semantics and objectives. Is the goal to predict an earthquake occurrence, predict ground motion due to an earthquake, or predict a disaster? Considering all of these, what is it that seismologists can and cannot do when it comes to predicting earthquakes?

EARLY WARNING

Fortunately, all earthquakes do not lead to disasters and, therefore, understanding where and why disasters are produced is the first goal of earthquake seismology. But in our efforts to better predict earthquakes, we have to be precise about the timescale: is it a prediction that an earthquake is imminent — that is, within seconds, hours, or even days before the shaking? Or that it is likely to happen within years or tens of years? Each of these predictions could be



useful, and the type of action this information would lead to depends on the location of the earthquake and the sociogeographic and economic circumstances. For example, even if one cannot predict earthquakes themselves, the ability to predict ground motion shortly after the onset of an earthquake could allow one to send warnings seconds or minutes before the main shaking is expected to occur. This means that some critical infrastructure could be automatically switched off safely, such as trains and nuclear power plants, and the public could be alerted. This form of early warning, produced after the earthquake (or at least after the beginning of the earthquake), is already in practice in several of the most populated and earthquake-prone places in the world.

PREDICTING VULNERABILITY

The vibrations we feel during earthquakes, and which could destroy buildings and other infrastructure, are the effect of the elastic waves that propagate from

the earthquake source through the rocks in the Earth's interior and along its surface. Earthquakes produce different types of waves, some more destructive than others. These waves propagate with velocities of the order of kilometers per second, but the most damaging waves often arrive after the first waves. This means there is a time lag between the electronic signals sent by our instruments and the most damaging waves, creating opportunities for action. This field is called real-time seismology, and operational systems have been set in different regions of the world, including Japan, Italy, Mexico, and California. These systems do not predict the time of occurrence but act as a warning of activity. For long-term intervals (years to decades), geophysics provides the basis for rational management of affected resources and seismic safety. The quantitative analysis of actual earthquakes allows one to decipher the local conditions prone to disastrous shaking for specific buildings. Therefore, it provides the basis for including land management in seis-

mic risk mitigation plans. In that sense, seismologists already provide the information required to adopt development policies oriented toward public safety. Large improvements have been and will continue to be made, but it is difficult for the general public to appreciate the effectiveness of this approach (known as probabilistic seismic hazard analysis) because this type of “prediction” is expressed in terms of long-term probabilities, whereas the visible parts of earthquakes are the dramatic images of disasters in the news. The public view of earthquake prediction typically concerns a deterministic (yes/no) assessment of whether or not an earthquake will happen on the intermediate timescale (hours to days). And it is precisely this field for which seismologists have not yet made definitive operational progress. The reasons for this are related to the complexity of the physical processes that cause earthquakes.

THOUSAND-YEAR BUILDUP

Earthquakes result from insta-

bilities at locations where the resistance to slipping (the friction) of a fault is close to the forces that come from the slow plate movements of the Earth. Although not felt in our everyday experience, the solid Earth is an evolving system. Its inner parts are subject to thermochemical convection. That is, cold and heavy materials at the surface tend to move downward and, conversely, hot material from the deep interiors moves upwards, and these motions result in plate tectonics. Typical velocity of plate motion is of the order of centimeters per year. During an earthquake, the two sides of a fault slide at velocity of the order of a meter per second — about a billion times (!) faster than the steady-state background motion. In other words, damaging earthquakes occur in seconds but have typically been in the making for tens, hundreds or sometimes even thousands of years. The time for us to observe the Earth is so short that we have no hope of assessing with fine precision when a critical state will be reached. Nevertheless, it has been recognized for a long time in experimental and theoretical studies that instabilities could be preceded by a change in a short time period relative to the long tectonic/geologic preparation. Such a preparatory phase, often referred to as initiation, is not systematically observed with present day geophysical methods, and one would be forgiven to think that the case is hopeless given the uncertainties about duration and amplitude of the initiation process. However, discoveries in recent years are giving a more encouraging perspective.

‘SLOW EARTHQUAKES’

Geodesy and seismology have seen substantial progress in detecting subtle changes in rocks below the surface. Continuous GPS recorders and advanced processing techniques allow for the detection of

smaller and smaller motions. Both GPS and seismometers are increasingly deployed in large dense arrays, producing antennas with unprecedented detection capabilities. In the past few years, these efforts have led to the discovery of new types of deformation processes. The most spectacular of these concerns the widespread observation of so-called slow earthquakes. Slow earthquakes are slipping episodes at depth with deformation velocities that are in between plate tectonic motion and regular earthquake slip. The largest known slow earthquakes have magnitude of more than 7.5 when measured as regular earthquakes, and there is increasing evidence that, just as for regular earthquakes, slow earthquakes occur on a wide range of magnitudes. This suggests that deformation of the Earth occurs on a broad spectrum of timescales. That is, times in between the extremes of slow motions from plate tectonics and mantle convection and the ultrafast and disastrous seismic ruptures. The newly discovered transient deformations can be studied with geodetic measurements and by a refined analysis of seismic records. These have indicated that slow deformation is accompanied by a characteristic weak grind. There is, therefore, hope that one day we could detect and monitor extremely slight changes in the rocks that would precede earthquakes. This is, indeed, a long way from “prediction” of precisely when and where a disaster will occur, but geophysicists will persevere and continue to make new discoveries about the changing Earth. For now, knowing earthquakes is one way to live with them, to be prepared, to know the vulnerability of our communities and to adopt sound policies for earthquake-safe environments.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Over 83,000 Posts Vacant In Central Armed Police Forces: Govt

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: More than 83,000 posts were lying vacant in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), such as the CRPF and the BSF, as on January 1, against the total strength of 10,15,237 posts, the government informed Parliament on Tuesday.

The forces in which the posts are lying vacant are Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Assam Rifles.

"The current number of vacancies as on January 1, 2023 in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Assam Rifles are 83,127 against total sanctioned strength of 10,15,237," Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

He said 32,181 people were recruited between July 2022 and January 2023 and an additional 64,444 vacancies have been

notified and are at different stages of recruitment, adding that it has been planned to conclude the exercise in 2023 itself. It will be incorrect to say that the vacancies are leading to overtime work for the existing personnel, the minister added.

He minister said filling up vacancies is a continuous process and added that the home ministry has been taking and will continue to take earnest steps to fill up the vacancies expeditiously through UPSC, SSC and the forces concerned.

The CRPF is deployed for internal security duties, maintenance of law and order and anti-militancy operations in Jammu and Kashmir and the northeast.

The BSF guards the country's 3,323-kilometre-long border with Pakistan (except the 740-km-long Line of Control) and the 4,096-km-long border with Bangladesh.

The CISF guards vital installations, such as nuclear plants, key industries, metro networks and other important government buildings.

First Bring Together Rajasthan Cong Leaders, Then Talk Of Uniting India: BJP On Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: BJP member C P Joshi on Tuesday hit out at Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, saying he should first bring together the warring Congress factions in Rajasthan before thinking of uniting the nation.

After three days of disruptions by the Opposition which has been pressing for a discussion on allegations of stock manipulation against the Adani Group, Lok Sabha took up the Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

Joshi moved the Motion titled "That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which she has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on January 31, 2023".

Initiating a debate in Lok Sabha, he said through various initiatives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had united the country spiritually and digitally and leading the country in 'Amrit Kaal', to emerge as a

developed nation by 2047.

The BJP refers to the period between the 75th anniversary of Independence in 2022 and the centenary year in 2047 as 'Amrit Kaal'.

Joshi also lashed out at the Congress, saying it "partitioned" the country with an eye on the chair of prime minister.

"You have embarked on Bharat Jodo (uniting India). But first at least unite the two leaders in Rajasthan. One says the other is a magician who leaks question papers without opening the vault, the other says the party is infected with corona, calls him 'naa-layak' (worthless)," Joshi, a Lok Sabha member from Rajasthan's Chittorgarh, said.

The BJP member was referring to the rivalry between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his bete noire and chief ministerial aspirant Sachin Pilot.

Joshi also wondered how one can talk of uniting the country by standing alongside those who raised "anti-national" slogans in the Jawaharlal Nehru

University (JNU) and talked of separating Kashmir from India.

"For the prime minister's chair, you partitioned my country. There were dead bodies from Lahore to Delhi. But those running after power were celebrating in Lahore and Delhi," Joshi said.

The BJP member said through various initiatives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had united the country spiritually and digitally. He also united it through rail, road and air networks, and connected farmers with markets.

"This has given rise to slogans 'Modi hai toh mumkin hai'. We come from a party that works towards uniting the nation," the BJP MP said.

Taking a dig at the opposition, he said those who refused to see each other's faces walking arm-in-arm these days.

"Our government, our party have even united them," Joshi said, gesturing at the opposition benches.

He said it was the Modi government that has ensured

that the Indian tricolour flutters with pride. Joshi said the BJP government has instilled the spirit of nationalism from the Lal Chowk in Kashmir to every street and corner of the country.

The BJP member said the respect for national tricolour was also seen when Russia and Ukraine stopped their war to allow Indian citizens, stuck in the war zone, to move to safety.

He alleged there was rampant corruption and terrorism in the country before 2014 and Modi winning the Lok Sabha elections with a record-breaking mandate brought a ray of hope.

Joshi said people reposed faith in Modi by electing him with an even greater majority in 2019.

Earlier, Joshi virtually drew comparisons between Modi and Lord Ram recalling instances from Ramayana.

"In the Treta Yug, Maata Shabri was eager to welcome Prabhu Shri Ram. During this joint session when the

Honourable President was entering Parliament, it was felt that Prabhu Shri Ram was welcoming Maata Shabri at the door steps of Parliament to honour her," Joshi said.

Seconding the Motion moved by Joshi, BJP member from Hoshangabad Uday Pratap Singh lauded the Modi government for its schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Kisan Samman Nidhi among others.

Singh said the government was working towards doubling the income of farmers.

"People say the promise of doubling farmers' income is a 'jumla'. The MSP on chana was Rs 3,100 in 2014, now it is Rs 5,345. Sugarcane used to be sold for Rs 210 in 2014, now it is over Rs 400... are these not steps towards doubling farmers' income?" he said.

Lauding Home Minister Amit Shah, Singh said he is the strongest Home Minister India has had since Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Quake Deaths Pass

85 million people were affected, and he declared a state of emergency in 10 provinces.

For the entire quake-hit area, that number could be as high as 23 million people, according to Adelheid Marschang, a senior emergencies officer with the World Health Organization.

"This is a crisis on top of multiple crises in the affected region," Marschang said in Geneva.

Turkiye is home to millions of refugees from the Syrian civil war. The affected area in Syria is divided between government-controlled territory and the country's last opposition-held enclave, where millions live in extreme poverty and rely on humanitarian aid to survive.

The Palestinian Authority said that 57 Palestinian refugees were among the dead 14 in Turkiye and 43 in Syria, a country that for decades has hosted nearly a half-million Palestinians in large refugee camps.

Teams from nearly 30 countries around the world headed for Turkiye or Syria.

As promises of help flooded in, Turkiye sought to accelerate the effort by allowing only vehicles carrying aid to enter the worst-hit provinces of Kahramanmaras, Adiyaman and Hatay.

The United Nations said it was "exploring all avenues" to get supplies to rebel-held northwestern Syria. Sebastien Gay, the head of mission in the country for Doctors Without Borders, said health facilities were overwhelmed, and medical personnel were working around around the clock to help the wounded.

Nurgul Atay told The Associated Press she could hear her mother's voice beneath the rubble of a collapsed building in the Turkish city of Antakya, the capital of Hatay province. But efforts to get into the ruins had been futile without any heavy equipment to help.

"If only we could lift the concrete slab, we'd be able to reach her," she said. "My mother is 70 years old, she won't be able to withstand this for long."

But help did reach some. Several dramatic rescues were reported across the region as survivors, including small children, were pulled from the rubble more than 30 hours after the earthquake.

Residents in a Syrian town discovered a crying infant whose mother apparently gave birth to her while buried in the rubble of a five-story apartment building, relatives and a doctor said.

The newborn was found buried under the debris with her umbilical cord still connected to her mother, Afraa Abu Hadiya, who was found dead, they said.

The baby was the only member of her family to survive from the building collapse in the small town of Jinderis, next to the Turkish border, Ramadan Sleiman, a relative, told The Associated Press.

In the city of Aleppo, a Maronite Christian convent opened its doors to hundreds of residents who fled their shaking homes.

"Based on our principles and ideas of receiving the most needy, we wanted to make sure that everybody who was scared or lost their house or was on the streets could find shelter here," said Brother George Sabah. "We opened every part of the convent. There isn't a space in the convent that isn't being used by people, including the elderly, children, men, women."

Turkiye has large numbers of troops in the border region and has tasked the military with aiding in the rescue efforts, including setting up tents for the homeless and a field hospital in Hatay province.

A navy ship docked on Tuesday at the province's port of Iskenderun, where a hospital collapsed, to transport survivors in need of medical care to a nearby city. Thick, black smoke rose from another area of the port, where firefighters have not yet been able to douse a fire that broke out among shipping containers toppled by the earthquake.

Turkiye's emergency management agency said the total number of deaths in the country had passed 4,500, with some 26,000 people injured.

The death toll in government-held areas of Syria climbed over 800, with some 1,400 injured, according to the Health Ministry. At least 900 people have died in the rebel-held northwest, according to the White Helmets, the emergency organisation leading rescue

operations, with more than 2,300 injured.

The region sits on top of major fault lines and is frequently shaken by earthquakes. Some 18,000 were killed in similarly powerful earthquakes that hit northwest Turkiye in 1999.

DDC Member

six others have been detained till now in this connection," a senior police officer said.

The arrested include DDC member from Doda identified as Mehraj Din Malik.

Out of these, five people, including a businessman, were arrested and four people were detained on Sunday, while four others were arrested on Tuesday.

The owner of the car showroom, Sajad Ahmed Beigh of Kashmir, is among those arrested, police added.

BJP Seeks Probe

that this encroachment of thousands of hectares of land in Jammu is the "biggest land scam" worth crores of rupees.

"We seek a probe against the revenue officials - Patwaris, Girdawares and tehsildars who tempered with records and changed the revenue records of the state and government lands as private lands. We want action against them," J&K BJP Chief Ravinder Raina told reporters here.

"There should be an assessment of the properties of all those revenue officials, land mafia involved in this scam. They should be arrested and their properties should be confiscated", he added.

Raina said Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has already made it clear that action would be taken against the officials involved without any prior notice.

"No poor will be hit. The eviction of encroachers from government lands is the order of the High court and Supreme court", he said, adding, "He said that they will not be effected. LG said that as it is court order we cannot directly make any policy. With the consent of court, policy will be formed."

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Tuesday held demonstrations against the ongoing anti-encroachment drive by the Jammu and Kashmir administration, saying that it was affecting poor people.

PDP, AAP Hit

According to reports, dozens of PDP workers tried to take out a rally from the party headquarters on Tuesday afternoon against the ongoing eviction drive launched by the Union Territory administration to reclaim the illegally occupied state and Kahcharal land.

Carrying placards which read "stop bulldozing our houses", "stop ruling J&K as a colony" and "Kashmir is for Kashmiris", the PDP workers demanded immediate halt to what they termed 'selective drive'. The protesters tried to march towards Lal Chowk. However, the cops deployed in advance prevented them from moving ahead.

The angry protesters said that PDP will move to the Supreme Court in case the drive launched against poor people was not stopped forthwith.

Meanwhile, a similar protest was staged by the workers and activists of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) at Press Enclave against the 'alleged' onslaught on the poor.

Protesters alleged that the ongoing drive has created chaos and confusion everywhere in J&K and that the government should revoke the arbitrary order forthwith, failing which protests will be intensified in the entire Union Territory.

"Who has given you the rights to bulldoze the poor? On one hand the government says the poor will not be touched, while on the other hand uphill efforts are made to render them homeless. How could the government let people shiver in this bone chilling winter," AAP activists told media persons.

Not A Single

launched against few families, who he alleged have looted state property worth crores of rupees over the years.

Sharma threw an open challenge to Peoples Conference (PC) Chairman, Sajad Gani Lone to prove whether a single structure owned by any poor family was destroyed during the ongoing

demolition drive in J&K.

He said the government is committed to protect the poor and that the drive against land grabbers will continue, till a single inch of illegally occupied land is retrieved from them.

In apparent reference to Omar Abdullah, Sajad Lone and Mehbooba Mufti, the BJP leader said those living an 'aristocratic life' cannot understand the meaning of poverty.

"Not a single structure owned by a poor family was knocked down during the ongoing demolition drive in J&K. BJP will apologize and own responsibility, if any poor family was touched anywhere. Government is committed to protect the poor, and the administration implements LG orders in letter and spirit," Sharma told reporters here.

The BJP leader asserted that the incumbent Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother used to wash dishes at people's homes to feed her children while her son began his career by selling tea at a railway station.

He asked Omar, Mehbooba and Lone not to teach lessons of poverty to those who lived their life in extreme poverty.

"Sajad Lone is son of a former minister and he cannot feel the pain of a poor man, who strives for his livelihood all through his life. Mehbooba Mufti was born in a Home Minister's house wherein pets are fed with silver spoons. Omar Abdullah owns property from J&K to London, how could they define poverty to PM Modi whose mother used to wash dishes at people's homes to feed her family," he added.

Sharma said action against sister Shabnam Lone frustrated her brother Sajad a lot and that he started teaching lessons on poverty

"Let Sajad Lone prove whether any poor family having built house on state land in Handwara, his home constituency was touched, if yes, we will be answerable," he said.

He claimed that Omar Abdulla's relatives were paying a rent of Rs 13 per kanal land, which was recently retrieved from them. Besides, he said, Nedou's had also encroached upon 40 kanal of state land, which too was retrieved.

"Bulldozer will continue against those having misused their official positions by encroaching upon the state land while poor having erected their houses on few marlas land will not be touched," added Sharma.

India Slams

after New Delhi abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019. India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian envoy.

India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 was its internal matter. It also advised Pakistan to accept the reality and stop all anti-India propaganda.

India has told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

At the outset, Parihar, in his remarks, conveyed India's condolences to the families in Syria and Turkiye, who have suffered loss of lives and destruction due to the devastating earthquakes.

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake and multiple aftershocks struck eastern Turkiye and neighbouring Syria on Monday, Killing more than 5,000 people.

"India stands in solidarity with the people of Syria and Turkiye, and is ready to offer all possible assistance to cope with this tragedy," Parihar said.

25000 Vacancies

usual status among the persons of age group 15-29 years for Jammu and Kashmir was 18.3 per cent," he added.

30 Civilians,

A total of 41 civilians and 42 security personnel were killed and 192 others were injured in 2021, he said.

2 Cops Suspended

"fit and fine" when he met him on Sunday evening, Rahul told reporters.

A street food vendor, Sonu is survived by wife and three little children. He was the sole breadwinner of the family, his nephew said.

His wife has demanded justice and punishment for those responsible for her husband's death.

Pak Using

Pakistan is now using this as a new tool in its proxy war. Of late, a dual strategy of sending across drugs as well as weapons through drones is being employed to keep the fire burning in an attempt to disrupt the social fabric," he said.

The army commander said the crossborder smuggling of narcotics aided terror activities in the Union territory.

"Security forces are alive to this trend and have already initiated counter-drone measures to curb the menace," he added.

Lt Gen Dwivedi said the situation along the Line of Control has remained stable and the ceasefire understanding with Pakistan continues to sustain.

"A very strict vigil and a robust technology-enabled multi-tier counter-infiltration grid is being maintained to thwart any attempts at infiltration. Ceasefire violations, infiltration bids or any other misadventure attempted by the adversary will be dealt with firmly," he added.

The army commander said numerous infiltration bids have been foiled in the last year while the highest standards of professionalism and synergy displayed by the troops in all dimensions of counter-terror operations has nullified or limited the kinetic threat.

"Our focus continues to reinforce our intelligence setup by synergising with all stakeholders and sister agencies to usher in peace and undertake developmental activities. The dividends of peace and stability are reaching the people in far-flung areas and they are participating wholeheartedly to preserve and sustain this peace," he said.

He called for the involvement and cooperation of all stakeholders in implementing the Agnipath Scheme and in guiding the soldiers recruited under it -- Agniveers -- for performing to their optimum potential.

"I wish to reiterate that our flag does not fly because of the winds that move it; it flies with the last breath of soldiers who have sacrificed themselves protecting it. The nation looks up to us in times of crisis and we have to live up to the hopes and trust reposed on us by our countrymen," he said.

'Will Give Appropriate

ensured through physical patrolling and technical means.

Addressing the Northern Command Investiture Ceremony here, General officer Commanding in Chief Lt General Upendra Dwivedi also said that the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has brought forth many lessons such as employment of disruptive and dual use technologies.

"On the LAC, our response to Chinese attempts to unilaterally change the status quo was a swift, undaunted and synergised action by the Indian Armed Forces. Any adverse aggressive designs or attempts will definitely be met with appropriate posturing of Forces and a strong intent with complete synergy among the three services," he said.

He said measures to resolve the Line of Actual Control (LAC) situation at diplomatic and operational levels are also simultaneously underway.

"I assure you that the LAC in Eastern Ladakh is being dominated by physical patrolling and through technical means and our territorial integrity is being ensured," he added.

Lt Gen Dwivedi said the Northern Command is in a high state of readiness and morale, to face constantly evolving threats and challenges.

"The security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh poses many challenges in terrain and operational dynamics, especially from different adversaries along the Northern and Western borders. We are committed to defending India's sovereignty and territorial integrity while upholding the democratic traditions of the Nation.

"We are maintaining a constant vigil, monitoring all developments and will take all necessary steps to protect our national interests," he said.

The Army commander noted that cyber and space have emerged as new domains of

warfare.

"Information warfare, cyber and space have emerged as new domains of warfare. Gray zone warfare in both the kinetic and non-kinetic domains is a challenge and we have adapted well to the ambiguities associated with strategies," he said.

"It is essential that we equip ourselves, progressively factor and consider these peculiarities to facilitate better and more effective war fighting," he added.

He said the Army is prepared to meet any challenges in the future and will always work for the betterment of the people of the region.

"The last two years have brought to the fore newer challenges in the wake of abrogation of Article 370, the Galwan conflict and multiple waves of COVID-19," he said.

"These challenges have only served to strengthen our resolve to be steadfast and determined in our commitment," he added.

On the steps taken for improving the life of soldiers and local residents of Ladakh, he said special clothing in seven layers and mountaineering equipment are being indigenised to increase the capability of soldiers in high altitude areas (HAA).

"The study of Intermittent Oxygen Inhalation, has been initiated with an aim to improve the overall health conditions in acclimatisation of combat soldiers, deployed for more than one year in HAA," he said.

The Army commander said the Pan-India Project of Network for Spectrum has reached completion in the last one year and approximately 57 per cent of this project is rolled out in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"The Army has in conjunction with the Ministry of Communication identified 144 villages in remote areas of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir for installation of 4G/5G towers. Assistance in terms of sharing tower space and support infrastructure is being provided to telecom service providers, so that this critical facility reaches population residing in remote border villages," he added.

Lt Gen Dwivedi also said that the Army was now working with the UT Government of Ladakh to facilitate tourism in border areas.

3 OGWs Held

and Salik Mehraj.

During preliminary investigation, he said, it came to fore that the trio was working as terrorist associates of proscribed terror outfit LeT.

"The money was received by them as a part of a conspiracy to strengthen its cadres within District Srinagar. The said money was received by them on the directions of their handlers based in Pakistan as a part of larger criminal conspiracy hatched by terrorist organization within and across the border to pass/ raise money/ funds for furthering their activities and cause large scale disturbances in the UT of J&K," the spokesperson said.

In this connection, he said, a case FIR No. 20/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Nowgam.

"Further investigation into the case is in progress. More recoveries and arrests are expected in the instant case," he added.

Another Leopard

about its presence in the area.

He said the wild animal was roaming in the residential area, thereby posing a danger to people and their livestock.

The official said the leopard was subsequently released in the sanctuary.

Extortionist Held

During the course of investigation, several persons were rounded up, one among them identified as Adil Ah Dar s/o M Yousuf Dar r/o Bellow was interrogated professionally, who revealed that he has committed the said crime using toy pistols.

Upon his disclosure following articles were recovered two Toy pistols, 3 valets, one Redmi Mobile phone, Cash of Rs 3330, JK Bank ATM, Aadhar card, SBI ATM Card, Driving License, Pan Card ,Election Card, Jio Sim card belonging to complainant, he said.

General public are requested not to fall in any such trap and to inform concerned Police Station about any such incident, reads the statement.



Dr Samoon Reviews Functioning Of SDD, Assesses Audit Paras

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon on Tuesday chaired an officers' meeting to review functioning of the department besides assessing settlement of audit paras pertaining to SDD pending with the office of Principal Accountant General J&K (audit).

Principal Secretary took stock of implementation of various schemes being implemented by SDD in the UT. He exhorted upon the officers to work with utmost zeal so that the all ongoing development works could be completed within the prescribed timelines.

The meeting had a threadbare discussion on various audit paras pertaining to the Skill Development Department in ITIs and Polytechnics.

While examining the present

status of pending audit paras, Principal Secretary directed all the heads of Polytechnics and ITIs to coordinate with the Accountant General office (audit) and work towards settlement of all the pending audit paras concerning their respective institutions on priority.

It was informed in the meeting that, presently, there are 229 audit paras pending for settlement.

Appreciating efforts of the department for getting about 296 audit paras dropped, Principal Secretary directed the concerned officers to step up efforts for speedy settlement of all the pending audit paras pertaining to Skill Development Department.

Among other, senior officers of SDD, Principals of Polytechnics, Superintendents of ITIs, and other concerned officers attended the meeting personally and virtually.

DC Ganderbal Visits Proposed Site Of Semi Ring Road In District

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Tuesday took site visit of proposed Phase 2A of Semi Ring Road Srinagar from Pandach Crossing to Wayul Bridge.

During the visit, the DC was briefed about the status of the proposed Phase of Semi Ring Road and it was informed that there will be a four lane configuration as per IRC norms that will give fastest, shortest and safest connectivity to the people of Ganderbal to Srinagar

and tourists to Sonmarg and Leh areas once commissioned.

On the occasion, the DC gave necessary instructions to the officials for following all necessary guidelines during preliminary survey keeping in view that maximum state land is utilized in the project besides ensuring minimum structure involvement and access to every spot.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by projects Director PIU Srinagar, Site Engineer Highway, Design Engineer and other officials of National Highway Authority of India.

Bandipora Admin Airlifts 58 Passengers From Gurez



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The District Administration Bandipora on Tuesday facilitated airlifting of about 58 passengers between Gurez and Bandipora including 9 patients and 5 students appearing in JKSSRB exams.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad, a special helicopter service was put in service to airlift stranded passengers to and from snowbound Gurez valley with priority to patients and students who have to appear in various exams.

Giving details, an official informed that 29 passengers were airlifted from Bandipora to Dawar in Gurez while 22

passengers were airlifted from Dawar to Bandipora.

Moreover 3 passengers were airlifted from Kanzalwan to Bandipora while four patients were airlifted from Neeru (Tulail) to Bandipora.

Among the passengers included five students who had to appear in JKSSB exams were airlifted to Bandipora so that they could appear in exams.

Nine patients and three attendants were also among the passengers who were airlifted to Bandipora for medical aid.

The DC was personally monitoring the evacuation process.

The entire evacuation process was a coordinated exercise between District and Sub District authorities.

J&K Launches GPS Based Attendance App For Teachers

App To Seek Feedback From Students Also Unveiled



Observer News Service

JAMMU: With the launch of two applications by Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday, Jammu and Kashmir became first in the country to take online monthly feedback from students of class 6th and above about the performance of their teachers and carry out the GPS based attendance of teachers on daily basis.

The ceremony was attended by Principal Secretary Education; MD, Samagra Shiksha; Director School Education Kashmir/Jammu, Director Estates, Secretary JKBOSE and many other concerned officers.

Dr Mehta complimented the department for developing these applications and called them the powerful tools to take the education sector towards much higher efficiency and accountability. He remarked that these applications would ensure that an authentic feedback comes from the grassroots level from the ones who are directly involved in the learning process.

He enjoined upon the officers to monitor the progress at highest levels so that the results improve substantially. He maintained that the teachers in the government sector are best in terms of qualifications and training and they just need to focus more on academic activities to ensure improved results.

The Chief Secretary advised the department to make this feedback a benchmark while analysing the annual performance reports of the teachers.

He said that the teachers who perform well, and are punctual and who also receive good feedback from students should be duly recognized and re-

warded by the department. He observed that such teachers should be preferred in career progression and other recommendations.

The system is named as "SAMIKSHA" as it will be reflecting the true performance of the Teachers with respect to their inputs in the actual classroom, leaving no space for subjectivity.

It was given out that the student feedback forms are designed to get feedback from students on different teaching-learning techniques in the institution. Besides, the teachers are given unique usernames and passwords to verify their input and outcomes. The comprehensive report will be visible to all levels viz-Teachers, HOIs, ZEO, CEO, DSEK/J, and at UT level in the hierarchy.

The department has worked out some 25 parameters (questions) regarding teachers and school ambience, out of which 02 are optional. The school and teacher based questionnaire needs to be filled by the students once on a monthly basis grading them on a 5-point scale with Excellent, Very Good, Good, Average and Below Average results, as informed during the launch ceremony.

Another app launched today was 'JK Attendance-SED' available for downloading on both Android and iOS. The application will give a peek into the daily attendance of teachers to even Directors and CEOs. The application will capture live location of the employee with Geo Coordinates and even allow his/her time specific tracking.

The attendance system would reduce paperwork and save time and resources. It would eliminate the duplicate data entries and improve man-

agement of attendance across all schools.

The same application would enable employees to make leave requests online. It would automatically send it for necessary approval and keep his/her leave account safe for viewing by the higher authorities.

Later on the Chief Secretary also released 'Whole School Safety' manual. He called it a very important document prepared by the department. He observed that the safety of our children is all important and should be given priority over every other concern. He declared that this document is important and provides holistic approach for keeping children safe against hazards.

The Principal Secretary, School Education, Alok Kumar revealed that all of the digital applications besides the safety manual has been prepared in-house by the department employing its own personnel and resources. He gave out that he feels immensely pleased that Directorate of Samagra Shiksha has trained Key Resource Persons in this regard.

He stated that the necessary orientation of all CEOs/DIET principals and teachers as per the guidelines has also been done, which explicitly elaborate various kinds of vulnerabilities our children are exposed to and their remedies. The SOPs on current pandemic viz-a-viz the role and responsibilities of every individual concerned makes the document a comprehensive reference document.

The same is also an initiative of Samagra Shiksha which has been designed for creating a safe environment for children, starting from their homes to their schools and back, says the manual.

Govt Departments Set-Up Panels To Identify Provisions In Laws To Be Removed

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, Jammu & Kashmir's different departments have set up committees to identify provisions in the laws which need to be removed or decriminalized.

Details reveal that several departments have set up committees in the past three months to identify the provisions in the laws and Rules which need to be removed or decriminalized.

The departments have been directed to make recommendations regarding the laws/ Rules administered by them.

According to an order issued on January 30, 2023, the Department of Social Welfare has set-up a panel under the chairmanship of its special secretary to identify provisions in

the Acts and Rules which need to be deleted.

As per the order, the heads of the departments/representatives shall within a period of one week identify the provisions that require to be removed/retained or decriminalized in the various Acts/ Rules relating to the Department based on their feedback from the field, which shall be placed before the committee for scrutiny and examination.

"The committee shall accordingly make appropriate recommendations to the Department for the retention/ removal/ decriminalization of such provisions," the order states.

On December 8, 2022, the Home department also set up a committee under the chairmanship of additional secretary (SR) for identifying provisions

in the laws which were to be removed and decriminalized.

The seven-member committee constituted by the Home Department also comprised representatives of Director General of Police and Director General of Police, Prisons, J&K.

Before this, on November 25, the Roads & Buildings Department appointed Prakash Chander Tanoch, Development Commissioner Works to look into the matter and suggest changes, if any, regarding existing Acts/ Rules.

It is worthwhile to mention that the Government of India had also undertaken decriminalization of minor technical and procedural offences under existing Acts/Rules to reduce the fear of imprisonment among businesses/citizens—(KNO)



Mercury Dips At Most Places In J&K, Gulmarg Shivers At Minus 7°C

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Barring Srinagar and Qazigund, the minimum temperature recorded a fall in Jammu and Kashmir with Gulmarg being the coldest place in the J&K at 7.0°C on Tuesday.

Quoting a meteorological department official, news agency GNS reported that Srinagar recorded a low of 2.7°C against 1.8°C on the previous night. Today's minimum temperature, he said, was above normal by 3.1°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 0.4°C against minus 1.6°C on the previous night and it was 1.9°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of minus 5.9°C against minus 0.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.7°C against 1.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.3°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 7.0°C against minus 3.6°C on the previous night and

it was 0.3°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury recorded a drop and settled at minus 1.0°C against minus 0.3°C on the previous night and it was 1.0°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 8.4°C against 11.9°C on the previous night. It was 1.1°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a drop by 4.0°C, recording a low of 0.2°C than previous night (overall below normal by 0.8°C). Batote, he said, recorded a low of 2.0°C (below normal by 0.2°C), Katra 8.8°C (1.4°C above normal) and Bhadarwah 0.2°C (0.5°C above normal).

Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 11.4°C and minus 10.0°C respectively, the official said.

Regarding the forecast, the Met official said that the weather will be mainly dry during the next 24 hours.

For subsequent two days, he said, there is a possibility of "isolated to widespread light to moderate rain, snow and thunders.

THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE, SRINAGAR (District Court Complex, Moominabad, Batamalo, Srinagar)

PRESENT: JAWAD AHMED

In the case of:

1. Mst Shafiq W/o Bashir Ahmad Sofi
2. Mohammad Jassar Bashir
3. Mohammad Rayyan Sofi
4. Mohammad Munim Sofi
5. Auwha
6. Zunaira Sons and daughters of Bashir Ahmad Sofi

All residents of Sheshgari Mohalla Khanyar Srinagar. ...Applicant(s)

Vs.

Public At Large. ...Non-Applicant(s)

NOTICE: TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, on an application of the petitioners, this court had issued succession certificate dated 14.12.2010 in favour of the applicants in respect of the debts and securities of one Late Bashir Ahmad Sofi S/o Ali Mohammad Sofi R/o Sheshgari Mohalla Khanyar, Srinagar on Rs. 193,976/- who were minor at that time.

Whereas, the applicants have filed the aforesaid application before this court stating therein that the names of the applicants No. 2 to 5, who were minors at the time of issuance of succession certificate dated 14.12.2010, have been inadvertently mentioned as i) Jasir Bashir, ii) Mohammad Rujan, iii) Mohammad Mumin, iv) Awaha when, infact their actual names are i) Mohammad Jassar Sofi, ii) Mohammad Rayyan Sofi, iii) Mohammad Munim Sofi iv) Auwha respectively.

Whereas, the aforesaid application has been moved before this court wherein rectification in the names of the petitioner No. 2 to 5 has been prayed for.

Whereas, objections to the aforesaid application are invited from general public and whosoever from the general public may have any objection in correction of the names of petitioners No. 2 to 5 as Mohammad Jassar Sofi, Mohammad Rayyan Sofi, Mohammad Munim Sofi and Auwha may appear either personally or through his/ her counsel for filing objections to the application or if anyone would be interested to be a party may file application for arraying him as party. The next date fixed in the matter is 14.02.2023.

Given under my seal and signature of the court today on 03.02.2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my license bearing dl no: JK_0920110069596. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the Concerned ARTO within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Hilal Ahmad Malik

S/O Ab Rashid R/o Hayan kupwara

Ajko

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE SUHAIB BIN YOUSUF ADVOCATE JAMMU AND KASHMIR HIGH COURT

In The Case Of

Shafat Ahmad Baba
S/O Bashir Ahmad Baba
R/O New Colony Lal Bazar

(Caveator)

Vs

Public at large.

The caveator has reason to believe /Apprehension that the Non-Caveator. May file Civil Suit a / writ petition / Appeal / Application before the Hon'ble district Court, High Court or any other Court ON the Ground of false and fictions facts by representation of Self cooked story. He may succeed in obtaining ex-party interim order at the back of Caveator and in such eventuality on the caveator may be put to notice before passing any order against the caveator and it would Proper that the Caveator may be given an opportunity of hearing before passing any order.

NJ

Nine J&K, Ladakh Products To Get GI Tag

Observer News Service

JAMMU: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Jammu, in its initiative of identifying unique products of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in consultation with various stakeholders including Development Departments, has sanctioned a project for GI Registration of 09 Products of both the UTs for further submission to Human Welfare Association, Varanasi.

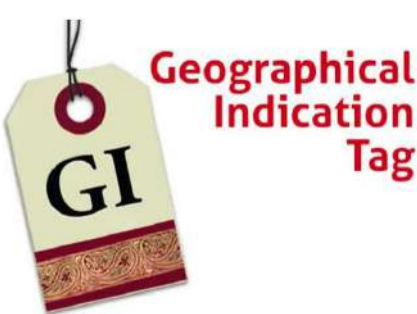
Pertinently, Geographical Indications (GI) is a form of Intellectual Property right that identifies goods originating from a specific geographical location and having distinct nature, quality and characteristics linked to that location.

NABARD provides end-to-

end support to facilitate pre-registration as well as post-registration activities for Geographical Indications. Realising the huge potential of handloom, handicrafts and agricultural products in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

The products which have obtained GI tagging included Basohli Paintings (Kathua), Basholi Pashmina Woolen Products (Kathua), Chikri Wood Craft (Rajouri), Bhaderwah Rajma (Doda), Mushk-budji Rice (Anantnag), Kaladi (Udhampur), Sulai Honey (Ramban), Anardana (Ramban), Ladakh Wood Carving (Ladakh).

The GI applications of all these products have been filed



at GI registry, Chennai. The Consultative Group Meeting (CGM) of all these products has already been successfully held on 09.12.2022 at Jammu University Campus and the products are in the final stage of grant of GI Tag. The final GI Tag is thus expected soon.

GI Tag grants legal protec-

tion to the original producers within original geographical area with recognition, prevents unauthorized use of registered Geographical Indication goods by third parties, boosts exports and promotes the brand at International level, promotes economic prosperity of producers and related stakeholders including contribution in GDP of country. Only an authorized user has the exclusive right to use the Geographical Indication in relation to goods in respect of which it is registered. Due to this, no person can copy it from beyond the geographical area and it, therefore, prevents misuse of the original product.

GIs can play an important role in rural development, empowering communities, acting as product differentiators, support brand building, generating local employment, encouraging tourism, preserving traditional knowledge & traditional cultural expressions and conserving biodiversity.

NABARD is playing much important role in the GI registration process and Post GI initiatives including marketing linkages, branding and promotion. It is the first recognized organization in the country, which has adopted a specific GI policy and schemes for GIs. All over India, NABARD has supported the filing of GI application of 147 products, of which 24 have secured GI certification till date.

Real Kashmir Take On Sudeva At TRC Today

- ▶ Snow Leopards sack Mehrajuddin Wadoo
- ▶ New boss, Gifton Noel-Williams, takes charge
- ▶ Noel-Williams has coached England under-17s

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC are set to take on Sudeva Delhi today, Wednesday, February 8, at Synthetic Turf TRC. The match is slated for a 2:00 PM kick off.

This will be the Snow Leopards' first game without head coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo, as former English footballer Gifton Noel-Williams was given the charge in late January. Wadoo's

team in 2022 by the English FA. While Srinagar's chilly weather won't bother the London-born coach much, it will be Real Kashmir's opponents today who could put the squad in a spot of bother. Noel-Williams won't be taking Sudeva Delhi lightly, that's for sure.

"We've been on the road for quite some time, so it's homecoming for me as well as the boys," Noel-Williams told AIFF



sacking came after Real Kashmir failed to impress in 2023; the club has endured a woeful away form and is yet to win a game in the I-League since the start of the new year.

Noel-Williams is a UEFA Pro Licence Coach and will bring a wealth of experience to the Srinagar-based football club. He has played as a striker for Watford, Stoke and Burnley among other European clubs, scoring 85 goals across 416 appearances.

As far as Noel-Williams' coaching career is concerned, the new Real Kashmir head coach was appointed interim manager for Watford Women in 2020. He was named an Assistant Coach for England's Under-17 national

on the eve of the match.

"With a new manager comes new philosophy, so I won't think about what has happened so far. I've watched the videos of those games and spoke to some individuals about changing some things," he added.

When asked about how his preparation for the match, Noel-Williams said:

"I might be making some changes, some players who have not played so much may get to play but I don't believe in changing everything. Because this team with this set of players won match after the match earlier in the season, so they couldn't have become bad in a matter of few matches."

Ganderbal Athletes Shine In Int'l Sqay Championships



Agencies

GANDERBAL: Ganderbal district has once again demonstrated its sporting prowess as its athletes brought home a total of 11 medals from the 7th South Asian Sqay Championship and Tri-Nation International 2023 held in Kathmandu, Nepal. The championship was held from February 3 to 5.

An official told the news agency KNO that eight talented athletes won gold, while three others brought home silver.

The gold medallists in the South Asian Sqay Championship include Nazia Bano, Nasir Zargar, Riyan Bin Riyaz, Saleem Shah, Sheikh Uzair, Adnan Farooq Rather, Mehak Yousuf, and Sajad Khan. Aqsa Showkat, Radifa, and Abid Ajaz won silver medals. Rameez Rehman also won a Gold medal in the Tri-National International Championship 2023.

"The district is grateful for the support provided by DC Ganderbal Shayambir Sir who sponsored two of the players, and the SSP Ganderbal who also

sponsored two players," the official said, adding that the district is dedicated to promoting sports culture and providing the best athletes to represent the district, state, and country at every level.

The media wing of Ganderbal Sqay also extended its gratitude to all those who have supported and encouraged sports culture in the district. It congratulated all the medallists for their "impressive performance".

The total number of participants from India was 108 at the 7th South Asian Championship held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Out of these, 57 participants were from Jammu & Kashmir and 12 were from Ganderbal.

Saleem Pathan, coach of the athletes while talking to KNO expressed his joy and pride over the achievement of district Ganderbal.

"The medal wins are a testament to the talent and hard work of the athletes who represented the Union Territory," Pathan said, adding, "With this accomplishment, Ganderbal has confirmed its position as a powerful competitor in the world of sports."

WPL Auction: 409 Players To Go Under Hammer

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: A total of 409 cricketers will go under the hammer at the inaugural Women's Premier League auction with the likes of Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Alyssa Healy and Sophie Ecclestone keeping themselves in the highest base price bracket of Rs 50 lakh.

IPL chairman Arun Dhumal had told PTI on Monday that the entire 22 matches of the league will be held in Mumbai from March 4-26. The auction will be held in Mumbai on February 13.

Out of 409 players, 246 are Indians and 163 are overseas of which eight are from the associate nations. The total capped players are 202, while 199 are uncapped and eight are from the associate nations.

A maximum of 90 slots are

available with the five teams of which 30 are for overseas players.

Twenty four players have put themselves in the Rs 50 lakh base price category. Thirty players are in the auction list with a base price of Rs 40 lakh.

Besides India captain Harmanpreet, Mandhana and Australian star Healy and number one England spinner Ecclestone, the others in the highest base price bracket include U-19 World Cup winning captain Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Jemimah Rodrigues, England's Nat Sciver, Australia captain Meg Lanning among others.

India's U-19 stars, who won the World Cup in South Africa, will also be part of the action. They include uncapped Parshavi Chopra, Archana Devi, Titas Sadhu, Shweta Sehrawat and Mannat Kashyap (Rs 10 lakh base price for all).



SPOOKED AUSSIES: Australia star cricketers Steve Smith and David Warner were clicked taking a deep look at the VCA Stadium pitch in Nagpur on Tuesday. Aussie newspapers reported that the players were left "stunned by a 'dry', 'loose' pitch that will play into India's hands". The first Test begins February 9.

Siraj, Shubman Nominated For ICC Player Of The Month Award

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India pacer Mohammed Siraj and opener Shubman Gill were on Tuesday nominated for the ICC Player of the Month Award for their stellar show in January.

New Zealand opener Devon Conway, who has had a fine start to the year with three hundreds and two fifties across formats, is the third contender for the award.

Following a fruitful 2022, Gill displayed his batting prowess in both the white-ball formats last month while Siraj led India's fast-bowling attack with distinction in ODIs in recent times, showcasing his brilliance consistently, especially with the new ball in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah.

Gill was handed his maiden T20I cap in the first match against Sri Lanka in Mumbai,



where he managed just seven, before another single-digit score in the second game. He made a steady 46 in the third T20I in Rajkot.

Gill then registered scores of 70, 21 and 116 in the three ODIs against the island nation, but it was his breathtaking display in the first ODI against New Zea-

land in Hyderabad that stole the show. The 23-year-old struck 208 off 149 balls in an incredible knock on a day when none of his teammates crossed 28.

Siraj's incredible form, on the other hand, was rewarded in the ICC Men's Player Rankings, where he was crowned the No.1 bowler in ODIs.



Attacks On Vinicius A Problem Of Spanish Football: Ancelotti

Agencies

MADRID: The hate attacks against Vinicius Junior are a problem of Spanish football and must be dealt with, his Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said on Tuesday.

Vinicius, the Brazilian forward who is Black, has been subjected to hate attacks since he arrived in Spain in 2018. The most recent were on Sunday at a Spanish league game in Mallorca. Last month, his effigy hung off a bridge in Madrid before the derby against Atletico Madrid.

"The question I ask is this: What does Vinicius have to defend himself against? What do his teammates have to defend themselves against?" Ancelotti said on Tuesday on the eve of Madrid's debut at the Club World Cup in Morocco.

"Is Vinicius the problem? It seems like the problem is Vinicius, but the problem is what happens around him. Period. "It is a problem of Spanish football. I am a part of Spanish football and I think it's a problem that we have to solve. Because it seems that Vinicius is the culprit, but he is being the victim of something that I don't understand."

Vinicius has been outspoken about the insults and often complained on social media of how he's been treated.

He was also targeted because of his dances while celebrating goals, and recently his teammates called attention to the

high number of fouls he was receiving in games. Last week, Valencia defender Gabriel Paulista was sent off after a vicious foul on Vinicius in a league game.

"Vinicius is an incredible person, with great values," teammate Federico Valverde said. "He is different than most on the field, he enjoys football in his own way, in a happy way. I don't think the rival fans are thinking about the person, they don't realize that he could be the son of anyone who is in the stands. People need to be responsible for what they do, they shouldn't take it out on a 22-year-old. You need to have respect."

Racism in Spanish football has attracted more attention recently but little has been done to punish anyone.

The Spanish league was investigating the attacks on Sunday at Mallorca after TV images showed someone calling him a monkey. Vinicius was also insulted after the match when he stopped to pose for photos and sign autographs for fans. Authorities have yet to find those responsible for hanging Vinicius' effigy last month, and so far teams have not been punished for the racist insults inside their stadiums.

The first trial against a fan who racially insulted a player in Spain is expected to begin this year following remarks by an Espanyol supporter against Athletic Bilbao forward Iñaki Williams a few years ago. (AP)



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