

J&K Received Rs 1547 Cr Investment In 2022-23: GoI

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A record investment of Rs 1,547 crore has been received by Jammu and Kashmir in the current fiscal till January, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Rai said the government expects investments to further increase in the next five years in various important sectors like manufacturing, services, health-care and pharmaceuticals, agro-based industry, and tourism, including film and medical.

During 2022-23 till January, a record investment of Rs 1,547.87 crore has been received by the Union Territory and this investment during the current financial year is the highest ever compared to any of the previous financial years, he said replying to a written question.

The minister said Jammu and Kashmir had received investment of Rs 376.76 crore in



2021-22, Rs 412.74 crore in 2020-21, Rs 296.64 crore in 2019-20, Rs 590.97 crore in 2018-19 and Rs 840.55 crore in 2017-18.

He said the government of Jammu and Kashmir has already received investment proposals worth Rs 64,058 crore.

The central government has notified the new central sector scheme for industrial development of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on February 19, 2021, and various policy initiatives have been taken by the authorities, Rai said.

J&K's Liabilities Swell Over Rs 1 Lakh Crore

Jammu & Kashmir government's liabilities have swelled over Rs one lakh crore, showing an increasing loan burden on the Union Territory's finances. With Central assistance and Union Territory's own resources-both tax and non-tax revenue- not adequate to meet its annual budgetary requirements, the UT government generally goes for borrowings. According to J&K's budget documents tabled in the Parliament on Monday, the debt stock at the end of **More on P6**

Pakistan Plunges Into Crisis 'Fight On Even If I'm Killed', IK Tells Supporters



Lahore: Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan Tuesday asked his supporters to stand up for their rights and continue the struggle even if he is killed or arrested, hours after clashes erupted between the police and his party workers who gathered outside his residence here to foil his arrest in the Toshakhana case.

Khan's video message was released by his party on social media as police arrived at his Zaman Park residence to arrest him.

Police fired tear gas and used water cannons to disperse Khan's supporters, who reportedly hurled stones at policemen, resulting in injuries.

In the video message, Khan urged his supporters to come out for real freedom as police arrived to arrest him. "They think that after my arrest, the nation will fall asleep. You have to prove them wrong," 70-year-old Khan said in the video.

"God has given me everything, and I am fighting this battle for you. I have been fighting this battle all my life, and I will continue to do so," he said. "If something **More on P6**

'Sale of Pakistan MBBS Seats'

ED Conducts Searches At 10 Places In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Enforcement Directorate has carried out searches at 10 places across four districts in the Kashmir valley as part of its ongoing probe against conspirators involved in arranging admissions for money in various courses, including MBBS in Pakistan, to fund terror activities, an official said.

The ED's Srinagar Zonal office carried out the search recently under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at 10



locations in Srinagar, Budgam, Kupwara and Anantnag districts, the official said.

He said the raids were conducted in respect of an

investigation relating to the involvement of conspirators who were hand-in-glove with some educational consultancies and manipulating or arranging admission of J-K students in various professional courses, including MBBS in Pakistan-based colleges, institutions and universities.

In May last year, a special NIA court had framed charges against eight persons, including arrested Hurriyat leader Mohammad Akbar Bhat alias "Zaffar Bhat" for selling Pakistani MBBS seats in Jammu and **More on P6**

6 DURING THE COURSE OF SEARCH OPERATIONS, DOCUMENTS RELATED to immovable properties and highly incriminating material, including digital devices related to the scam, have been recovered and seized."

Missile Misfire

HC Seeks Centre's Stand On Sacked IAF Officer's Plea

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought the Centre's stand on a petition by a former Air Force officer against his dismissal over the accidental firing of Brahmos missile into Pakistan during a simulation exercise last year.

A bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Neena Bansal Krishna issued notice on the petition by the former wing commander, who was posted as Engineering Officer at the

relevant time, and granted the Centre six weeks to file its response.

The petitioner contended the decision of the Ministry of Defence to terminate him in August 2022 was "grossly mala-fide, discriminatory, illegal, and unjust" as he had acted in "complete obedience of the SOP".

Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma opposed his plea and said the termination cannot be challenged in the **More on P6**

Govt Okays Amendment Of Pharmacy Act

Observer News Service

Jammu: In a move aimed to benefit hundreds of qualified persons, including medical assistants, the Union Territory administration on Tuesday approved amendment of Pharmacy Act, 1948.

The nod to make amendment in Section 32-C of Pharmacy Act, 1948 (Central Act)-Introduction of draft Bill was given by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha while chairing the Administrative Council (AC) meeting here on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said. **More on P6**



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14420*
dlbjammu@gmail.com

ULBK
Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir
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Mediterranean Diets May Keep Prostate Cancer At Bay

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have come forth with findings that report the importance of Mediterranean diets, or diets rich in vegetables and fruits with fish, in keeping serious diseases such as prostate cancer and Alzheimer's disease at bay.

Mediterranean diet is primarily a plant-based eating plan that includes a daily intake of whole grains, olive oil, fruits, vegetables, beans and other legumes, nuts, herbs, and spices.

Other foods like animal proteins are eaten in smaller quantities, with the preferred animal protein being fish and seafood.

A study, published in the journal Neurology, has found that people who consume MIND and Mediterranean diets may have fewer signs of Alzheimer's disease - amyloid plaques and tau tangles in their brain - than people who do not consume such diets.

While they are both similar diets, the MIND diet prioritizes green leafy vegetables like spinach, kale and collard greens along with other vegetables.

While this study exhibits an association of a regular consumption of such diets with fewer Alzheimer's disease plaques and tangles, it does not establish a causative relationship.

"These results are exciting - improvement in people's diets in just one area - such as eating more than six servings of green leafy vegetables per week, or not eating fried foods - was associated with fewer amyloid plaques in the brain similar to being about four years younger," said study author Puja Agarwal of RUSH University in Chicago, US.

The study involved 581 people with an average age of 84 at the time of diet assessment who agreed to donate their brains at death to advance research on dementia.

Participants completed annual questionnaires asking how much they ate of food items in various categories.

Droughts, Wet Events Made More Frequent, Intense By Global Warming: NASA-Led Study

Press Trust Of India

Major droughts and pluvials - periods of excessive precipitation and water storage on land - have indeed been occurring more often, confirmed a new National Aeronautics and Space Administration(NASA)-led study.

Droughts and floods will become more frequent and severe as our planet warms and climate changes, scientists have predicted, but detecting this on regional and continental scales has proven difficult, the study said.

Two NASA, US, scientists examined 20 years of data from the NASA/German GRACE and GRACE-FO satellites to identify extreme wet and dry events, the study published in the journal Nature Water said.

Floods and droughts account for more than 20 per cent of the economic losses caused by extreme weather events in the US each year. The economic impacts are similar around the world, though the hu-

man toll tends to be most devastating in poor neighbourhoods and developing nations.

The scientists also found that the worldwide intensity of these extreme wet and dry events - a metric that combines extent, duration, and severity - is closely linked to global warming.

From 2015-2021 - seven of the nine warmest years in the modern record - the frequency of extreme wet and dry events was four per year, compared with three per year in the previous 13 years.

This makes sense, said the authors, because warmer air causes more moisture to evaporate from Earth's surface during dry events; warm air can also hold more moisture to fuel severe snowfall and rainfall events.

"The idea of climate change can be abstract. A couple of degrees warmer doesn't sound like much, but water cycle impacts are tangible," said Matt Rodell, study co-author at NASA.

"Global warming is going to cause more intense droughts and wet periods, which affects people, the economy, and agriculture around the world. Monitoring hydrological extremes is important for preparing for future events, mitigating their impacts, and adapting," said Rodell.

Rodell and study co-author Bailing Li studied 1,056 extreme wet and dry events from 2002 to 2021, as observed by the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) and GRACE-Follow-On (GRACE-FO) satellites.

The satellites use precise measurements of Earth's gravity field to detect water storage anomalies - specifically, how the amount of water stored in soils, aquifers, lakes, rivers, snow cover, and ice compares to normal, the study said.

"It's like watching the level of the water in your bathtub. "You can see how much it rises and falls without knowing the total amount of water in the tub," said Rodell.

Because GRACE and GRACE-FO provide a new map of water storage anomalies around the world every month, they provide a comprehensive view of the severity of hydrological events and how they evolve over time, the study said.

In their study, Rodell and Li applied an "intensity" metric that accounts for the severity, duration, and spatial extent of droughts and extreme wet events. They found the global total intensity of extreme events increased from 2002 to 2021, mirroring Earth's rising temperatures over the same period.

According to the study, by far the most intense event identified in the study was a pluvial that began in 2019 in central Africa and is still ongoing. It has caused the level of Lake Victoria to rise by more than one metre.

A 2015-2016 drought in Brazil was the most intense dry event of the past two decades, leading to empty reservoirs, and water rationing across some Brazilian cities, the study said.

Court Of The 2Nd Additional Munsiff Judicial Magistrate 1St Class At Srinagar

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTION FROM GENERAL PUBLIC
CNR: JKSG030070282023 Date of Filing 13.03.2023

Hleema Bano W/o Khazir Mohammad Bhat
R/o New Umar Masjid Dugrian Dalgate Srinagar

Applicant

Versus

Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar

Non-Applicant

WHEREAS an application has been made before me that Khazir Mohammad Bhat S/o Lat Ab Razak Bhat R/o Near Umar Masjid Dugrian Dalgate, Srinagar has died on 01-07-1996 and the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the death particulars, Khazir Mohammad Bhat , 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 13th day of March 2023.

Sd/-

(AHTZAZ AHMED)

NJ

2nd Additional (JMIC), Srinagar

In The Court Of Additional Munisiff/Judicial Magistrate 1st Clas Srinagar

Present:- Shafeeq Ahmad Malik

Fatima

Applicant

v/s

Registrar Births & Deaths SMC, Srinagar.

(Non-Applicant)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from the applicant for registration of Death of Mohammad Akbar Tantray in the records of SMC Srinagar. Objection, if any, be submitted in writing before the undersigned within seven days from the date of this Publication. The details of the Person are as under:-

Name:- Mohammad Akbar Tantray
Sex:-MALE
Father's Name:-Mohammad Rajab Tantray
Mother's name: Aisha
DOD: 14-01-1984
R/o Bangladesh Colony Takanwari Srinagar
Place Of Death:- at home

Sd/- Additional Munisiff/Judicial

Magistrate 1st Clas Srinagar

nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Pesticides license under name & style ANSAB PESTICIDES & FERTILIZERS KILOORA SHOPIAN. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rouf Ahmad Bhat
S/o Gh Nabi Bhat
R/o Kiloora Shopian

fko

Court Of The 2Nd Additional Munsiff Judicial Magistrate 1St Class At Srinagar

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTION FROM GENERAL PUBLIC
CNR: JKSG030071312023 Date of Filing 13.03.2023

Mohammad Yaseen Malik S/o Assad Ullah Malik
R/o New Colony Lal Bazar, Srinagar

Applicant

Versus

Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar

Non-Applicant

WHEREAS an application has been made before me that Mohammad Iqbal Malik S/o Mohammad Yaseen Malik R/o New Colony Lal Bazar Srinagar has born on 05-04-1981 and the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the death particulars, Mohammad Iqbal Malik , 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 14th day of March 2023.

Sd/-

(AHTZAZ AHMED)

NJ

2nd Additional (JMIC), Srinagar

ازعدالت سیشن موبائل مجسٹریٹ پیٹرکس کشمیر پروفیشنل سرینگر

سائل /اسائل: غلام نبی بٹو

بیتام رجسٹرار برتھس اینڈ ڈیتھس

درخواست لغز اندراج تاریخ وفات

نام: حبیب اللہ بٹو

تاریخ وفات 13-12-1998

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل /اسائل نے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ وفات غلام نبی بٹو ولد حبیب اللہ بٹو ساکنہ وٹاپورہ میہدگاہ سرینگر مورخہ 07-03-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا اعوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے عذرات اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر دس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہذا میں 27-03-2023 کو مقرر ہے۔

تحریر الصدر

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سائل /اسائل: علی محمد بدھیاری

بیتام رجسٹرار برتھس اینڈ ڈیتھس

درخواست لغز اندراج تاریخ پیدائش

نام: علی محمد بدھیاری

تاریخ پیدائش 30-03-1950

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل /اسائل نے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج پیدائش علی محمد بدھیاری ولد محمد سلطان بدھیاری ساکنہ راجنہ سرینگر مورخہ 01-03-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا اعوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے عذرات اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر دس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہذا میں 20-03-2023 کو مقرر ہے۔

تحریر الصدر

پیٹرکس سرینگر

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ازعدالت سیشن موبائل مجسٹریٹ پیٹرکس کشمیر پروفیشنل سرینگر

سائل /اسائل: مسماہ بٹنی

بیتام رجسٹرار برتھس اینڈ ڈیتھس

درخواست لغز اندراج تاریخ وفات

نام: نجمہ ابراہیم وڈو

تاریخ وفات 26-01-1980

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل /اسائل نے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ وفات مسماہ بٹنی زوجہ محمد ابراہیم وڈو ساکنہ نسی بٹ، عناداری سرینگر مورخہ 02-03-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا اعوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے عذرات اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر دس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہذا میں 20-03-2023 کو مقرر ہے۔

تحریر الصدر

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ازعدالت سب جج میو نیل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

باجلاس مہرین مشتاق

Block Development Officer Harwan

بیتام Hilal Ahmad Bhat

سائل /اسائل

درخواست لغز اندراج تاریخ پیدائش /وفات

نام: Mohamad Sultan Bhat

تاریخ وفات / : 24-07-2002

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل /اسائل نے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ /وفات

نام: Mohamad Sultan Bhat S/O Late Mohd Bhat

مورخہ 08-03-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا اعوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے عذرات اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر دس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہذا میں 20-03-2023 کو مقرر ہے۔

تحریر الصدر

سب جج میو نیل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER KUPWARA.
Email:-dswokup@gmail.com Ph / Fax No:- 01955252433



Notification

Subject: - Interview notice for the shortlisted candidates who had applied

for various posts under District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHED) Kupwara.

Reference: - Advertisement notification No: - DSWOK/Sch/2022/2852-58, Dated: -24/09/2022.

Reference: - Shortlist notification No: - DSWOK/Sch/DHEW/2023-3069, Dated: - 16/01/2023.

The candidates who had applied against the advertisement notification given in the above reference for the various posts of District Hub for Empowerment of Women "DHEW" and consequently shortlisted vide above referred notification after proper scrutinization by a committee, are hereby informed to report to the mini meeting hall of District Development Commissioner Kupwara for interview scheduled to be held on **16/03/2023 at 10:30AM.**

Note: -

1. The candidature of candidates is purely provisional. The documents of the candidates will be verified at the time of interview and in case any discrepancy with regard to age and other eligibility conditions, the candidate shall not be allowed to appear in the interview and if documents were found incomplete /not genuine, at any stage of selection or thereafter, the candidature shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab intio.

2. The candidates are also informed to come along with all the original Documents/ Testimonials & ID cards.

NO-DSWOK/Sch/DHEW/2023/4166
DIPK-18378/22
dated: 14-03-2023

Sd/

District Social Welfare Officer,
Nodal Officer (DHEW) Kupwara

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BHAT NEWS AGENCY	JAMALLATTA	SHAFAT NEWS AGENCY	HAWAL
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TARIQ NEWS AGENCY	M.K. CHOWK	MUZAMIL NEWS AGENCY	SOURA
GULZAR NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	SUBHAN NEWS AGENCY	SKIMS SOURA
HASAN NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	NISAR NEWS AGENCY	LAL BAZAR
BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	BUCHPORA	BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BAL
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Two-Day National Workshop On MSME Concludes

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A two-day national workshop on design components under the MSME innovative scheme to generate new knowledge, build infrastructure and educate entrepreneurs concluded here on Tuesday.

The workshop was organised by the Union MSME Ministry through Incubation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IIEDC), National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar and BR MSME DFO Srinagar at SKICC here. "This is a two-day national workshop for micro, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurs and innovators. The aim is that the manufacturers, MSMEs should benefit from the MSME ministry schemes," Saad Pervez, head of IIEDC, told PTI.

He said the workshop provides a platform to MSMEs for design intervention by NIT faculty, top institutions across the country and top designers by rethinking and redesigning products to help them grow in the market.

Under the scheme, up to 70 per cent financial assistance, with a maximum cap of Rs 40 lakh, will be provided by the Union Ministry, he added.

"This workshop will

help MSMEs a lot. The business scenario is changing and today innovation and businesses move forward together. It is very difficult to grow unless you have innovation in business," Assistant Director in the Ministry of MSME, Srinagar office, Saheel Alaqband said.

He said the MSME intervention scheme has three components: incubation, design and protecting IPR rights.

"In incubation, up to Rs 15 lakh are given as grants to develop a new innovative product, which can be commercialised. In design, we do design interventions and a 70 per cent subsidy is provided. In the IPR component, the ministry of MSME will give protection through IPR rights for your product. The financial support is provided by the Ministry of MSME," Alaqband said.

In the national-level workshop, students, innovators and entrepreneurs are being made aware of the importance of design in products, Head of the department, department of design, IIT Roorke,INDERDEEP SINGH, said.

"They are also being told about the government schemes to benefit their businesses in which thrust is on design," he said.

Protest Against Job Recruitment Company Continues

Agencies

Srinagar: Job aspirants continue to stage protests against 'tainted' Apetch company hired by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) in Srinagar.

Aspirants on Tuesday held a protest for the 7th consecutive day against the Apteck Company that had already been blacklisted for conducting written examinations for recruitment to various government posts.

Scores of aspirants assembled in Press Enclave and demanded the scrapping of the contract of the company, alleging it has indulged in

malpractices.

"It is unacceptable for us to appear in examinations held under the supervision of a tainted company. We don't trust it as it has already strangled the job aspirants in Jammu and Kashmir," they said.

They said they don't understand why this tainted company has been hired again and what the sinister motives are.

The protesters demanded the cancellation of the contract without any delay.

In Jammu also, job aspirants have been holding demonstrations against the said company. [KNT]

'Smart-Meters Installed In City To Improve Power Supply'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has installed 90,000 smart meters in the Srinagar district, ahead of the holy month of Ramadan, to improve power supply.

Speaking to the media, MD KPDCL Yasin Choudhary stated that the installation process had been ongoing for several months, and the focus now is on providing an uninterrupted 24-hour power supply to consumers with smart meters. The department is committed to delivering on its promise to provide uninterrupted power supply during Ramadan.

"We have completed the

installation of smart meters for about 1,000 consumers in Downtown Srinagar, including the areas of Hawal, KK Mohalla, Rainawari, and Khanyar," said MD KPDCL Yasin Choudhary. "Although we faced resistance in some areas, we want people to understand the benefits of smart meters. With accurate readings directly generated from the system, there is no chance of any human errors in the billing process. Additionally, we are providing good voltage and increasing the efficiency with the use of smart meters."

Choudhary emphasized that smart meters will not only ensure accurate billing but also benefit consumers in numerous ways.

E-Rickshaws In City:

RTO Allocates Routes On Merits Of Residence

Agencies

Srinagar: A day after the announcement on notifying 55 additional routes for e-rickshaws to operate in Srinagar city, the officials at the Regional Transport Office (RTO) Kashmir on Tuesday said they are in process of allocating the routes to operators based on the merits of their residence and preference.

Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir said that they have 314 E-Rickshaws registered with them and that they have so far notified 73 routes in Srinagar city.

"To ensure the services on notified routes, we are in a process of allocating the

routes to E-Rickshaw operators based on the merits of their residence and preference. The process is a new one and it will take some time to get finalised," he said.

He said the routes which have been notified just a day before cannot have the availability of E-Rickshaws but the options are available. Many aspirants who wanted to buy a normal auto rickshaw are changing their decision, he said.

"E-Rickshaws are less costly, productive, and with less expenditure; its spread and service in the valley is going to pick up, and we are trying to keep this facility available at all places," he added.(KNO)



CD Hospital To Be Shifted To Sonwar In Two Weeks: Official

Agencies

Srinagar: Authorities on Tuesday said that the Chest Diseases (CD) Hospital will be shifted to GB Pant Sonwar in next two weeks.

Dr Saleem Tak, Medical Superintendent, CD Hospital said that in around next two weeks, CD hospital will be shifted to Sonwar, which was earlier a children's hospital.

Oxygen supply wasn't available to every bed at Sonwar, however, for chest disease patients there is need for oxygen for every bed on which work is going on, he said.

Work is expected to get complete in the next two weeks and soon after that hospital will start functioning there, Dr Tak said.

Notably last year, the H & ME Department ordered the shifting of the Children's Hospital from Sonwar to Bemina, it also directed the Principal, GMC Srinagar to chalk out an action plan for the shifting of the CD Hospital to GB Pant.

The officials said that the CD Hospital building at Dalgate will be used as an infectious dis-

ease hospital while the Tuberculosis division of the pulmonary and respiratory medicine department will also remain functional there.

In October last year, Medical Superintendent CD hospital had written to executive engineer MH&CH Srinagar to inspect support systems and carry out rectifications whatever needed on emergency basis at GB Pant hospital before shifting CD hos-

ever rectification is needed may be done and Water pumping facility may be checked and kept ready, MS had written

The government is also planning for setting up a drug de-addiction center at the CD's Dalgate building which will be handled by the concerned department of the GMC, Srinagar, they said.

They said that the GB Pant Hospital has good facilities in

The government is also planning for setting up a drug de-addiction center at the CD's Dalgate building which will be handled by the concerned department of the GMC, Srinagar

pital there.

The support systems to be inspected include oxygen plant and piping system to each and every bed of GB Pant hospital to be ensured, generators for backup of electricity need to be serviced and kept ready, Central heating system may be inspected, Fire-fighting system also needs to be kept ready, Laundry section also

needs to be inspected and what-

terms of space, bed capacity, rooms for doctors, and proper machinery and there are around 250 beds in GB Pant Hospital while CD Hospital has only a 150-bedded capacity.

Notably, on September 16 last year, the pediatric services of GB Pant Hospital, Srinagar were shifted to the newly-constructed 500-bedded Children Hospital at Bemina—(KNO)



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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 22 Shaban 1444	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5 :19
	ZUHR	12:40
	ASR	4:56
	Magrib	6:41
	ISHA	8: 01

This Day In History

- 1812 - 1st Russian settlement in California, Russian River
- 1889 - 6 US & German warships sunk bu a typhoon in harbor of Apia, Samoa, 200 die
- 1892 - 1st escalator patented by inventor Jesse W Reno (NYC)
- 1913 - 1st US presidential press conference (Woodrow Wilson)
- 1922 - France, which up until now has insisted on currency for all WWI reparation payments from Germany, now accepts raw materials as payment
- 1928 - Benito Mussolini modifies Italy electoral system (abolishes right to choose)
- 193 0 - 1st streamlined submarine of US navy, USS Nautilus, launched
- 1933 - NAACP begins coordinated attack on segregation & discrimination
- 1937 - 1st blood bank forms (Chicago IL)
- 1939 - Hitler occupies Bohemia & Moravia (Czechoslovakia); Slovakia independent
- 1943 - Allied reconnaissance flight over Java
- 1943 Red Army evacuates Kharkov
- 1946 - British Prime Minister Clement Attlee agrees with India's right to independence
- 1951 - Persia nationalizes Anglo-Iranian Oil Company
- 1955 - US Air Force unveils self-guided missile
- 1957 - Great Britain becomes the third nation to explode a nuclear bomb
- 1962 - Five research groups announce the discovery of anti-matter
- 1964 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1967 - Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT)- headquarter moves to Brunssum
- 1967 - Marshal Arturo da Costa e Silva sworn in as President of Brazil
- 1968 - Uprising in South Yemen
- 1969 - Violent Chinese-Russian border dispute leaves 100s dead
- 1972 - Danish airliner hit mountain in Sheikdom of Oman killing 112
- 1972 - NASA selects 3 part configuration for Space Shuttle
- 1976 - Failed coup in Niger
- 1977 - US House of Representatives begins 90 day test of televising its sessions
- 1977 - First official test cricket match is played between Australia and England at Melbourne
- 1978 - operation Litani: Israeli offensive in South Lebanon
- 1978 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC

From KO Archives

Wife Pushes Husband Behind Bars

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Police today arrested a resident of Sarnal, Anantnag who had reportedly tried to kill his wife by pushing her out of the third story of his house. Syed Khalid Shah was arrested after the statement of his injured wife who regained consciousness after seven days in coma at Soura Institute, Srinagar. Ironically, he was attending to his bruised wife in the hospital when arrested. The police have registered a case against him under the Section 307. According to the reports, Rozy Jan, was taken to hospital by her in-laws on March 2 saying that she fell from the third story of her house. She was admitted to hospital in an unconscious state and after seven days when she regained her consciousness, she revealed that she had been pushed out of the window by her husband with the intention of killing her.

The couple who had been married for last four years, had a relationship marred by quarrels and conflicts, and the birth of a child could not mend their differences. Two years back, the conflict resulted in divorce, but later a patch up brokered by their relatives resulted in their re-marriage. However, the differences could not be bridged and according to the wife, her husband was threatening to kill her daily for some time. Relatives of the victim accused Shah having developed a relationship with some other woman.

(Kashmir Observer, 15 March, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Wednesday | 15-03-2023

Unwinnable War

Now in its second year, the war in Ukraine continues to rage. Neither Russia nor Ukraine seem to have a clear edge on the ground. In recent days, Bakhmut, a city in eastern Ukraine has become the site of a relentless battle. A victory here for the either side is expected to change the complexion of the war. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his evening address on Monday that Ukraine's future depends on a victory in Bakhmut and elsewhere along the front line. Bakhmut has become the main focus of Russia's assault, as it would allow it to capture the rest of the Donetsk region, a principal war objective for the Russian president Vladimir Putin. And in achieving this he has deployed a substantial chunk of his military strength to take Bakhmut. So much rides on Bakhmut. The NATO is also deploying all its resources to foil Russia's advance. That is why, in recent weeks, warfare has claimed a huge toll for both sides in Bakhmut.

If anything, this shows that both sides are fighting to ensure the defeat of the other side. There is little effort for a negotiated settlement. Now Chinese leader Xi Jinping who recently achieved peace between Saudi Arabia and Iran reportedly plans to speak with Zelensky for the first time since the start of the Ukraine war - likely after he visits Moscow next week to meet with Putin. If this comes through, this would probably be the first such attempt at mediation between the two sides.

The war's bigger challenge for the existing world order is still very much intact. Russia has thrown down the gauntlet at the west. And this is not the first time Russia has done it. A few years ago, Russia's intervention in Crimea had brought back memories of the geo-politics of the cold war. Russia's increasing defiance of the West and China's inexorable rise have confronted the US and the EU with a new existential crisis. It is also altering global geopolitics and awakening the rest of the world to the reality of a declining US power. This is clear from how the nations and regional groupings have been balancing their relations with the US and China-Russia axis.

It would be great if Xi's reported efforts at mediation succeed. War is continuing nevertheless. Ukraine is far from being defeated. So isn't Russia, although it has suffered some reverses. But, meanwhile, the world around the site of war is changing.

Violence Against Women in Kashmir



Budgam Murder
Condone, Condemn, Forget or
Remain silent: What Will We Do?

OTHER OPINION

Sexism in Language

Ayman Ayoub

Being a part of a society, one tends to internalise and exhibit normalised yet abnormal proclivities. Consequently, we busy ourselves with internalising every piece of learning that falls on our ears from diverse media and are content with modelling ourselves on the template that social mechanisms turn all of us into.

However, women hardly have the privilege of remaining oblivious to the struggles they face. Each attitude that oppresses women finds itself translated into a verbal-bias harboured against them. The pervasiveness of these sexist attitudes in our colloquial conversations only goes onto show that subordination or exclusion of women isn't some violent spectacle that erupts on some unfortunate Sunday. It is a normalised attitude which is deeply enmeshed in our everyday routines, off-the-cuff conversations, stereotyped images and the social expectations directed at women.

Every time a boy's birth in the neighbourhood is exalted to shooib, one can't help but mourn the existential rejection women are subjected to in Kashmir. From extreme marginalisation of bint-e-Hawwa in the briefest pleasantries like, Khodah pholneavnai dyekas te potras, to objectifying statements like Khodah soozynas rut Khareedaar and koor cha luk hund maal; devaluation of women seems like an invasive yet unchallenged norm.

These samples of conventional wisdom imagine her as some tradable and perishable commodity to be sold off, lest it diminishes in value. Such idiomatic expressions put a women's existence subservient to that of a man. Her worth and value is considered contingent upon the health of relations she shares with men as a daughter, mother or a wife — not as an individual.

The normalisation of such discriminatory language is so internalised that women participate and in some cases encourage such views.

Reading carefully into the workings of language, the fault of sexism is hardly a fault of Kashmiri language per se. Misogyny is itself a language with a deep-seated, multi-pronged attitude that manifests itself in a myriad of ways; language only betokening one of them.

Awareness and sensitisation on the issue, although gradual are contributing toward the much-needed erasure of devaluing language. We as a society are required to revisit how language continues to be used as a tool of inhibition rather than liberation. Preserving our heritage doesn't merely entail wholesale and lazy emulation of symbols of the past. It must involve screening them to criticism before handing them down to progeny.

Views expressed are author's own. The article is being reproduced from KO archives

Idrisa Pandit

DATA

13 percent women in the erstwhile state have experienced violence after their marriages.

9.3 percent women between the age of 18 and 49 have experienced physical violence in J&K from 2019-21.

12.8 percent of married women (18-49 years) have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional spousal violence.

The most common type of spousal violence in J&K is physical violence, followed by emotional violence (7.2 percent) and sexual violence (3.9 percent).

Physical violence is more common among women in rural areas where the percentage is recorded at 32 percent in comparison to their counterparts in urban areas where the rate stood at 24 percent.

In over 80% cases of physical violence against women, the perpetrator is found to be the husband

Source:
National Family Health Survey

I cannot remember the exact year, but sometime in the early eighties, Kashmir witnessed a gruesome murder, something that was unheard of until that day. Not far from my neighbourhood, a woman was killed by her domestic help from Bihar. This woman was from a prominent Kashmiri business family. Her final resting place was enroute my daily ride to school. I even knew where exactly she was buried — right at the edge of the graveyard. Flowers had adorned her grave for many days, so I made a mental mark of that spot. As a habit, I started reading the Fatiha for her as my bus would pass by her gravesite every day. I felt kinship with a woman — a wife, daughter, sister and a mother — that had suffered the worst crime in a petty theft. Back then, it sent shockwaves through the community and started a conversation in Kashmir about risks of hiring helpers from outside Kashmir. My own mother refused hiring non-Kashmiri domestic helps, often citing that she did not want to suffer the fate of the person who was murdered. No one at that time could have imagined that such a dastardly act could ever be carried out by a local Kashmiri. Of course, no one then could also have fathomed the violence and crimes Kashmiris have endured since.

Thirty odd years later, we witness a much more horrific murder of a young woman in Budgam. The brutality of this murder has all the elements of a gory murder mystery, something you only read about or see in films. Though, this time, the crime has been committed by an insider; a local Kashmiri, a neighbour, and a fellow Muslim.

What now?

Amidst the cries of those wailing for the young murdered woman, a soon-to-be bride, Kashmiri women are questioning if anyone is safe in Kashmir anymore? What has brought us to this point in our society? While so far not much is known about the motivations be-

hind this gruesome murder, it is a fact that in recent years, women in Kashmir have been and remain at the receiving end of violence and brutality. What's worse is that they are often alone in their pain. Sadly, our society even complicates their suffering by blaming them for crimes that are inflicted on them.

As I sit far away from Budgam, and Kashmir, I am wondering how will the people of Kashmir treat the case of this nameless woman? Why the victim of this gruesome crime remains nameless is not quite clear to me. Regardless, will we call out her name and the name of all those who have been violated? Or, will this incident be relegated to the history of forgotten stories? And by forgetting, we surely will normalise an awful crime like this just as we have normalized previous brutal murders of victims of domestic violence.

I have been watching the response so far, particularly in spaces where I hoped the discussion of this awful murder will be front and centre. I have been disappointed as all I see is silence. This silence is especially deeply disturbing in these spaces where Islamic discussions reign, and Quran and Ahadith are shared in abundance. These are spaces virtually inhabited by the ulema who have a wide reach and access to the general populace. Many of these leaders will likely stand on the pulpit on Friday, to sermonize. What will these sermons be about, I wonder? Will the blame for this act be shifted to the woman herself, as has been the case with many other stories of women? Or, will they have the moral courage to stand up, call out the crimes against our sisters and ask for accountability? This accountability is not just asking for retribution of one criminal, it is everyone's accountability and accountability of those in positions of authority who set the discourse of the society. This accountability must include holding our sons, brothers, and fathers accountable for perpetuating patriarchy and

misogyny, for aiding and abetting the crimes by being bystanders when they witness women being violated. It is also a time for women to introspect and ask what role they themselves have played, even if inadvertently, in advancing misogynistic stereotypes. There can be no more excuses or labelling and demeaning of women or of people teaming up on social media to name, shame and vilify women.

We all must ask ourselves what has gone wrong, what is our responsibility, and what should be our collective response?

Concomitantly, we need to ask, what picture of an ideal Muslim woman is being broadcast from the pulpits and other public spaces? Is it the promotion of the docile Muslim woman who is "obedient," not to God rather to her male human authority figure; one who must dress a certain way and behave a certain way, to gain approval of the society? Or, is it a Muslim woman whose safety regardless of how she appears visibly, or her world view, is protected as an agent of her destiny; a fellow creation of God- that is either our sister, mother, daughter, or wife? What will such self-introspection look like? Or, will there even be self-introspection and examination of our values and behaviours considering a tragedy that confronts us with the reality and extent of rot in our communities?

It feels like the death of Kashmir that I have known.

Let us grieve the suffering of this latest victim, but more so, let us honour her by making sure we do not see any other woman being the next victim. And for that, we need to call her name, and remember.

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

The author is a Canada based Kashmiri academic

Beyond Spectacle: Chop Down Violence Against Women

A gruesome incident from district Budgam where a 30-year-old was murdered and mutilated has led to widespread outrage in Kashmir. The gory tale of this murder has forced people in the valley to have a look at violence against women which often goes unnoticed. The nature of the murder has made it difficult to look away, however, it is to be seen whether this attention is going to be faint, short lived and inconsequential - as has often been routine.

Our readers wrote out to us to draw people's attention to the actual reasons that lead to violence against women which brews in the form of everyday normalised violence, abuse in closed walls of supposedly safe domesticity, sadistic impulses sanctioned by patriarchy and the threat posed by a generalised oppression and abuse of women in our society. Violence is closer, omnipresent and machiavellian. Read on to know what our readers have to say, in detail:

WHO WANTS TO GET CALLED A FEMINIST?
SADAF MASOODI
Writer and Researcher

My head and heart are a messy knot usually, thinking of the invisible apparatus that enables, reinforces and normalises violence against women. This violence is usual and accepted and many times important to an imagined honour because it isn't a mere fleeting act of violence but a deeply rooted discursive process as well. The gruesome Budgam murder makes me sick to my stomach, this heightened sickness will go but what remains like a malignant, unattended cancer, eating away this society, woman after woman, child after child, family after family is the entire system which sometimes emboldens a perpetrator to cut a woman into pieces, everything lesser than that may not even qualify as violence for most. But it isn't in isolation that such events occur, they happen in an apparatus that enables. The same makes women blame their fate for all the struggles of being women rather than questioning and standing against what should be unjust for a normal functioning society. An average Kashmiri woman will weep the incident out, cursing the solitary perpetrator but can't tap where the injustice stems from, because it's gone too deep, invisible and routinized. Besides, if we do look beyond the psychotic reason of this one murderer, we might end up offending people on the questions of culture, religion, misplaced masculinity, patriarchy and much. But who wants to get called a feminist?

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE: THE SILENT EPIDEMIC
FAAKIRAH IRFAN
Head of Legal, Serein

The recent case of the gruesome Budgam case where a 30-year-old woman was killed is a case in point about increasing violence against women in Kashmir. The details of the incident might be misconceived as being singular but violence against women is all too common in Kashmir. Infact, 1 in every 3 women have at some point in their life experienced physical violence at the hands of their intimate partner. Domestic violence seems all pervasive, most prevalent and thus needs to be addressed more urgently. In Srinagar, there has been an increase in domestic violence cases at the rate of 6.5% since 2019 as recorded in the study conducted by the Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College.

As a society, this is a wake-up call to not turn a blind eye to cases of domestic violence. It's only when the violence is gruesome we see people up in arms. However, if the violence isn't gruesome or amounts to murder often the same society expects the survivor of domestic violence to reconcile with her perpetrator. It's not just violence but creating an environment where the woman faces the threat of violence can impact an individual's life.

It's important to make people and young girls aware of their rights and actions that they can take while they're facing this abuse at their spousal homes.

The Domestic Violence Act protects an aggrieved woman from mental as well as physical abuse. Any form of harassment, coercion and harm to health, safety, limb or well-being is covered. It includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, emotional abuse and economic abuse.

This protection is provided from acts committed by both male and female relatives of the husband or male partner.

- FOLLOWING ARE THE RIGHTS OF THE AGGRIEVED PERSON UNDER THE ACT.**
1. Right to reside in a shared household.
 2. Protection orders for victims' safety.
 3. Maintenance or monetary relief.
 4. Custody of children.
 5. Penalty for not following orders.
 6. Penalty to protection officer for not taking appropriate action.

It's important to emphasise that we need to empower women to stand up for themselves. The local authorities have to stop pushing conciliations in situations where there is violence that is perpetuated. We should not be questioning the status quo only when another woman succumbs to violence.

ED KEMPER IN KASHMIR
AQIB JAVID PARRY
Researcher

When a man was held for killing a woman and chopping her body into pieces in the Soibugh area of Budgam, I was reminded of an infamous American serial killer, Ed Kemper. While these events give us shock as to how a human being could think of carrying out such a merciless crime, we are instantly driven to ask whether he was influenced by satan or if this is a sign of end times? However, we must move



beyond these generalisations and pause for a moment of reflection. There's a need to have a deeper understanding of these sociopaths.

For instance, Edmund Kemper the infamous American serial killer known as a "Co-Ed Killer" who brutally killed at least ten people in California during the 1960s and 70s was a product of a traumatic and tumultuous childhood. His mother was an alcoholic and her abusive and erratic behaviour played a fundamental role in building his mental makeup. Since his childhood, Kemper developed deviant and dark habits because of his conflicted relationship with his mother. He started to decapitate his sisters' dolls and forced his sisters to play disturbing games like the ones involving electric chair and gas chamber. Later, he killed six female hitchhikers and finally killed his own mother. He raped corpses, mutilated dead bodies, and buried his victims' heads in his backyard.

This grotesque history invites us to the pressing idea that the recent incident of mutilation and chopping of a girl in Kashmir needs to be put into a perspective. Ed Kemper's story gives us the idea that these incidents are not always a result of a sudden impulse to mutilate a woman's body; rather such monstrous acts are quite often a product of multiple deviant behaviours left unchecked by victims. Parents need to gauge their child's erratic behaviour and seek medical assistance and counselling. Abusive and alcoholic parents should be reported by immediate relatives, police and legal help must be sought. Women should observe and notice sexual perversions and other deviant attitudes in their husbands, friends, partners, and co-workers. Women should notice such monstrous behaviours and habits in men and shouldn't treat them as mere abnormal fantasies. Simple perversion is an alarming call to put oneself into a better position and start to

rethink one's relationship with such a person. We are living in a society where violent masculinity remains unchecked and unreported. Under such patrilineal symbolic order, a woman is an abject creature meant to be subdued. Almost all the confessions of serial killers – most of them are remorseless killers who take sadomasochistic pleasure in mutilating the bodies of their victims – teach us that they started with little perversions which were not taken seriously either by the people who knew them or by the authorities when their violence was reported.

With all shock and surprise, we have Ed Kemper in Kashmir.

BEYOND SPECTACLE AND SHOCK
ZAID BIN SHABIR
Independent Journalist

The brutal killing of a young woman in Budgam is a stark reminder of the horrors that women continue to face in Kashmir. It's a damning indictment of our society that rather than engaging in tough discussions about the issue of violence against women, some people actively slander and blame women for the violence perpetrated against them. This behaviour actively perpetuates a culture of violence and victim-blaming. It is time that we recognize the immense courage and strength that it takes for women to speak out about their experiences and work to create a society where women are not only heard but valued and protected. By doing so, we can honor the memory of those women who have been killed, and work to prevent such atrocities from happening in the future.

Moreover, by framing these incidents as mere "spectacles", the media fails to address the underlying issues that contribute to such violence. Rather than using their platform to raise awareness and promote meaningful solutions, they instead perpetuate a culture of apathy and complacency, where people are more

interested in consuming sensationalised news than in taking action to address the root causes of gender-based violence.

CULPRIT, THY NAME IS PATRIARCHY

PROF. SHAZIA MALIK
Assistant Professor, Women's Studies Centre, KU

What I figured out while working as a women's studies scholar in Kashmir is that patriarchy is never seen as a potential source of oppression for women in Kashmir.

While patriarchy may not be the overarching cause of all abuse, it is an enormously significant factor, because in traditional patriarchy males have a disproportionate share of power. Many abusive men, in order to maintain their fragile sense of masculinity, use physical force to keep their wives in their proper place. However, Kashmir has seen the emergence of a 'new patriarchy' to control women in public as well as in private domains. Gender violence in Kashmir has a social context that is informed by shifts in perceptions of gender identities, and the role of women in marking/ preserving community honour. It is also tied to the shifts in the organisation of the family and household, for the tensions that emerge in the outside, public/ political spaces create new anxieties, leading to a renewed assertion of masculine authority in the spaces of the household. The unprotected social and political environment has turned women vulnerable to violence from their own community.

Even though the last few years saw frequent killings, burnings, suicides, and severe wife-beatings, there is no acceptance of the fact that patriarchy is responsible for such actions by powerful men.

As a community, we need to build strong indigenous spaces to support the marginal sections, especially women. Combating domestic violence requires us to collectively promote structural changes. We need to challenge social norms surrounding domestic violence through properly organising ourselves not against the individuals but against the system of patriarchal oppression that normalises humiliating women on a daily basis which eventually results in heightened violence in the later phases.

Parliament Remains Paralysed For Second Consecutive Day

BJP-Cong Feud Over Rahul's Remarks Intensifies

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The proceedings in Parliament were paralysed for the second consecutive day on Tuesday as the BJP stepped up its offensive against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks in the UK, accusing him of insulting the country's constitutional institutions and reiterating its demand for an apology.

Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned for the day amid a ruckus with BJP members raising slogans and seeking an apology from Gandhi, while the Congress-led opposition waved placards with quotes from speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visits abroad.

"Rahul Gandhi maafi mango (Rahul Gandhi apologise)," BJP members shouted repeatedly from their seats while opposition members raised slogans from the aisles and avoided trooping into the well of the house.

"BRICS ka 'I' ludak raha hai (The 'I' in BRICS is tottering)," read one placard referring to the grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

"Pata nahi pehle janam main kya paap kiya tha, Hindustan main paida hua (Don't know what sin I had committed that I was born in India)," read

another placard waved by a Congress member quoting the prime minister's speech in Seoul in May 2015.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla tried to take up the Question Hour and appealed to the members to uphold the dignity of the house.

He asked the Congress members to maintain the decorum of the House and not show placards. However, Congress members continued their protest, resulting in the adjournment for the day.

Rajya Sabha too witnessed noisy scenes when Leader of the House and Union Minister Piyush Goyal, without naming Gandhi, alleged that he had insulted the Parliament and constitutional institutions and said he should tender an apology.

Gandhi, during a recent UK visit, had alleged that the structures of Indian democracy were under "brutal attack" and there was a "full-scale assault" on the country's institutions.

"I believe this is a very serious issue over which the entire country and members are angry. The defamation of Parliament, the way in which the country's pride has been hurt... The leader who attempted to ruin the country's image, those who attacked the country abroad and spread misconceptions about the country's Parliament...He must apologise over this in the Parliament," Goyal said.

Before Goyal was given the floor, RS Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar rejected notices under Rule 267 by Congress members, including Pramod Tiwari, KC

Venugopal, Kumar Ketkar and Amee Yajnik to discuss the government's failure to constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee to investigate the charges of fraud, corruption and financial mismanagement by Adani Group of companies.

Dhankhar also rejected notices by the BRS' K Kesava Rao and the AAP's Sanjay Singh to discuss the Hindenburg report on Adani Enterprises and other group companies, along with demands for discussions on the post-poll violence in Tripura and prohibition of online gambling and regulation of online games in Tamil Nadu by other members.

"To err is human... and sometimes, it takes place. We had such a seamless session because there was recognition...through great feats at (the) Oscars. I thought this will be a day where notices may not be taken up," the chairman said.

Earlier, Rajya Sabha members, cutting across party lines, congratulated the Indian Oscar winners, calling it a "moment of glory" for the country.

Dhankhar rejected the notices saying the issues "are the ones that can be agitated (for) by other means".

Rule 267 calls for suspension of the day's business to take up an issue being mentioned in the notice.

Congress member Shaktisinh Gohil and his party colleagues also demonstrated in the Well, demanding a discussion on the Adani issue even as other members stood along the aisle and shouted slogans.

Dhankhar tried to pacify them, asking them to go back to their seats while giving the floor to Goyal.

"Yesterday (Monday), we had raised a very important issue and the manner in which India was insulted and its institutions, including Parliament, were insulted," the minister said.

"Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are part of Parliament, which have been insulted. I feel this is the first time that the entire Parliament was insulted," Goyal said.

He said "unnecessary and uncalled for" remarks were made by an MP on foreign soil against the Parliament, which includes the President of India.

"Constitutional provisions say that we all should condemn such a behaviour and the person concerned should apologise," Goyal said.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with senior ministers including Pralhad Joshi, Goyal, Kiren Rijiju, Anurag Thakur and Nitin Gadkari.

The BJP-Congress feud around Rahul Gandhi's comments also spilled over outside Parliament with Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur telling the opposition leader to stop his "Cambridge cries and London lies" of democracy on the decline and face the electorate in India.

Participating in the Lokmat National Conclave here, Thakur said that Gandhi has been critical of India on foreign soil after losing a series of elections where the BJP and its allies emerged victorious, trouncing the Congress.

"No matter how much help he (Gandhi) seeks from foreign friends, foreign newspapers and channels, foreign soil, foreigners can never dominate India. You have to vote here, not in England or America," the senior BJP leader said.

Defending Rahul, Indian Overseas Congress chief Sam Pitroda said the former party president never asked any foreign country for help and was being subjected to a "well-orchestrated" personal attack based on "lies and misinformation".

Pitroda, who was present during Gandhi's interactions in the UK, mounted a strong defence of the comments made by the former Congress chief in a series of tweets.

"Please stop promoting and propagating lies about what Rahul Gandhi said in London. Were you there? Did you see the video? Do you really know what he said? In what context? What was the main message? For clarification, please note that Rahul Gandhi basically said the following: 1. Indian Democracy is Global Public Good. 2. The state of democracy in India is of concern. 3. It is an Indian problem, and we will deal with it," Pitroda said.

Gandhi never asked any foreign country for help, he asserted.

Hitting out at Pitroda, BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla wrote on Twitter: "Dear Uncle Sam, the entire media and nation have seen Rahul Gandhi's video and how he was asking for action from US, Europe into Indian affairs."

Brand India Has Arrived And This Is Only The Beginning: Anurag Thakur



Observer News Service

New Delhi- Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Anurag Thakur Tuesday said that two awards going to Indian content at the 95th Oscar awards shows that Brand India has arrived and this is only a beginning.

He said that India has the potential to become the content hub of the world. Nothing is regional today, our regional has today become international, he added.

'Naatu Naatu', a song in Telugu and dubbed in many Indian languages is today resonating with audiences across the globe.

A small budget, small documentary, 'The Elephant Whisperer' has achieved a great honour.

Union Minister has congratulated the whole team behind RRR and The Elephant Whisperer.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K's Liabilities

the financial year 2021-22 was at Rs 1,014,162 crore. The break-up of liabilities shows that the total public debt against the J&K government is Rs 62395 crore. Of which Rs 61212 crore is internal debt and Rs 1183 crore are loans and advances from the Central government, the documents reveal.

The remaining liabilities include Rs insurance and pension funds (Rs 1191 crore), provident funds (Rs 26521 crore) and other liabilities (Rs 11335 crore).

The growing debt is a matter of concern and highlights the fact that revenue generation continues to remain a problem. It also raises questions on how the J&K government will be able to liquidate its debt of Rs one lakh crore.

In 2010-11, the total liabilities against the J&K government were Rs 29972 crore.

During the next financial year, the J&K government plans to raise Rs 10128 crore from market borrowings while it is estimated to spend Rs 8099 crore for repayment of debt—(KNO)

'Fight On Even

happens to me and I am sent to jail or if I am killed, you have to prove that you will struggle without Imran Khan and not accept the slavery of these thieves and of the one person who has been making decisions for the country," he said.

A senior police officer of Islamabad police said that his team has come here to arrest the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman in the Toshakhana case.

Khan has been in the crosshairs for buying gifts, including an expensive Graff wristwatch he had received as the premier at a discounted price from the state depository called Toshakhana and selling them for profit.

TV footage showed police slowly approaching the Zaman Park residence of Khan behind an armoured vehicle that was dispersing his supporters with a water cannon.

Khan's supporters, who had covered their faces with pieces of cloth, pelted stones at policemen.

According to reports, Islamabad Deputy Inspector General (Operations) Shahzad Bukhari, who was leading the police team, was injured. He was seen walking with the help of two officials. Both Khan's supporters and policemen were injured in the clashes.

PTI leader Shireen Mazari shared a video in which tear gas could be seen entering Khan's residence.

"They're shelling Imran Khan's house too, a leader who requested everyone to stay peaceful and patient. Democracy seems to be

suspended in the country, no?" the official Twitter handle of the party tweeted.

Meanwhile, the party's deputy leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that the PTI leadership is ready to find out a "possible way out" to avert bloodshed.

"Show me the warrant. I will first read and understand it. Then, I will speak to Imran Khan and my lawyers," he told the police.

Khan's party moved the Islamabad High Court against the arrest warrants issued in the Toshakhana case.

Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamer Farooq fixed the hearing for Wednesday while rejecting the party's request to conduct the hearing today.

The plea has been fixed for hearing tomorrow (March 15) despite the objections raised by the registrar's office, Khan's lawyer Ali Bukhari said.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, however, said that officials would arrest Khan in accordance with the court's directives and produce him in court.

The official Twitter handle of the party earlier urged supporters and workers to gather outside the residence and 'remain peaceful'.

A large number of PTI workers equipped with clubs and sticks were present outside Khan's residence to resist the police action.

The police blocked all roads leading to the house of the PTI chairman by placing containers and riot personnel took positions to launch the operation.

Senior PTI leader Farukh Habib told reporters that come what may Imran Khan would not surrender to police in fake cases. "The arrest warrants in the case related to threatening a female judge were today suspended by the Islamabad High Court. Let's see what new warrants police have brought with them now," Habib said.

One activist of Khan's party was killed on Wednesday during a crackdown on his supporters who gathered outside his residence in Lahore, defying a government ban on rallies in the city.

On Monday, the Lahore police had booked Khan in a case related to the killing of the PTI worker - Ali Bilal alias Zille Shah - in a road accident.

Earlier, the Lahore police had registered an FIR against Khan and 400 others for the murder of Shah. "The new FIR has been registered against Imran Khan, Fawad Chaudhry, Dr Yasmin Rashid and a number of other PTI men for abetment to murder, concealing facts and evidence related to the death of Zille Shah," a senior police officer told PTI.

He said the police may arrest Khan and others nominated in the FIR after direction from

the "top". The PTI had accused the police of murder of Shah after inflicting brutal torture on March 8.

This is the 81th FIR against Khan since the PML-N led federal coalition came into power 11 months ago after toppling his government through a no-confidence motion.

Khan Monday led a march of thousands of his supporters, a day after he called off his party's election rally following a ban on public gatherings in Punjab's provincial capital. The former cricketer-turned-politician's supporters threw rose petals at a convoy carrying him to Data Darbar shrine.

Khan was ousted from power in April last year after losing a no-confidence vote, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China and Afghanistan.

Since his ouster, Khan has been clamouring for immediate elections to oust what he termed was an "imported government" led by prime minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Sharif has maintained that elections will be held later this year once the parliament completes its five-year tenure. PTI

ED Conducts

Kashmir to fund terror activities.

The case was registered against the "unscrupulous persons" by the State Investigation Agency (SIA) on July 27, 2020.

The official said the ED initiated probe on the basis of the FIR registered under various sections of UA(P) Act and the Indian Penal Code, and chargesheet filed by counter-intelligence Kashmir, Srinagar, against various accused, including Bhat, Fatima Shah, Altaf Ahmad Bhat, Qazi Yasir, Mohd Abdullah Shah, Sabzar Ahmad Sheikh, Manzoor Ahmad Shah, Mohd Iqbal Mir and Syed Khalid Geelani alias Khalid Andrabi, for their involvement in accumulating funds for terror activities on the pretext of admission of J-K students in various professional courses in Pakistan-based institutions.

"PMLA investigation has also revealed that many times, these admissions are actually part of the Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) and are offered to foreign students either free or at nominal charges on an annual basis.

"However, hefty charges were being levied on the students and the extra money so earned, was ploughed into supporting terrorism in myriad ways on the instructions of Pakistan-based handlers as well as those sitting in Jammu and Kashmir," the official said.

As of now, the official said proceeds of crime to the tune of about Rs 1 crore have been determined and six people have been identified who had been admitted to various institutions

in Pakistan by such elements.

"During the course of search operations, documents related to immovable properties and highly incriminating material, including digital devices related to the scam, have been recovered and seized," the official said, adding further investigation is in progress.

HC Seeks Centre's

present proceedings.

In his plea, the sacked officer has submitted he was trained for duties which were purely of "maintenance nature" and never on conduct of operations. He asserted he was "not trained against the counts of blame apportioned to him in the Court of Inquiry".

"The Petitioner performed all his duties as per the SOP dated 15.03.2021. A perusal of the said SOP, which governed the operations on the fateful day would demonstrate that the Impugned Termination Order is malafide and the counts of blame levelled against the Petitioner bear no nexus with his responsibility as per his role prescribed by the SOP. The cause of the unfortunate incident was solely operational in nature," the petition said.

"Although the Petitioner was an Engineering Officer, the Court of Inquiry apportioned him blame for failure to perform external checks of the combat connectors of combat missiles, which continued to remain connected to FCS Junction Box 1 & 3, while the same was not the role and duty of the Petitioner," added the plea.

The petition said on the date of the unfortunate incident, there was no specific regulation or prohibition on the use of live weapons during simulated exercises despite the authorities being aware of the inherent risks associated with such processes and the revised SOP was issued only after the accident.

"Immediately thereafter Respondent No. 5 [Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Operations)] caused issuance of a revised SOP dated 25.04.2022 which removed the ambiguities and deficiencies in the SOP dated 15.03.2021 with regard to the use of 'Live' weapons during training exercises. The same clearly demonstrates that the accidental firing of the missile was a policy failure which is being camouflaged by invoking Section 18 of the Air Force Act and terminating the petitioner," it alleged.

"Respondent 5, localized liability to the Squadron level in order to camouflage the Policy failure at the HQ level. Thus, the Court of Inquiry into the incident was conducted in a biased, premeditated, discriminatory and vindictive manner," it added.

The petition alleged the authorities have "intentionally circumvented" the procedure for initiating disciplinary action and the requirement of his trial by a court martial.

The Union government had said on March 9, 2022 a Brahmos missile got accidentally fired and landed in Pakistan and that the "deeply regrettable" incident was caused by a technical malfunction. Pakistan had lodged its protest with India over the incident.

The ministry said a technical malfunction occurred in the course of the routine maintenance of the missile, adding the government has taken a serious view of the incident.

Later that year, it said it has sacked three officers of the Indian Air Force for the accidental firing.

Following the incident, Pakistan had summoned India's Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad and conveyed its strong protest over the "unprovoked" violation of its airspace by the supersonic "projectile" of Indian origin.

Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar, the Director-General of the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) of Pakistan, said the unarmed projectile entered the Pakistani airspace travelling 124 km.

Pakistan's foreign office said the "supersonic flying object" entered into Pakistan from India's Suratgarh and fell to the ground near Mian Channu city, causing damage to civilian property.

It had also called for a thorough and transparent probe and demanded that its outcome be shared with Islamabad.

Govt Okays

The decision, he said, aims for amendment in Section 32-C, inserted in Pharmacy Act, 1948 (Central Act) through an Adaptation Order under S.O No: 3465(E), Dated 5th of October, 2020.

The spokesperson said that the instant proposal is for amendment in the existing Section 32-C of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 (Central Act) to the effect that notwithstanding anything contained in Section 32, any person whose name has been entered in the register of Pharmacists maintained under the Jammu and Kashmir Pharmacy Act, 2011 (1955 AD) or possesses qualification Medical Assistant prescribed under the said Act shall be deemed to have been entered in the register of Pharmacists prepared and maintained under Chapter IV of this Act, subject to an application to be made in this behalf within a period of one year commencing from the date of re-notification and payment of such fee as may be prescribed by the UT administration.

"The move is going to benefit hundreds of qualified persons and Medical Assistant trained persons for safeguarding their future and providing them the better career prospects in the field of medicine," he added.

LG's Advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, besides Principal Secretary to LG Dr. Mandep Kumar Bhandari also attended the meeting.

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

KO PODCAST

LG Presents Gallantry Medals To Police Personnel



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday presented gallantry awards and distinguished service decorations at the Jammu Kashmir Police Investiture Ceremony held at Raj Bhawan here, an official spokesperson said.

During the ceremony, he said, 218 medals were conferred by the LG to the police personnel. Besides, he said, the President's Police medal for gallantry was awarded to Constable Imtiyaz Ahmad who was killed in a

militant attack at SoG camp, Pulwama in 2019. The medal was received by his wife Shahnaz Akhtar.

"Police medals for gallantry were awarded to 157 police personnel. Police medals for distinguished services were awarded to 3 retired police officers. Police medals for meritorious services were awarded to 57 police officers," the spokesperson said.

Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were LG's Advisor RR Bhatnagar; DGP J&K Police, Dilbag Singh and other senior police officers.

Main Accused In Student's Murder Arrested

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Police in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Tuesday claimed to have arrested the main accused in the murder of a woman student whose body was recovered under mysterious circumstances in Punjab last year.

The body of a 20-year-old college student, a resident of Sumb village, was recovered from a railway track at Sarmalla in Ludhiana on August 21, sparking massive protests by the locals. She had gone missing on August 20 after attending her college.

"Police have arrested the main accused after registering a case under relevant sections of law in the alleged abduction and murder of the girl. Further investigation is on," a police official said.

On March 1, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Samba had directed the SSP, Samba to depute a senior officer to conduct preliminary enquiry after the victim's father approached the court for investigation into the case.

Complying with the court directions, Samba SSP Benam Tosh deputed Deputy Superintendent of Police, Headquarters, Usman Choudhary to Sumb village where he conducted preliminary enquiry, recorded statements, thoroughly examined call details, discretely elicited information and submitted report with the conclusion that the matter was cognisable and warranted registration of an FIR under law, the official said.

Upon this, the Chief Judicial Magistrate passed directions to the police to register the FIR under relevant sections of law, he said.

The official said a case was registered at police station Samba and the main accused, Sunil Kumar Sharma of Markoli Taloor village, was arrested.

"A Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by DSP Priyanka Kumari, has been constituted to conduct thorough investigation and unravel actual facts of the case," Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Benam Tosh said.

Margan Top Cleared Of Snow

SRINAGAR: Margan top -- connecting Anantnag and Kishtwar districts in Jammu and Kashmir -- was cleared of snow in a record time this season, officials said on Tuesday.

The road from Kokernag to Margan Valley (Margan Top) has been cleared by the administration through the valiant efforts of the Mechanical Engineering Department (MED) engineers and operators, the officials said.

They said the road is usually opened in the month of May. However, this year a record was made

to clear the road on March 14.

Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Basharat Qayoom personally monitored the clearance of the road as repeated requests were coming from the people of Wardwan and Marwah for whom this road is a lifeline, the officials said.

After the clearance till Margan Top, the job of clearing the road towards Wardwan and Marwah was handed over to the Kishtwar administration so that the people of these areas avail the transport facility through this road at an earliest, they said.

APTECH CONTROVERSY

Protesting Job Aspirants Gherao BJP President In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Despite an assurance by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha about transparent and merit-based selection in the recruitment process, dozens of job aspirants on Tuesday gheraoed J-K BJP president Ravinder Raina here over the issue of engaging a previously black-listed company for conduct of computer-based written tests.

Raina was encircled by the protesters at the office of the power development department in Gandhi Nagar where he had gone to deposit electricity charges after supply line to his residential quarter was snapped over non-payment of the bills.

"I am already aware of your apprehensions because some of my own cousins are also part of the protests. The Lt Governor has made it clear that if you have evidence, he is ready to take appropriate action," Raina told the protesters who submitted a file of papers as proof against the APTECH limited, which was hired by the J-K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) to conduct the examination to fill up vacancies in various government departments.

The BJP leader heard the protesters patiently and as-



sured them that he is ready to accompany them with these papers to the Lt Governor or the chairman of the JKSSB, saying that he had tried to contact both of them but they were not available.

The protesters demanded immediate cancellation of the contract with the agency having a tainted track-record.

They also questioned the statement of the Lt Governor of providing employment to 30,000 youths over the past three years.

Addressing a function in Jammu on Monday, the Lt Governor said deliberate attempts are being made to stop the recruitment process by mislead-

ing the job aspirants.

"We have provided government jobs to 30,000 youth in three years. Our effort is to provide another 12,000 jobs this year," Sinha had said, assuring the job seekers that there will be complete transparency and jobs will be provided to meritorious students only.

"We came across complaints in the past and cancelled the examinations. The cases were handed over to the CBI which has arrested many people. I assure you that nobody will be spared even if he or she is an influential person," Sinha said, asserting that his administration has zero tolerance for corruption.

Bidhuri Orders Uninterrupted Electricity During Sehri, Iftar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Tuesday convened a meeting of officers to make arrangements for the forthcoming Holy Month of Ramadan and Navratra.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners; Divisional and District officers of PDD, R&B, PHE, Transport, FCS&CA departments besides officers from Traffic Police.

While taking the stock of availability of essential items, Div Com instructed the Director Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) to ensure that sufficient quantity of food grains, LPG Gas, Kerosene and mutton is available to the general public during the month of fasting.

To keep prices of essential items including vegetables and fruits under control and to curb overcharging by trad-



ers, Div Com directed Deputy Commissioners and Director FCS&CA to double the number of joint market checking teams to intensify drive against erring traders.

Besides, Div Com directed Chief Engineer PDD to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity at priority hours during Sehri & Iftar times to facilitate the public in the Holy Month of Ramadan ul Mubarak.

Also, directions were issued for ensuring constant supply of drinking water and availability of transport till late

hours at the evening time.

He also directed concerned officers to conduct sanitation drive of Mosques & Shrines besides decoration of shrines to create an environment of festivity.

While reviewing arrangements for celebration of Navratra, Div Com also directed all the concerned officers to conduct sanitation at various temples including Shan-karacharya, Hari-parbat, Kheer Bhawani and other temples in valley besides directed for ensuring power and water supply at these temples for devotees.

Budgam Murder

MMU, Cong Demands Exemplary Punishment For Accused

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema -- an amalgam of several religious organizations, and the Jammu and Kashmir unit of Congress on Tuesday condemned the "brutal and inhuman" killing of a woman in Budgam district.

In a statement, the MMU expressed serious concern over the ever-increasing graph of barbaric crimes and new social evils in Kashmir.

The remarks came after a woman was murdered in Soibugh area of the central Kashmir district and her body cut into several parts which were hid at different locations.

Police has already arrested a person in connection with the murder.

"It is a matter of concern and introspection for all of us. The Kashmir Valley has been the land of saints, rishis and sages for centuries, and here our illustrious forefathers had made all their efforts for the protection and promotion of Islamic, human and moral values in every era," the statement said.

The MMU said this incident has shamed humanity and is extremely sad.

It expressed solidarity with the bereaved family members and demanded exemplary punishment for those involved in this heinous crime so that nobody will have the courage to do such an inhumane and un-Islamic act in the future.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress also condemned the killing of a woman in Budgam dis-

trict and demanded exemplary punishment to the accused.

The "shameful" incident has shook the conscience of the society and it should work as a wake up call, the JKPC said in a statement.

Expressing deep shock and anguish over the gruesome killing of the woman in Soibugh area, the Congress termed the incident a black spot on the society's face.

Though there was a massive outcry as expected against this heinous crime, the society needs to take collective efforts to contain the crime, it said.

Besides, the administration, especially J-K Police, must keep a vigil over such activities and contain these with iron hands, the statement said.

JKPC appealed to the people to wake up before crime engulfs the entire society leading to the ugliest situation.

The party extended deepest condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for their courage to bear the loss.

Kashmiriyat was a symbol of humanity and services, but, unfortunately it has received serious setbacks due to some handful of black sheep roaming in the society, the JKPC said.

It is the sole responsibility of people and the administration to make a collective efforts and ensure fearless and crime free atmosphere, which will stand guarantee to a clean society, safety and security of the people especially women and children, who always become soft targets of criminals, the JKPC said.

CUK Holds Programme On 'Digital Empowerment And Women's Dev'

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah Tuesday said that imparting digital literacy among women and girls across the world, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir has become imperative for their holistic growth, development and total empowerment.

"There is a vast digital divide between men and women which needs to be addressed immediately by providing state-of-the-art electronic gadgets and smart phones to the women," he said while emphasizing on "digital empowerment" of women and girls during his inaugural speech on the event, "Digital Empowerment and Women's Development," organised by the Women Empowerment Committee of the varsity to commemorate the

International Women's Day, under the auspices of G20 presidency of India. CUK Vice Chancellor said, the complete empowerment of women would be a distant dream, if the women are kept away from the advancements in information technology.

Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, Dean School of Life Sciences, Prof. Muhammad You-suf, experts, Prof. Asifa Jan, from University of Kashmir, Dr. Asifa, Dean Students Welfare IUST, Director Center for West Himalayan (IUST), Prof. Pirzada Ameen, WEC, Chairperson Prof Parveen Pandit, other Committee members, faculty, scholars and students were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, underscored the need for providing easy digital access and availability to the women and

Mehbooba Hits Back At LG On 'Terrorists Given Jobs' Remark

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday hit back at Lt Governor Manoj Sinha over his remarks that previous governments in Jammu and Kashmir provided jobs to terrorists and their families, saying this "is not our tradition" but giving employment to "hooligans" might have been a custom in Uttar Pradesh.

"LG sahab has come from Uttar Pradesh and was probably speaking about his experience there. There might have been a tradition to provide jobs to mafia and hooligans in Uttar Pradesh but that is not our tradition," the former chief minister said in Rajouri when asked by reporters about his statement at a function in Jammu on Monday.

Mehbooba also attacked the BJP, alleging it has created a fear psychosis in Jammu and Kashmir by making random arrests and is using the same policy in the rest of the country to silence the voice of the Opposition.

In a veiled attack on the National Conference (NC), the Congress and the PDP, Lt Governor (LG) Sinha on Monday had said previous governments had provided jobs to terrorists and their family members, while his administration has made the recruitment process transparent to ensure jobs are given to meritorious students only.

"What can they say who provided jobs to terrorists and their family members? They have no right to speak against the recruitment pro-



cess when they have made one lakh back door appointments. The time has gone when the jobs were selling in shops," the LG had said.

His comments came close on the heels of NC president Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba recently joining a candlelight vigil by job aspirants protesting against the hiring of a previously blacklisted company for conducting computer-based written tests.

Earlier addressing a public meeting in Rajouri, Mehbooba claimed that "Jammu and Kashmir is going through a very difficult phase and people are frightened to speak on any issue." "Inflation has broken the back of people, unemployment is on the rise despite a promise by the BJP that it will create jobs for the youth after the abrogation of Article 370," she said.

The government in 2019 had abrogated the article, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcated it into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Seeking people's support, Mehbooba said she can do nothing on her own.

"You have to join me and strengthen my voice to safeguard our identity and culture, land and jobs, besides fighting oppression," she said.

Defending her party's alliance with the BJP in 2014, Mehbooba said PDP patron and former chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed took the difficult decision in view of the people's mandate to the BJP in Jammu in the 2014 assembly elections. "It was not the PDP which brought the BJP to power in J&K...The fact is that we implemented the party's (PDP) agenda and did not allow the BJP to run its agenda," she said.

"Our efforts kept Article 370 safe and after the fall of the government, the BJP abrogated Article 370 which came like an earthquake, and its aftershocks are still rattling J&K in the form of various laws like property tax," Mehbooba said and added that the PDP did not allow the BJP to "bulldoze houses".

The PDP "even withdrew cases against 12,000 youth who were jailed and shifted to outside jails (in places) such as Agra and Haryana after 2019", the former chief minister said.

Referring to Hurriyat's Syed Ali Shah Geelani not allowing entry to parliamentarians into his house in September 2016, she said, "We tried to rope in the Hurriyat Conference for dialogue and wrote a letter to them to meet visiting parliamentarians but they shut their doors to the guests, giving a wrong message across the country."

Govt Undertakes Mega Project To Revive Hokersar Wetlands

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Kashmir have undertaken a mega project to rejuvenate Hokersar Wetlands, one of the eight Ramsar sites in the valley -- which act as water purifiers, flood basins, and home to migratory birds during winter.

Officials of the Department of Wildlife Protection said a comprehensive plan has been formed for the rejuvenating of these wetlands as well as to exploit the eco-tourism potential there.

"These wetlands will be conserved and protected because they are of immense ecological value. They form a flood absorption mechanism because they are located in Jhelum river basin," Rashid Naqash, the Chief Wildlife Warden, Jammu & Kashmir, told PTI.

Naqash said the wetlands are biodiversity-rich areas that attract millions of birds during the winters.

"In summers, we have a migratory population in terms of territorial birds and during the winters some resident species are also there," he added.

Naqash admitted that the wetlands have witnessed considerable damage in the past 3-4 decades. "In the last

30 to 40 years, we have seen a lot of denudation of these wetlands. They have been neglected to a large extent."

Now the Department of Environment and Remote Sensing has prepared an inventory of over 3,000 wetlands across Kashmir for protection and rejuvenation.

"This is basically an integrated project involving not just the Wildlife Department, but we have been assisted by the irrigation and flood control department and mechanical department also. Installation work on two fully automatic 80-metre high gates at entry and exit points of the wetlands is right now in progress at the cost of Rs 28.54 crore," he said.

Naqash said once the work is complete, it will ensure a water level of minimum one metre in the Hokersar throughout the year.

"The areas which are right now silted up and areas which are identified, demarcated by the embankments, will get inundated and wetland characteristics will grow again in the area," he said.

Sajid Farooq, an official at the Hokersar Wetlands, said the wetlands do not merely act as water retention basins but they clean the air pollu-

tion as well.

"Ground water table is recharged by these wetlands. Like our lungs work, these wetlands filter the free carbon radicals in the atmosphere. These wetlands are complex ecosystems as multiple ecosystems make one wetland," Farooq said.

He said the grass and lake ecosystems around the wetlands are very useful to the living beings around it.

"The grassland ecosystem and lake ecosystem cater to the people in surrounding areas in terms of their livelihood such as fishing and harvesting of grasses for traditional use, besides becoming a home to the migratory birds," he said.

Farooq said that the 2014 floods brought in a lot of silt which is accumulated in the wetlands.

"The silt accumulated mostly in the low lying areas. Some people started vegetation and barricaded those parts of the wetland. So, a five-year management plan was devised recently and we started working on it. We opened the blocked channels and restored a 60-year-old channel, a major one, in the Zainakote area as well," he said.

Naqash said the removal

of silt from the wetlands has generated revenue for conservation efforts.

"We identified some critically silted up areas this year and put them on e-auction. The initiative will mean that the government will get revenue, the contractors will take the excavated stuff away, and we would get water holding capacity of the area restored," he said.

He cited the example of a block which brought from the contractors Rs 43.48 lakh for removal of silt. Three more blocks are on their way to getting auctioned, he said.

Naqash said the limits of Hokersar Wetlands were not defined earlier, a lapse which is being corrected now. "Now we have put demarcation pillars at digitally delineated points which will settle land disputes with the local communities for all times to come because they are all digitised and we have the all geo locations."

"There is a good footfall of tourists on this (Srinagar-Gulmarg) highway. We can exploit the eco-tourism potential of this wetland and market it, inviting tourists to come and stay here," he said, adding, the department is inviting tenders to outsource such activities.



All India Police Football C'ship:
16 Matches Played On Day 3

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The third day of the 71st All India Police Football Championship was on full swing in Srinagar on Tuesday, as 32 teams battled it out at four different venues.

Out of the 16 matches played today, four matches each were played at Synthetic Turf Ground, Polo Ground, Bakshi Stadium and Kashmir University.

At Bakshi Stadium, three matches between the women teams also took place. Manipur Women Police defeated Jharkhand Women Police 4-0. CRPF Women were beaten by SSB Women 3-2. Assam Rifles Women vs Tamil Nadu Women was won by Assam Rifles 2-0. In the men's match, Puducherry Police was defeated by Meghalaya Police 8-0.

At Polo Ground, Sikkim Police beat Chhattisgarh Police 9-1. SSB vs CRPF and ITBP vs Maharashtra both ended in a 1-1 draw. Assam Rifles defeated Tamil Nadu 2-0.

At Synthetic Turf TRC, Himachal Pradesh Police was beaten 3-0 by West Bengal Police. CISF beat Odisha Police 5-0, Madhya Pradesh Police won 3-1 against Gujarat Police. Hosts J&K Police beat Arunachal Pradesh 3-1.

At Kashmir University, Punjab Police beat Uttarakhand Police 1-0. Bihar Police lost 7-0 to Kerala Police. BSF Police beat Assam Police 3-0 and Delhi Police overcame Goa Police 3-2.

Ganderbal Youth Completes
A-Licence Football Coaching

Agencies

GANDERBAL: Muzamil Mahmood, a young footballer and school teacher from Ganderbal, has made history by becoming the first A-licensed coach in this central Kashmir district.

Muzamil, from Gogjigund, Ganderbal, recently passed the Asian Football Confederation licence diploma, a coveted accreditation for coaches in the Indian football fraternity. His achievement is even more impressive given his background as a school teacher with six postgraduate degrees in various fields. He has also won the Best Coach award for the promotion of football in Jammu & Kashmir, showcasing his dedication and passion for the sport.

"I am very happy about it. This was my dream since childhood," Muzamil said.

Muzamil's appointment as Head Coach of the Chandigarh Santosh Trophy team and his management of the FC Kolhapur City Club in the Indian Women's League, which is the top-tier league of women's football in India, further highlights his commitment and passion for the sport. (KNO)

Steve Smith To Lead
Australia In ODI Series



Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Senior batter Steve Smith will lead Australia against India in the upcoming three-match ODI series as regular captain Pat Cummins, who lost his mother recently, will not return to the country for the white-ball contest.

Cummins had left for home after the second Test in Delhi to take care of his mother Maria, who died of breast cancer last week.

The first game of the three-match series will be played in Mumbai on Friday. "Pat won't be coming back, he's still taking care of what's happened back home," Australia coach Andrew McDonald said. "Our thoughts are with Pat and his family as they go through that grieving process," Donald was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

Cricket Australia has not named any replacement for Cummins in the 15-man squad.

Smith had captained Australia in the last two Tests of the four-match series that India won 2-1 to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. India won the first two Tests while Australia emerged victorious in the third match in Indore. The Ahmedabad game ended in a dull draw.

Nathan Ellis was recently recalled to the ODI squad after Jhye Richardson made a late withdrawal having been forced to undergo a hamstring surgery.

A struggling David Warner, who has not been among the ODI squad members training in Ahmedabad in recent days, is set to return to the side after missing the final two Tests due to an elbow injury. On the pace front, Josh Hazlewood, who also captained the ODI team during the England series when Cummins missed a match, is absent due to an injury.

Ashton Agar has returned after being sent home midway through the Test series and is likely to form a spin partnership with Adam Zampa. The series will also mark the returns of Glenn Maxwell (broken leg) and Mitchell Marsh (ankle surgery) from serious injuries. "We've got a couple conversations around the balance of the team we want to play, we've gone in with a structure with eight batters to bat a little bit deeper, we've tried that," said McDonald.

"So there'll be a mix of combinations as we lead into the World Cup. "(There is) a lot of all-rounders picked in the squad and can they all play in the one team? So we've got to answer a few of those questions." The ODI series is important for Australia given that India is hosting the ODI World Cup in October-November.

Cummins took over the ODI job after Aaron Finch's retirement last year but has led the side in just two matches so far.

Real Madrid Look To Avoid
Liverpool Comeback In CL

Agencies

MADRID: Real Madrid got used to pulling off dramatic comebacks in the Champions League last season. Now it needs to avoid one to keep its title defense going.

It will be Liverpool needing to do something magical at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium on Wednesday to reverse a 5-2 loss from the first leg in the round of 16.

It definitely won't be easy — no away team has ever erased a three-goal loss from the first leg in the Champions League. Only five times the team that lost at home rallied in the second leg, with Manchester United the only one to overcome a two-goal deficit in a round-of-16 matchup against Paris Saint-Germain in 2019.

Liverpool did manage a huge comeback at home in the 2019 semifinals, rallying against another Spanish club, Barcelona. It had lost 3-0 at the Camp Nou before pulling off a 4-0 win in the second leg at home to keep extending 14th European title, pulled off thrilling comebacks on its way to that final, rallying from behind against PSG in the round of 16, Chelsea in the quarterfinals and Manchester City in the semifinals.

Madrid also rallied against Liverpool in the first leg this season after going down 2-0 in the first half in England, eventually building its comfortable three-goal advantage with two goals each by Vinícius Júnior and Karim Benzema. Éder Militão also scored for Madrid at Anfield.

The only time Madrid failed to advance in the Champions League after winning the first leg on the road was in 2019 when it was eliminated by Ajax in the round of 16.

Madrid has won six of its last seven matches against Liverpool in the Champions League, drawing the other one.

The team coached by Carlo Ancelotti ended a three-match winless run with a 3-1 victory over Espanyol at the Bernabéu in



alive a run that eventually ended with the team winning the trophy. Only three other teams overcame a deficit of three or more goals — Barcelona, Roma and Deportivo La Coruña.

"We need to go and do something special," Liverpool defender Trent Alexander-Arnold said. "It's about throwing the kitchen sink at it and going all out."

Madrid, which beat Liverpool in last season's final for a record-

the Spanish league on Saturday. The coach is expected to have Ferland Mendy and Benzema available after recovering from injuries.

Liverpool took another hit to its confidence with a 1-0 loss at relegation-threatened Bournemouth over the weekend, hurting its chances of moving closer to the top four in the Premier League. Mohamed Salah missed a penalty in that game.

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