

Tax Collections In J&K Up By 31%: CAG

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The tax revenue in Jammu and Kashmir touched Rs 11,707.28 crore in 2021-22 compared to Rs 8,876.99 crore in the previous year, marking an increase of 31.88 per cent, according to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

State Excise, State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) and Taxes on sales and trade showed the maximum increase of 32.31 per cent, 32.13 per cent and 27.46 per cent, respectively, the CAG said in its audit report on the Union Territory Finances for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The government's performance in the mobilisation of resources is assessed in terms of its own tax resources comprising revenue from its own tax and non-tax sources.

The report said there was an increase in all components of own tax revenue during 2021-22 which marked an increase of 31.88 per cent compared to the previous year.

"SGST, State Excise and Taxes on Sales/Trade showed maximum increase of Rs 1,554.95 crore, Rs 435.37 crore and Rs

410.70 cores respectively. The highest percentage increase with respect to 2020-21 was 536.67 per cent and 87.02 per cent under Taxes on Goods and Passengers and Land Revenue respectively," the CAG said.

The collection of taxes on vehicles increased from Rs 488.38 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 616.24 crore in 2021-22 (26.18 per cent) and stamp duty and registration fee from Rs 325.54 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 512.02 crore in 2021-22 (57.28 per cent).

Land revenue rose from Rs 60.57 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 113.28 crore in 2021-22 (87.02 per cent) and taxes on goods and passengers from Rs 0.90 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 5.73 crore in 2021-22 (536.67 per cent) and other taxes from Rs 319.22 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 376.60 crore in 2021-22 (17.98 per cent).

During 2021-22, it said the GST collection was Rs 6,394.31 crore compared to Rs 4,839.35 crore in 2020-21, registering an increase of Rs 1,554.96 crore (32.13 per cent). This includes advance apportionment of IGST amounting to Rs 4,334.63 crore.

"The Government of J&K received compensation **More on P6**



A LONE SHIKARA ROWS, while others remain anchored on the banks of Srinagar's Dal Lake on a rainy Saturday evening. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Centre Begins Fresh Negotiations With Ladakh Parties

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: New Delhi has set the ball rolling to start fresh negotiations with Ladakh parties, who are demanding among other things, job, and land safeguards besides statehood for the Union Territory formed after the abrogation of Article-370 in August 2019.

According to reports, New Delhi has approached Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), an amalgam of trade unions, social, political and religious groups from Ladakh, to initiate a fresh dialogue to consider the demands put forward by them.

Cherring Dorjay Lakruk, member of LAB, told Kashmir Observer on Saturday that the Union Home Ministry has sought a revised proposal from the two bodies to begin a fresh round of dialogue to reach a conclusion.



File Photo / Abid Bhat

He said some officials from the Union Home Ministry had met LAB Chairman and President Thupstan Chhewang in New Delhi recently and sought a revised proposal to bring an end to the political uncertainty in the cold desert. "Thupstan Chhewang informed us about the meeting. We are waiting for the representatives

of KDA who are in Jammu and are scheduled to arrive in Leh next week," Lakruk said.

He further said that once the KDA members are back to Ladakh, the two bodies will sit and decide the future course of action.

Lakruk however, said there is no official communication as of now.

Kashmir Observer reached out to Chhewang for his comments; however he didn't receive the calls.

Both the leaders from the Buddhist majority-Leh and Muslim majority Kargil are on the same page and have organised a number of protests to press their demands. The leaders have been demanding Constitutional safeguards on the lines of 6th schedule of the Indian Constitution.

The two groups were formed in the twin districts of Kargil and Leh including Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance following the region's resentment against the central government for failing to provide constitutional, job, and land safeguard to the region created from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019.

The four agenda of the two bodies include, **More on P6**

Flags Incomplete Work On 397 Projects

Nearly 400 public welfare projects in Jammu and Kashmir remained incomplete despite incurring an expenditure of over Rs 1,000 crore over the past decade till the end of financial year 2021-22, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has said. As many as 378 of these projects were taken up by different government departments between 2019 and 2022, the CAG said in its latest audit report on the Union Territory Finances for the year ended March 31, 2022. **More on P6**

THE UT GOVERNMENT COULD NOT ACHIEVE ITS OWN TARGETS for own tax revenue and own non-tax revenue in the Budget Estimates. Own Tax Revenue fell short by 28.07 per cent and Non tax revenue fell short by 41.03 per cent of budget estimates."

Grand Mufti Fixes Sadaqat-ul-Fitr At Rs 65

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Grand Mufti Nasir-ul Islam Saturday said that Rs 65 have been fixed as the Sadaqat-ul-Fitr per person this Ramazan while noting down there was no harm in paying more depending upon the financial capacity of the person.

He said that the amount for Sadaqat-ul-Fitr has been fixed after thorough consensus with the Ulema from Kashmir and Jammu regions. Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam said that it is mandatory for every person to pay Sadaqat-ul-Fitr @Rs 65 this holy month.

"One organization Sautul-Awliya has announced Rs 70 in their individual capacity as Sadaqat-ul Fitr. If any person wants to pay Rs 70 or more than that, there is no harm as rewards will be more," the Grand Mufti said, as per news agency KNO.

He said Sadaqat-ul-Fitr has to be paid **More on P6**

J&K's GSDP Likely To Double In Next 5 Yrs: Economic Survey

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir's GSDP is likely to double in the next five years with emphasis on industries, agriculture, horticulture, tourism and the service sector, the Economic Survey 2022-23 of the Union Territory stated.

The economic survey, which is a document presenting an elaborate picture of the economy of Jammu and Kashmir for the closing financial year, said that at current prices, the GSDP of the UT is expected to record a growth of 15 per cent which is at par with the national level.

"The economy of Jammu and Kashmir grew faster than the national average in recent years," said the report, which was released by Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta.

It added that Jammu and Kashmir is expected to grow



at eight per cent as against seven per cent at national level during 2022-23 at constant prices

The UT's revenue performance (tax plus non-tax) is also expected to double during the current year, the report said.

Mehta observed that the document is vital in gauging the progress made by the Union Territory (UT).

The survey also applauded the time-bound policies, action plans and development strategies being implemented to carry forward and sustain the positive environment and momentum of economic development.

Besides the document brings forth the unique reformative initiatives like district good governance index, aspirational blocks **More on P6**

IAF Officers Killing Case Absence Of Accused: Court Defers Identification

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A local court Saturday deferred the identification by an eye-witness of six accused including JKLF chief Mohammad Yasin Malik in connection with the killing of four Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel in a militant attack in the summer capital Srinagar in 1990.

The identification was deferred due to non-availability of some of the accused in the court here even as one of the two eye-witnesses who turned up for cross-examination expressed readiness to identify them, CBI chief prosecutor Monika Kohli said.

Malik, who is lodged in Delhi's Tihar jail, was present through video conferencing during the hearing of the much publicised case.

"Two eye-witnesses turned up for cross-examination and one of **More on P6**

SKUAST-K To Take Corrective Measures After CAG Rap

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Sher-i-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Kashmir on Saturday said the institute will take corrective measures wherever irregularities have taken place, days after the CAG highlighted shortcomings in manpower planning, appointments, career advancement and entitlements in the twin agriculture universities in the Union territory.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function at NIELIT Srinagar, SKUAST Kashmir Vice Chancellor Nazir Ahmad Ganai said the university will look into the findings of the report when it receives it.

"I have not seen the CAG report yet. As soon as we receive it, we will look into it," he said.

Ganai said when it comes to SKUAST Kashmir, "we are one of the fastest growing institutions nationally in efficiency,

transparency and in building innovations".

"...this is a report since the inception of the university till now, there could be some irregularities. Wherever there are, we will correct that. But, we will know only when we have the report with us," he said.

The VC said it would be premature to say what action the university would take as "the report is yet to reach us".

"There could be some irregularities in the past, but we look towards the future...how we become number one in the country," he added.

Highlighting shortcomings in manpower planning, appointments, career advancement and entitlements in the twin agriculture universities in Jammu and Kashmir, the CAG has called for immediate review of sanctioned strength to weed out redundant posts and adoption of UGC regulations in toto.

The CAG also **More on P6**

Selected Haj Pilgrims To Deposit Rs 81K

The Haj Committee of India on Saturday asked the provisionally selected pilgrims for Haj-2023 to deposit an advance amount of Rs. 81,800 each by April 7. The Executive Officer, J&K Haj Committee said Saturday that that as per circular received from Haj Committee of India, Payments can be made either online through www.hajcommittee.gov.in or in Haj Committee of India account maintained with SBI or account maintained with UBI through any branch having core **More on P6**

Pak Drone Retreats After BSF Fires

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday said its troops opened fire at a suspected Pakistani drone along the International Border here, forcing it to retreat. A massive search operation is underway to ensure no weapons or narcotics were airdropped by the drone, a BSF spokesperson said. "A blinking light (of a suspected drone) was observed around 12:15 am (Saturday) on the IB in the night in the general area of Ramgarh. Alert **More on P6**

CRPF Officer Allegedly Hangs Self

An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Saturday allegedly hanged himself to death at a camp in Central Kashmir's Budgam district. ASI Ajay Kumar Lama of CRPF 181 Battalion was found hanging inside a barrack at the Radar Station in Charar-i-Sharief area of the district on Friday night, reports said. His body was taken to sub-district hospital (SDH) Chadoora for carrying out legal-medico formalities. **More on P6**

Teen Student Slips To Death

A teenage girl student died on Saturday after slipping into an irrigation canal in Boniyar area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. The 9th standard student was waiting for a school bus along Lower Jhelum Hydroelectric Power Project (LJHP) canal at Perniya village of Boniyar on Saturday morning when she lost control and fell into the canal, reports said. Soon after the incident, an operation was launched to save the teen from drowning. However, after hours of struggle, **More on P6**

8 Gamblers Held In Kulgam

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested eight gamblers in an input driven raid in South Kashmir's Kulgam district. Acting on specific information, a team of cops from police post Mirbazari carried out a raid in Palpora village of the district and arrested 8 gamblers on the spot, a police spokesperson said. Besides playing cards, he said, the cops also seized an amount of Rs 50,000, besides eight cell phones from the accused. "They have been arrested and shifted to a police **More on P6**

Two Medical Shops Closed In Kulgam

The officials of the drug control department on Saturday shut down two medical shops in South Kashmir's Kulgam district for violating government directives. A team from the Drug Control Office inspected various chemist shops in Kulgam and closed down two medical shops for non adherence to the already issued directives for installation of CCTV cameras and computerized billing systems and for violation of conditions of licenses, an official spokesperson said. He said that the Drug **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S

'Hostile Parenting Enhances Childrens' Risk Of Developing Lasting Mental Health Problems'

Press Trust Of India

Children on the receiving end of 'hostile' parenting at age three were 1.5 times likelier than their peers to develop mental health problems qualified as 'high risk' by age nine.

Young children on the receiving end of 'hostile' parenting were 1.5 times likelier than their peers to be in the high-risk band of developing lasting mental health problems, a new study has reported.

Researchers charted the children's mental health symptoms at ages three, five and nine, studying both internalising mental health symptoms, such as anxiety and social withdrawal, and externalising ones, such as impulsivity, aggression and hyperactivity, together.

They found that 10 per cent of over 7,500 children studied were at a high-risk for poor mental health and that those exposed to harsh parenting were likely to fall in this group.

The study involved researchers from University of Cambridge, UK, and University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland, and is published in the journal *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences*.

Hostile parenting involves frequent harsh discipline, that could be physical and/or psychological. It could, for example, involve shouting at children regularly, routine physical punishment, isolating children when they misbehave, damaging their self-esteem, or punishing children unpredictably depending on the parent's mood.

While the researchers make it clear that parenting style does not definitively determine mental health outcomes, they do argue that mental health professionals, teachers and other practitioners need to be alert to



We are not for a moment suggesting that parents should not set firm boundaries for their children's behaviour, but it is difficult to justify frequent harsh discipline, given the implications for mental health

children displaying poor mental health.

"The fact that one in 10 children were in the high-risk category for mental health problems is a concern and we ought to be aware of the part parenting may play in that," Ioannis Katsantonis, co-lead researcher, University of Cambridge, said.

"We are not for a moment suggesting that parents should not set firm boundaries for their children's behaviour, but it is

difficult to justify frequent harsh discipline, given the implications for mental health," said Katsantonis.

Using data from 7,507 participants in the 'Growing up in Ireland' longitudinal study of children and young people, scientists used Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, a standard assessment tool, to capture mental health data.

They gave each child a composite score

out of 10 for all their symptoms at ages three, five and nine.

They used a second standard assessment to measure the parenting style children experienced at age three.

Parents' tendencies towards each of three styles were measured - warm parenting (supportive and attentive to their child's needs); consistent (setting clear expectations and rules); and hostile.

Based on the mental health symptom development trajectories, the study broadly classified the children into three categories.

83.5 per cent of them were at low risk, with low symptom scores at age three, remaining stable or falling thereafter.

6.43 per cent of the participants were at mild-risk, with high initial symptom scores reducing with time but still being higher than the first group.

The remaining 10.07 per cent were high-risk, with high initial scores that increased by age nine.

Hostile parenting raised a child's chances of being in the high-risk category by 1.5 times, and the mild-risk category by 1.6 times, by age nine, the researchers found.

Consistent parenting was found to have a limited protective role, but only against children falling into the 'mild-risk' category.

To the researchers' surprise, however, warm parenting did not increase the likelihood of children being in the low-risk group, possibly due to the influence of other factors on mental health outcomes.

Jennifer Symonds, co-lead researcher and associate professor, UCD, said, "Avoiding a hostile emotional climate at home won't necessarily prevent poor mental health outcomes from occurring, but it will probably help."

In the Court of Additional Munsiff/Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Srinagar

Present:- Shafeeq Ahmad Malik

Naseema D/o Ghulam Mohamad
 R/o Baram Pather Batamalo Sgr

Applicant

v/s
 Registrar Births & Deaths SMC, Srinagar.

(Non-Applicant)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from the applicant for registration of Birth of Naseema D/o Ghulam Mohamad 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:- Naseema
 Sex:-FEMALE
 Father's Name:-Ghulam Mohamad
 Mother's name: Mughal
 DOD: 07-06-1967
 Residence: Baram Pather Batamalo Sgr Bagh Sgr
 Place Of Birth:- at home

Sd/-

nj Judge Small Causes, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Number plate of my vehicle santro bearing regd no: JK05B- 4562. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Bashir Ahmad Yatoo
 S/o Haji Assadaullah Yatoo
 R/o Goushang Pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Departmental Identity card bearing no: 786006 while travelling from Palhallan to Hyderbeigh. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Police Post Palhallan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Mohammad Sofi S/o Abdul Aziz Sofi
 R/o Palpora Pattan

FKO

Ph: 8803855073, 7780926310

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Office of the Warden Gujjar and Bakerwal Boys Hostel, Srinagar.

Notice no: 02 of 2023
 Dated: 31-03-2023

Sub: - Notice for written test for Admission in Gujjar & Bakerwal Boys Hostel, Srinagar for the Academic Session 2023.

All the Boys students of Gujjar & Bakerwal community who have recently applied for admission in class 6th are hereby informed that written test shall be conducted on 05th of April 2023 at 11:00 am in the premises of Gujjar Bakerwal Boys Hostel Tulsibagh Srinagar

No: GBBH/Sgr/2023/790-793
 DIPK-19028/22
 Dated: 31/03/2023

Warden
 Gujjar & Bakerwal Boys Hostel
 Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name in Passport Application bearing Ref. no : (ARN)- 23-0001826862. from RAFIQA JABEEN to RAFIQA HAFIZ if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

RAFIQA HAFIZ
 Address: C/O Hafeez Ud Din Ahmad, 203 B, Bagi Hyder Bypass, Sanat Nagar, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir-190005.
 Contact number:7780963782

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is informed that I have lost my 9th Class Discharge Certificate somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal Govt. Higher Secondary School Gund Khawaja Qasim within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shameema Akther
 D/o Mohd Abdullah Dar
 R/o Arampora

bmj

Before The Hon'ble Court Of Chief Judicial Magistrate At Srinagar.

Amina
 W/o.Abdul Hameed Kak
 R/o. Khawaja Bazar, Srinagar

Applicant.

Versus

Registrar,
 Births and Deaths, S.M.C. Srinagar. Non-Applicant.

In The Matter Of : Application for recording the date of birth of the applicant's son.

1. That the date of birth of the applicant's son has not so far been recorded in the records of Non-applicant as is evident from the NOC issued by non-applicant enclosed with this application.
 2. That the applicant wishes to get the date of birth to be recorded in the record of non-applicant and solicits application accordingly-
 3. That this application is supported by duly sworn Affidavit

In The Premises It Is Therefore, prayed that the Non-Applicant be directed to record the following "particulars of the applicant."

Name of the born person	Inayat Ahmad Kak
Sex	Male
Father's Name	Abdul Hameed Kak
Mother's Name	Amina
Date of birth	19.08.2007
Residence	Khawaja Bazar, Srinagar.
Place of Birth	Khawaja Bazar, Srinagar.

nj

Al-Mustafa (s.a.w) Educational Institute Singapore

List of Managing body of Al-Mustafa (s.a.w) Educational Institute Singapore

S.No	Name	Parentage	Address	Qual	Desig.
1	Dr. Urfan Ahmad Dar	Ab. Rashid Dar	Sumbal Underkote	M.A. M.Ed. Ph.D	Chairman
2	Tahir Hussain Dar	Gh. Mohammad Dar	Jawahar Pora Narbal Budgam	M.A Political Science & Diploma in Tourism	Principal
3	Nisar Ahmad Dar	Mohd Qasim Dar	Gund Ibrahim Pattan	B.A	Organiser
4	Nayema Ahmad	Gh. Ahmad Sofi	Baliharar Srinagara	M.Sc. B.Ed.	Staff Represe ntative
5	Mohd Asif Rather	Gh. Hussain Rather	Gund Ibrahim Pattan	Graduate	Member/ Parent
6	Shahbaz Hussain	Mohd Qasim Bhat	Gund Ibrahim Pattan	10+2	Member/ Parent

Fee Structure of Al-Mustafa (s.a.w) Educational Institute Singapore

S.No	Class	Fee
1	Nursery, L.K.G, U.K.G	300
2	1st and 2nd	400
3	3rd	450
4	4th and 5th	500
5	6th	550
6	7th	600
7	8th	700

fko_r

Office Of The Principal Government Degree College Beerwah, Kashmir

NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE "B"

fax 0195 1275277 Phone No: 01951275276 EMAIL: gdcbeerwah@gmail.com
 Official site: www.gdcbeerwah.edu.in

Canteen Tender Notice

Sealed tenders affixed with Rs. 5/- revenue stamps and accompanied with a CDR of Rs, 1000 /- pledged to the undersigned are invited from the reputed Hoteliers and Tea Stall runners for running the College Canteen for the session April, 2023 to March, 2024. The tenders should reach this office by or before 17th of April, 2023 and the same shall be disclosed on 19'h of April 2023 or next working day in case, the said date pertains to holiday and the undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof. Documentation needed to be accompanied with the CDR arc:

1. Food Safety Certificate,
2. PAN
3. GST No.
4. Experience Certificate.
5. Rate List of Food items except junk.

PRINCIPAL
 G.D.C Beerwah
 Budgam

DIPK-13/23 dated: 01-04-2023

Boulevard Accident Aftermath

Special Teams Formed To Curb Stunt Biking

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Following the horrible road accident on Boulevard near SKICC last evening, resulting in the on-spot death of a 20-year-old youth, Traffic Police Srinagar on Saturday said special teams have been formed to identify individuals involved in stunt biking.

Senior Superintendent Police Traffic for Srinagar, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah said the department will take multilevel measures to curb stunt biking and rash riding by two-wheeler riders, besides identifying the boys involved in it.

"It is not restricted to Srinagar only; there are some boys from other districts who come to Srinagar for these stunts. We are in the process of identifying them and are compiling data on it," he said.

SSP City Traffic said they will seek assistance from the district police as well and will issue summons to those involved in stunt biking stunts through their concerned police stations.

"We are going to act tough and the repeated and habitual offenders will be dealt with sternly," the officer said, adding, "We have summoned a few and are trying to reach out to the maximum to counsel them afresh."

Speaking about Friday's accident, the officer said the incident is "painful". "I have been urging the parents to be more sensitive while agreeing to provide two-wheelers or any other vehicle to their children."

"In addition to law enforcement, parents have an important role in preventing such incidents. If they want to provide their children two-wheelers or other vehicles, they should make sure they have all the necessary documentation, safety equipment, and, most importantly, whether or not they are eligible to drive," he said.

Srinagar traffic police said last week that they now have specialized "Speed Radar Guns" to measure the speed of moving cars. They claimed that the technology will assist them to stop high-speed, stunt biking, and reckless driving by vehicles.



MEN AT WORK: Braving heavy rains men and machinery remained active as work on Smart City Projects near the deadline. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Tulip Garden Sees Record 1, 58, 000 Visitors In First 12 Days

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Asia's largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar saw a record number of 1, 58, 000 visitors in the first 12 days, with a peak of 31, 000 visitors on the third day of its opening on March 22.

Officials told Kashmir Observer that the garden has sprouted with around 80 percent tulips so far and is expected to be at full bloom in the coming few days, if the weather remains favorable.

They said Asia's largest Tulip Garden situated on the foothills of Zabarwan mountain range saw a record footfall of visitors in the first twelve days of its opening.

They said the garden is likely to be closed for visitors from April 20; however it may continue till April 25, if the weather remains favorable.

They said the garden, which spans over 52 hectares of land, receives 20, 000 to 25, 000 visitors on an average a day.

"Tourists in hoards visited Tulip garden this year, a record number of 1, 58, 000 visitors visited the garden from March 20 till date. A single day spike of 31, 000 was witnessed in the garden on March 22. The footfall of tourists was better than in previous years," Tulip Garden in-charge, Inam-ur-Rehman, told Kashmir Observer.

Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden is presenting a mesmerizing look and is attracting both tourists and locals in hordes to enjoy the natural beauty.

In-charge Tulip garden further said the footfall of locals declined with the commencement of the holy month of Ramadan, however non-local tourists have been visiting the garden in

hordes since its opening twelve days ago.

"Since the footfall of local visitors declined in view of the holy Ramadan, non-local tourists visit the garden in hordes and I hope the tourist flow will further increase with the improvement in weather. 95 percent of visitors are non-local tourists," Inam told Kashmir Observer.

He said 16 lakh Tulips bulbs of 68 different varieties are in bloom at the Tulip Garden while four new varieties have also

said he has never seen anything so beautiful.

"This is mind blowing. I feel very happy to have come here. This garden is stunning. I think it is one of the most beautiful gardens, huge. So many tulips, so much beauty, many waterfalls, just so amazing. Truly a 'Jannat' (paradise)," he said. "I will keep coming here."

While most of the visitors were enchanted by the sight of the flowers, and could not help but take pictures of them, some,



Tourists as well as locals in hordes visit Asia's largest Tulp Garden in Srinagar amid inclement weather, KO Photo Abid Bhat

been added in the nursery this year, he added.

"Besides 16 lakh Tulips, the garden has other spring flowers as well. The Floriculture Department has installed ornamental lights for the tourists who stay in the garden till late evening," he added.

Arun Kumar, a native of Gujarat who lives in South Africa,

who wanted to touch the bulbs, were dismayed at the fences surrounding the flower beds.

"I hope they have some more photographic places. They have covered the flowers with fences. We cannot go and touch tulips. It would have been amazing if we could do that," Surmil said. (With PTI Inputs)

Anjuman Jamia Masjid Pays Tributes To Umm-ul-Momineen

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid Srinagar on Saturday paid rich tributes to Umm-ul-Momineen Hazrat Khadijah-tul-Kabra (RA) on her passing away anniversary.

In a statement, Anjuman on behalf of the Auqaf and its incarcerated Chief Mirwaiz Umar Farooq paid glowing tributes to Hazrat Khadijah-tul-Kubra's (RA) historic, selfless and great services to Islam and Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW), terming her contribution as unforgettable.

Umm-ul-Momineen (RA) was among the first women

who sacrificed everything for Islam and Prophet Muhammad (SAW), Anjuman said.

Meanwhile, Anjuman expressed deep sorrow and regret over the fact that as per past practice on 10th Ramadan, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq could not deliver a special sermon on the contribution of Hazrat Khadijah at the historic shrine of Dastgeer Sahib (RA) Khanyar due to his continued house detention.

Anjuman reiterated its public demand for an end to what was alleged 'unjustified' and 'arbitrary' detention of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir during the blessed month of Ramadan.

'World Apple Conference' To Be Held In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A delegation from Sopore Apple Farmer Producer Company (J&K), which is organizing a maiden World Apple Conference in Srinagar, held a meeting with Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo.

Chairman Sopore Apple Producer Company (J&K) Adil Malik said the top official assured them all support in conducting the maiden conference scheduled on June 24-25 at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Center (SKICC), Srinagar. He is likely to attend the conference, said Adil.

Dulloo was briefed about the issues being faced by the Horticulture industry, especially apple trade and he assured them fruit-laden and vegetable trucks would be given priority on highways to prevent losses.

Adil said Dulloo told them to provide registration numbers and paste stickers on their consignments so that they may be given priority on Srinagar-Jammu highway.

The two day 'World Apple Conference' is being organized by Sarhad, a Pune based NGO and Sopore Apple Farmer Producer Company (J&K), which aims to further empower and strengthen the apple growers of Jammu and Kashmir.

Tourist From Maharashtra Dies In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A septuagenarian tourist from Maharashtra died at Sri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital here after developing health complications.

Sources at SMHS Hospital said that a 70-year-old tourist was brought to the

hospital who breathed his last shortly after the arrival.

They identified the tourist as Prabhu Sandborkar, a native of East Mumbai.

The deceased was on a recreational visit to Kashmir along with some of his family members. They were staying in a hotel in uptown Srinagar.

Outreach Activities Under G20-Y20 Banner Continues At KU's NSS Units

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Continuing with activities under the Y20 and G20 celebrations, the National Service Scheme, University of Kashmir, organized more events at the main and north campuses to broaden its outreach initiatives.

Program Coordinator NSS KU, Dr Mussavir Ahmad said these programs were held on directions of Vice-Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan.

An awareness camp on women's health and hygiene was organized in Gavmarg area of Shalimar, Srinagar, a socially-backward area, to create awareness among women about the importance of their personal health

and hygiene.

Dr Suraiya, Medical Officer, University Health Centre, urged the women participants to take special care of their personal hygiene, especially during menstruation, to stay away from catching infections. Sanitary napkins, masks and sanitizers were distributed among the participants.

The NSS Unit IV at main campus also organized a day-long event on women-centric government schemes, with participation of around 100 volunteers. The sessions were conducted by Dr Shazia Manzoor, Head, Department of Social Work and Bilal Ahmad Bhat, who spoke about Women Helpline Service 181.

The NSS Unit II at North Campus conducted a women's health and hygiene camp to promote good hygiene practices among women, which are critical for their overall well-being. Around 150 girl students from Greenland High School and Hanfia Model High School, along with their female teachers, participated in the event. The session was conducted by Dr Shumail Bashir, Associate Professor, GMC Baramulla, Director, North Campus; Prof Bashir Ahmad Ganai inaugurated the program and felicitated the invited doctor.

Program officers who organized the camps included Dr Heena Basharat, Dr Shazia Malik and Dr Maleeha Gul.

03 Burglars From Ganderbal Held In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested three burglars in Srinagar and recovered gold and cash from their possession.

The trio police said hails

from Ganderbal district of Central Kashmir.

The trio has been identified as Hafeez Ganie, Hilal Ahmad Dar and Adil Ahmad Sofi, all from Ganderbal district.

Srinagar police in a tweet said that during investigation of FIR no 35/2022 under sections

457,380 IPC of Nigeen Ppolice statio, 3 burglars arrested namely Hafeez Ganie of Shala Bugh Ganderbal Hilal Ahmad Dar of Gund Roshan Ganderbal Aadil Ahmad Sofi of Gund Roshan Ganderbal. 76 grams of Gold & cash worth 40000 recovered.

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

AIRPORTS
 SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

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

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

HIJRI CALENDAR

11 RAMAZAN
1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:53
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	5:04
Magrib	6:55
ISHA	8:15

This Day In History

- 1559 - England & France sign 1st Treaty of Le Cateau-Cambrésis
- 1745 - Austria & Bavaria sign peace
- 1801 - Napoleonic Wars: The British led by Horatio Nelson destroy the Danish fleet in the naval Battle of Copenhagen
- 1819 - 1st successful agricultural journal ("American Farmer") first publishes
- 1865 - Battle of Petersburg ends as the Army of Northern Virginia is forced to retreat under heavy fire from a general Union offensive
- 1865 - Battle of Fort Blakely Alabama, last major battle of the US Civil War
- 1865 - Battle of Selma, Alabama, Union forces break Confederates defenses to secure the town
- 1883 - Battle at Bamako: French assault on Fabous arm forces attack
- 1917 - US President Woodrow Wilson asks Congress to declare war against Germany
- 192 - Albert Einstein lectures in New York City on his new "Theory of Relativity"

From KO Archives

'I Want To Be With My Family Now' Farooq Announces Retirement From Politics

Observer News Service

Jammu- The Chief minister Farooq Abdullah today made the dramatic announcement of his 'retirement from active politics' when he said that he will not contest any more elections in future and nor will hold the post of the president' of the ruling National Conference. "I will not seek any election after the term of present Assembly is over and will quit as national Conference president, before the end of the term of my government" Abdullah said.

Farooq's announcement, both sudden and unexpected, stunned the entire House, especially the members of the ruling National Conference, which he made in course of his reply to the debate on the motion of thanks to the governor's address. "I want to devote my whole time to my family. Let the National Conference look for some new leader" Farooq said.

Abdullah's dramatic announcement was first taken by some members as an 'April Fool' joke, but when he went on to talk about the issue, in course of his speech, the ruling party members could be seen in a state of shock and disbelief, both. Incidentally Farooq's 'retirement' announcement comes within less than 24 hours of a similar statement made by the Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the Lok Sabha that it was his last election' and he would never contest again.

What has prompted Abdullah, to take such an extreme decision, political observers here believe, was the 'poor performance of the National Conference' both on the political and administrative fronts, with senior leaders taking hardly any interest in strengthening the party at grass root level.

Abdullah expressed his displeasure over the performance of National Conference ministers, at the meeting of the party's working committee, at which he is reported to have openly talked about his intentions to overhaul his cabinet. "My first experience has not worked well. Now, there will be an altogether different team" Farooq is believed to have told his party leaders at the working committee meeting.

In his speech in the Assembly today, Abdullah showered praises on the BJP led government and appreciated its "secular pronouncements" expressing the hope that new government under the "inspiring leadership" Vajpayee would strengthen the country and promote brotherhood and amity. He also hoped that the tyranny of Pakistan on Kashmir would come to an end and "Azad Kashmir" under "illegal occupation of Pakistan" would once again become the part of this state. He referred to Pakistan's abetment to militancy and firing by its soldiers in border areas and said that Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee should "forcefully" tell Pakistan to stop all this. "We don't want war but peace. But at the same time we cannot allow the number of graveyards increasing", he said regretting that hot line between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan failed to stop the border firing. Abdullah ruled out any talks with the militants or other people, outside the gambit of Indian constitution and said that no Indian Prime Minister can ever think of a dialogue with people who had no faith in Indian constitution. "Who can accept militants or Pakistan's illogical plea that Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory", he wondered and said that even those who were aspiring to sit on the chair now held by Vajpayee, could have afforded to yield to such an "absurd proposition".

Without naming Hurriyat leaders, Abdullah said that some elements who while living in India are freely visiting Pakistan high commission in Delhi, enjoy dinners, accept money and other facilities and dance to the tune of that country. It is the greatness of India to have such people here and asked "is this possible in Pakistan". Without naming Mufti Mohammad Syed, who has been advocating an unconditional dialogue with the separatist political leaders and militants, Abdullah said those making such a demand should first consider the "national interest" before saying anything on the issue.

(Kashmir Observer, 02 April, 1998)

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly mentioned in my passport bearing No: 65704606 as Mudasir Hussain Address :- Buchpora Srinagar Firdous colony House no 7 Lane no 1 Jammu & Kashmir while my correct name is Mudasir Hussain Shah S/O Mohammad Yusuf Shah Address:- Bilal Colony Qamarwari Old Shahdad Road Srinagar Karan Nagar Srinagar Jammu and Kashmir 190010 which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mudasir Hussain Shah S/O Mohammad Yusuf Shah Address:- Bilal Colony Qamarwari Old Shahdad Road Srinagar Karan Nagar Srinagar Jammu and Kashmir 190010

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The Mask of Sanity and Psychopathological Crimes in Kashmir

Wajahat Qazi

“Yet again, at the levels of the family and society, psychopathy can never be eradicated. So how are individuals - especially the young and the vulnerable - to be protected from psychopathic predators? All members of society must be sensitized and made aware of potential predators that lurk under the facade and veneer of civility and charm

Hervey Cleckley, an American psychiatrist, in his monograph, 'The Mask of Sanity' provided a vivid description of psychopathy. In this schemata, the mask referred to the well adjusted, even charming nature of psychopaths as a cover for their underlying pathology. This has a searing resonance in Kashmir where, in the recent past, unspeakable crime has surfaced- ranging from the murders of elderly parents, to chopping of a woman and murder of an 8 year old child, to name a few egregious ones. Maybe these crimes always existed and lurked under the surface of society and maybe these crimes garner attention because of the ubiquity of media. But whatever the case, the 'trend' is alarming' and insidious. What can be done about it? Can these kinds of crimes that have a clear pathological ingress be eradicated?

In the final analysis, while these crimes can be solved (amateurishness and clumsiness of the perpetrators) or effective policing methods, these can never be eradicated by mere policing. The problem is 'social' in the sense that it emanates from society and culture, given that culture can, at times, provide a gloss for psychopathology. So what is this phenomenon?

According to Wikipedia (a limited, public and non academic source), 'psychopathy is characterized by persistent anti-social behaviour, impaired empathy and remorse, and bold dis-inhibited egotistical traits'. These are the clinically recognized aspects and elements of psychopathy. The problem arises because a 'typical' psychopath obscures his or her condition with socially, inter-personally and culturally acceptable behaviour and is, oftentimes, charming. What are the underlying conditions of psychopathy or what leads to it?

I am neither a psychologist nor a



psychiatrist but culled from amateur readings of the phenomenon, it maybe that distressed or distressing childhood experiences, cultural and social repression of the psyche, inhibited impulses, flawed validation, encouragement and at times discouragement of attitudes and behaviours, bad parenting, bullying, psychological violence and its untreated effects and some warped social and cultural incentives might be among the myriad causes that lead to psychopathy. There may also be physiological and chemical mis-alignment reasons for the same. If these elements hold, then obviously it is exceedingly difficult to check psychopathic behaviour let alone detect it. But if the problem emanates from social conditioning or more accurately flawed social conditioning then the partial solution lies in society.

How?

In the basic unit of society, the family, parents must be clued into the

behaviours and attitudes of their children. Psycho-emotional issues if and when they arise in children- a morose child who does not play with his or her peers (not always a psychological problem), who broods or articulates strange thoughts, does not engage with his or her studies, and so on must be doubly taken care of. He or she must not be bullied into changing behaviour but conditioned to be 'normal' by professional empathetic counselling. This can be the starting point. At a broader, aggregate social level, culture and sensibilities thereof must not obscure and put a gloss on pathological behaviour. If a problem is detected in an individual(s), society must rise to the occasion and get these individuals to seek help, albeit empathetically.

Yet again, at the levels of the family and society, psychopathy can never be eradicated. So how are individuals - especially the young and the vulnerable - to be protected from psychopathic predators? All members of

society must be sensitized and made aware of potential predators that lurk under the facade and veneer of civility and charm. This means being alert to, one, the fact that civility and charm while great attributed can at times be taken recourse to by predators to obscure their evil intents and two, no matter how 'close' or personal a given relationship- uncle, aunt, or even son or daughter, if persistent traits that define psychopathy are exhibited by a person, he or she needs to be treated or at times reported to the police. Here neither culture nor social sensibility must deter from reporting or treating these people. (Of course this can be misused but a proper and reasonable methodology to determine psychopathic behaviour, admittedly subjective, can help in checking abuse).

In the ultimate analysis, psychopathy, a universal phenomenon, is real and cannot be entirely eradicated from society. But a prudent starting point to check its abuse and prevalence would be awareness of the same. With respect to Kashmir, it also means that no matter the nature and stereotypes about us- gentle, hospitable and genteel people- there are psychopaths among us who use the same attributes and stereotypes to cover their fundamentally evil nature. This recognition can alert our society to the presence and dangers of psychopathy and hopefully prevent predatory murderous crimes. While, to repeat, psychopathy and the 'Mask of Sanity' it presupposes and puts, cannot be totally eliminated, awareness of the same can check its prevalence. This along with the prayer, 'May God protect All' is perhaps the best that can be done!

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

The Lessons of Badr

Zafar Bangash

We are in the blessed month of Ramadan. Many great events occurred in this month including the revelation of the noble Qur'an, the battle of Badr, digging of the trench in preparation for the battle of Ahzab, the march on Makkah to liberate it from the mushriks and the battle of Humayn.

This is a long list. Let us focus on one event—the battle of Badr—that occurred in the month of Ramadan. Fasting was made compulsory for Muslims for the first time in the second year of the hijrah. Yet they were tested at Badr in their very first month of fasting. It was the most decisive battle in the life of the nascent Muslim community in the Arabian Peninsula in the early days of Islam.

Badr is located about 100 miles southeast of Madinah, where the battle occurred on the 17th day of Ramadan. This battle, more than any other, became the defining moment in early Islamic history. It distinguished those who participated in Badr from those that came after.

Led by the Prophet (pbuh), 313 companions had set out from Madinah to intercept the Makkkan caravan that was returning from Syria with goods. The caravan was led by Abu Sufyan, one of the leading Makkkan chiefs and among the staunchest enemies of the noble Messenger (pbuh).

For 13 years, Muslims were persecuted, terrorized and brutalized in Makkah for no other reason than that they proclaimed Tawhid, the Oneness of Allah (swt). They were finally forced to flee Makkah to save their lives. They were not allowed to take any of their possessions with them. They arrived in Madinah penniless and destitute.

What did the Makkkan mushriks do with the Muslims' goods that they had confiscated? They traded them to enrich themselves. Thus, Muslims had every right to retrieve their stolen goods.

Abu Sufyan had sent out his spies ahead of the caravan to seek information about what the Muslims were doing. When he was informed that the Muslims were coming for the caravan, he changed his route moving further south of Madinah and also sent an emissary to Makkah calling on the people to come and save their goods.

Led by Abu Jahl, another enemy of Allah and His Prophet, more than 1,000 heavily armed men set out from Makkah to finish the Muslims once and for all. That is when the two armies came face to face at the well of Badr.

Looked at purely from the material point of view, this was a complete mismatch. The 313 light-



ly armed Muslims had only a few swords, a few horses and bows and arrows. They were outnumbered by Makkah's 1000-strong mushrik army that was heavily armed.

The other challenge the Muslims faced was that they had to confront their own kith and kin—often brothers, sons or fathers—in battle. In addition to the physical odds, the Muslims faced this huge psychological challenge as well.

This is where a clear distinction emerges between those committed to Allah and His Prophet (pbuh) and those that take only worldly issues into account. Throughout history, earlier Prophets had to abandon their mushrik relatives. Nuh (as) was told to abandon his mushrik son, while Ibrahim (as) abandoned his mushrik father. And Lut (as) was commanded to leave his deviant wife behind.

Led by the Prophet (pbuh), the small group of Muslims did not flinch in their commitment to Allah. Their Imaan was so strong that they did not hesitate to fight and if need be, kill their own kith and kin. In Islam, the only relationship is that of Imaan. Blood relationships have to be abandoned if they threaten Islam. This is what distinguished Badr from the battles that followed.

And it was this commitment that enabled the 313 lightly-armed but dedicated Muslims to defeat the 1,000 heavily-armed Makkkan mushriks. Untested in battle, some Muslims were apprehen-

“The other challenge the Muslims faced was that they had to confront their own kith and kin—often brothers, sons or fathers—in battle. In addition to the physical odds, the Muslims faced this huge psychological challenge as well.

sive. This was even reflected in the tearful dua the Prophet (pbuh) offered beseeching Allah's help in this critical hour. With trembling hands, he (pbuh) pleaded for help.

“O Allah, if these few servants of Yours are defeated today, there will be nobody left to proclaim Your name.”

Allah was not going to let His beloved Prophet

down on this crucial day. The Prophet (pbuh) and his companions had suffered grievously for many years in Makkah and shown great patience in adversity. Allah's promised help was at hand as He showed the multitude of mushriks small in number to the Muslims (Surah al-Anfal: 43).

The Makkkan mushriks, supremely arrogant in their numbers and weapons, assumed that they would soon finish off the rag-tag band of a few hundred Muslims. Allah, however, had other plans. He had willed that the two groups meet to establish the power of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula (Anfal: 44).

The small group of Muslims confronted their enemy with courage and determination. It was the test of Imaan (faith-commitment to Allah) against shirk (associating partners with Allah).

Despite their small numbers, the Muslims were able to dispatch more than 70 Makkkan mushriks to hell. Among them were such Makkkan stalwarts as Abu Jahl, Umayya ibn Khalaf, Utbah ibn Rabi'ah, Shaybah ibn Rabi'ah and Waleed bin Utbah. A number of Makkkan mushriks were also taken prisoner. It was a crushing defeat for the mushriks and a great victory for Muslims.

The battle of Badr established an important Islamic principle: weapons alone do not determine the outcome of a battle. It is Imaan and the determination of fighters that ultimately establish who will be victorious. The lesson of Badr is witnessed repeatedly in different locales around the world even today.

Committed Muslims confronting massively armed enemy forces have been able to withstand their ground and come out victorious.

This has been witnessed by the people of Iran in their defensive war against Iraq and its western and eastern allies (1980-1988), by the Afghans against the Soviets (1979-1988) and again, against the Americans in Afghanistan (2001-2021). The Hiz-bullah confronted and defeated the Israeli army in May 2000 and again in July-August 2006. More recently, the Yemeni defenders have stood against the Saudi invaders for eight years (2015-2023).

Badr is alive and so are its lessons. Muslims must imbibe the lessons of Badr fully, especially in these troubled times when they face aggression from predatory powers abiding by no rules or law.

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

Benefits Of Miswak In Islam



Irfan Dar

As the holy month of Ramadan begins, Muslims across the world are observing fasts that require abstinence from all food and drink from dawn to dusk.

The blessed month is rooted in faith, history and culture, and few practices emphasize that as much as the use of miswak — a teeth-cleaning twig. Many Muslims use miswak during the day to maintain freshness, oral hygiene and to protect overall dental health. In the Islamic tradition, using miswak is a well-known sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Various ahadith document the elevated status and significance of miswak. Abu Hurairah once narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Were it not (for the fear) of overburdening my Ummah, I would have ordered them to (brush their teeth with) Siwak at every Salat." (Sahih Muslim)

Aisha narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) said, "The siwak is a means of purifying the mouth and pleasing the

Rabb." (Nasai)

Abu Hurairah further narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) said once on a Friday, "O Community of Muslims! Allah has made this day an Eid for you, so take a bath and needfully brush your teeth with siwak." (Tabarani, Majma'uz-Zawaid)

Modern science upholds some of the health benefits of using miswak.

As per a report published in Saudi Medical Journal, a number of scientific studies have demonstrated that miswak possesses antibacterial, anti-fungal, anti-viral, anti-cariogenic, and anti-plaque properties.

There is now increasing scientific evidence that miswak has medicinal properties and helps fight plaque, recession of gums, tooth decay, bleeding gums, Strengthen the enamel in your teeth, deep periodontal pocket and Leaves you with a healthy mouth.

Miswak can be sourced from various trees except for those known to cause harm, such as pomegranate and myrtle trees.

Although using miswak is not obligatory, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) encouraged Muslims to use it.

To use a miswak, simply chew off about one centimeter of the twig at one end and then continue to chew it until it softens and forms bristles. The softening can be sped up by dipping the end in water to separate the fibers. Once bristles are formed, the miswak can be used like a regular toothbrush, without paste.

Pull quote: The blessed month is rooted in faith, history and culture, and few practices emphasize that as much as the use of miswak — a teeth-cleaning twig



21 Productive Things to Do During Your Commute

JOHN RAMPTON

Getting to work daily can be exhausting, whether you're driving solo, riding public transportation, or carpooling with colleagues. Most people dread their daily commutes and it's easy to understand why. Who really wants to waste their precious time before and after working hours cooped up in a car, bus, or train?

Moreover, commuting is unproductive and makes work itself more challenging. The Centre for Transport & Society surveyed approximately 26,000 workers in 2020, and they found that commute length was negatively correlated with job satisfaction. In the survey, commute length was also found to be correlated with leisure-time satisfaction. In other words, the longer the commute, the less enjoyable people's time outside of work becomes.

But do employees really dislike their commute? Well, RingCentral reports that 40% of Americans would prefer to clean their toilets than commute to a physical office.

Congested cities make the feeling worse. In a 2022 Boston.com survey, hundreds of readers expressed near-universal dismay about commuting again after COVID.

However, it doesn't have to be this way. While commuting to work, you have the perfect opportunity to accomplish things and clear your head. To help you feel productive and proactive during those busy drives, train rides, and seemingly endless subway stops, here are the 21 productive things to do while commuting.

1. PLAY SOME TUNES.

There are numerous psychological benefits associated with a good playlist. As well as improving your mood, music provides comfort and reduces stress. Additionally, listening to music can improve cognitive performance, memory, motivation, and endurance.

While it's common to listen to the same playlist repeatedly, it can get monotonous and boring after a while. If you want to have something to look forward to when Monday rolls around, you should prepare a new playlist over the weekend.

2. LISTEN TO AN AUDIOBOOK OR READ A BOOK.

If you're a passenger, consider buying a book or downloading an audiobook instead of mindlessly scrolling through Instagram. Ideally, choosing books you've always wanted to read but have never had time to read will give you additional motivation.

A great way to improve your work, health, or personal life is to alternate between reading fiction books and reading nonfiction books. For aspiring entrepreneurs, I recommend the following books:

- "Smarter Faster Better: The Secrets of Being Productive in Life and Business" by Charles Duhigg
- "Starting a Business QuickStart Guide" by Ken Colwell

- "Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones" by James Clear
- "Steve Jobs" by Walter Isaacson
- "It's About Damn Time: How to Turn Being Underestimated into Your Greatest Advantage" by Arlan Hamilton

3. LISTEN TO A PODCAST.

One of my favorite ways to pass the time while commuting is by listening to podcasts. Personally, it's easy to get motivated for the workday when you listen to inspiring conversations.

Spend some time this weekend digging through podcasts and finding the ones that appeal to you. Podcasts are like TV shows. Once you discover one you love, you can't wait to dive in.

To get you started, I recommend the following:

- Rework: A Podcast by Basecamp
- Business Wars
- Pivot
- StartUp
- Business Movers

4. WORK ON A SIDE PROJECT.

When you're running a business, socializing, caring for your family, and managing your everyday life, you're probably wondering if you'll ever have the time or energy to start a blog.

Well, not unless you become more efficient with your commute.

The journey to and from work is a great place to work on a personal project, begin freelancing — or spend more time on your art. While commuting, think about completing things that will upgrade your skills.

Of course, commutes are only suited for smaller projects. On a busy train, juggling an easel doesn't seem like an ideal situation.

Related: 10 of the Most Profitable Side Hustles You Can Start With Little or No Money

5. SET PERSONAL GOALS FOR THE DAY.

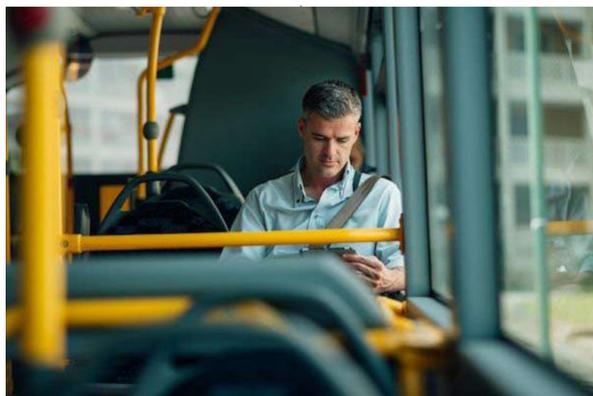
According to Thomas Oppong, author of Building Smarter Habits, successful people start with the end in mind.

"Start with the end in mind and focus on the process that can get you there," he says. "Define a clear goal and work at it with all the resources you can gather. You should have a clear sense of what is important to you and get to work immediately."

"Start your day by working on the projects that inspire you most, and you will be more productive and achieve your goal faster whilst minimizing procrastination," he adds.

6. TRANSITION ROLES DURING COMMUTE TIME.

According to Harvard Business School professor Francesca Gino's 2018 research, commuting should be used for transitioning into your work role rather than relaxing or listening to music. Write down the three most important tasks for the day, visualize them, set realistic goals, and make a list of them. By doing so, you can get started right away when you get to work.



ONE OF MY FAVORITE WAYS TO PASS THE TIME WHILE COMMUTING IS BY LISTENING TO PODCASTS. Personally, it's easy to get motivated for the workday when you listen to inspiring conversations

7. ORGANIZE YOUR TO-DO LIST.

While on your commute, make a to-do list or tweak the one you already have. After all, you will be more likely to succeed if you prioritize your daily tasks and make a to-do list.

Having a mental checklist is also useful if you cannot actually write a list because you're driving. Also, you may want to use your phone's voice recorder or memo app. Make sure you keep your eyes on the road when doing this.

8. PRACTICE MINDFULNESS.

Meditation may not be the best place for you to do it on the bus or metro. It is possible, however, to practice mindfulness anywhere and at any time.

Pocket Mindfulness provides some excellent suggestions, such as observing nature carefully or considering the significance of five things you usually don't notice. Writing in a journal is another beneficial activity. It might surprise you what you discover if you just start writing down your thoughts.

9. ENROLL IN AN ONLINE COURSE.

"By enrolling in an online course, you may boost your commute productivity to new heights," writes Abby

Miller for Calendar. "This method only works for people who spend a significant amount of time on the go."

"Because you must be completely focused, or you will not learn anything," adds Abby. "You may discover a new skill by taking a half-hour session every day for a month!"

In fact, it's not uncommon for people to learn something new during their commute. For many, 30 minutes or an hour of commuting is the perfect amount of time to learn and practice.

10. DEVELOP YOUR PERSONAL BRAND.

Today, it is more important than ever before to have a strong and up-to-date personal brand. During your commute, brainstorm how you want your image to be perceived.

During your commute, you can:

- Make updates to your portfolio or website.
- Ensure that your LinkedIn profile is up-to-date.
- Clean up any old posts on your social media profiles.
- Get in touch with your old and new connections.
- Make a list of networking events you would like to attend.
- Respond to connection requests and cold emails.

11. KEEP A RECORD OF YOUR THOUGHTS.

"You can always listen to books and podcasts," Shawn Porat, serial entrepreneur, advisor, and angel investor, tells Forbes. "However, I find that an even better way to make use of long drives is to use Google Voice or a voice assistant such as Alexa to dictate."

You can brainstorm, plan a business strategy, or make to-do lists during your commute. It is even possible to dictate emails or blog posts. "While talking on the phone, even hands-free is distracting, I find it's easier to keep my focus on driving if it's just me talking," he adds. "Even if I don't have a specific task to complete, this is a good way to clarify my thoughts and come up with new ideas. This is a way to turn driving time into something creative and productive."

12. GET CAUGHT UP ON TEXTS AND EMAILS.

You can use your commute time to catch up on texts and emails if your

work is overflowing with them. Getting swept up in emails and texts is both easy and overwhelming. Because each message represents another demand on their time and attention, employees feel anxious and overwhelmed. They often feel stressed even when they ignore emails, and both cause their attention to be pulled away from their actual work.

In short, you're less likely to get overwhelmed if you schedule a few hours every day to keep your inbox in check. So, go ahead and spend an hour crossing off your emails and texts in the morning and in the evening on your way home. As a result, you may find life at home and work less stressful.

13. EXERCISE.

A study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine found that commuters who walk or bike to work have lower blood pressure, triglycerides, and insulin levels than those who drive.

There may also be an improvement in your work. Among British employees, exercise days were associated with higher productivity than non-exercise days, according to a study out of Leeds Metropolitan University in the U.K.

For example, if you live close enough, consider biking to work — even if it's once a week. You may also want to consider getting off a few stops earlier for a bonus 15-minute stroll if you take the bus or subway.

14. TALK TO YOURSELF.

A study conducted at Bangor University, showed that talking out loud improved subjects' ability to learn and successfully complete tasks. Twenty-eight participants in the study were given a set of written instructions for a task. Those who read the instructions out loud showed significantly better results. "Our results demonstrated that, even if we talk to ourselves to gain control during challenging tasks, performance substantially improves when we do it out loud," wrote one researcher.

15. KEEP IN TOUCH WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS.

You probably don't have much time for friends and family but remember you have a long commute to contend with. Having a positive conversation with friends or checking in with your nieces or nephews will give you a more positive outlook and help you forget about the long journey home.

As Williams and Hill suggest, socializing with friends and family can lead to a more positive life commute. Seriously, give it a try, and you'll be amazed at how much more enriching your commute home will be.

16. IDENTIFY AND BRAINSTORM SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

Being an entrepreneur means you're probably dealing with a lot of problems. Finding the right solution can be time-consuming and stressful. And, even worse, the stress can hamper your creativity.

You get a chance to relax and think

creatively while you commute. Further, the biggest problem you need to solve that day can be discussed without interruptions from your team or customers.

17. DO A PUZZLE.

The brain loves puzzles, regardless of whether they are sudoku or cryptic crosswords. The exercises strengthen brain connections, improve mental speed, and improve short-term memory. Aside from that, they're loads of fun and easy to pick up and drop off.

Consider packing a puzzle book for your commute and watch how other parts of your life improve as a result. Or, if you prefer, you can visit Jigsaw Plant or download an app like Lumosity on your phone.

18. ORGANIZE YOUR PHONE.

Whether it's apps, notifications, pictures, or videos, your phone gets clogged with so much information. However, as our phones become cluttered, our minds also become cluttered.

As such, get rid of notifications for things you don't need during your commute. If you no longer need any pictures or screenshots, you should also delete them. Also, remove any apps you don't use.

It is also a good idea to clean out the files and folders on your phone during your commute as well.

19. GET AHEAD OF YOUR WORK (FINALLY).

Let's be honest. It's impossible to complete all your work in a day. Thankfully, while riding a train or bus, you may have the chance to read or think while you ride. And you might even be able to get a head start on some of your work.

For example, you can outline reports, prepare meeting agendas or presentations, pay bills, or schedule your team. It's also a good time to catch up on all those industry-related articles you haven't been reading.

20. KEEP A RECORD OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS.

Keeping track of your accomplishments is just as important as setting goals. The purpose of this? To boost both motivation and confidence. You will feel proud and motivated to keep moving forward when you see your progress.

In the words of Invajy, "Achievements of today are the stepping stones for the future ones."

21. DON'T DO ANYTHING.

To recharge your brain, sometimes you need to take a break. After all, most entrepreneurs spend most of their days reading, listening, thinking, and interacting with others.

Sometimes you just have to put down your phone, turn off the music, and close the book. Don't do anything. Simply sit there and embrace the moment.

The article was originally published by Entrepreneur

Some People Have Given 'Supari' To Dent My Image: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said some people are hellbent to sully his image and they have given a "supari" (contract) for this purpose colluding with certain people sitting in India and also outside the country.

Modi's veiled attack on Congress comes amid a slugfest between the Grand Old Party and BJP over Rahul Gandhi's "democracy under brutal attack in India" remarks in the UK and Germany taking note of Rahul's disqualification from Lok Sabha. The BJP has accused the Congress of "inviting foreign

powers" for interfering in India's internal matters.

The prime minister was addressing a gathering at Rani Kamalapati railway station after flagging off the semi-high-speed Bhopal-Delhi Vande Bharat Express train.

"There are some people in our country who have been determined since 2014, spoken publicly and declared their resolve that they will tarnish Modi's image. For this, they have given 'supari' (contract) to various people.

"Some people are sitting inside the country to support these people and some are doing their work sitting outside the country. These people have been

continuously trying to spoil and tarnish Modi's image," he said.

But India's poor, the middle class, tribals, Dalits, backward classes and every Indian has become the security cover of Modi, which made these people furious forcing them to adopt new tricks, he said.

Modi said such people have taken a pledge that "Modi Teri Kabra Khudegi".

"Amidst their conspiracies, every countryman has to pay attention to the development of the country and pay attention to building the nation," he said.

Slamming Congress without taking its name, Modi said previous governments were busy

with vote bank appeasement whereas his government is busy satisfying people.

"They (the previous governments) considered one family as the first family of the country. They ignored the poor and middle class, and the Railway is a living example of this (ignorance)," he said.

The prime minister also expressed deep grief over the stepwell roof collapse tragedy in a temple in Indore which killed 36 people and injured 16 on Ram Navami.

As Germany took note of Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from Lok Sabha, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Thursday thanked the German foreign

ministry and Richard Walker, Chief International Editor of Deutsche Welle, for "taking note of how the Democracy is being compromised in India through the persecution of Rahul Gandhi".

Sharing a screenshot of Digvijaya Singh's tweet, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju had said, "Thank you Rahul Gandhi for inviting foreign powers for interference into India's internal matters. Remember, Indian Judiciary can't be influenced by foreign interference. India won't tolerate 'foreign influence' anymore because our Prime Minister is:- Shri @narendramodiji".

Saddar Treasury Srinagar Gives Warm Farewell To Mir Anayat Hussain, Bashir Ahmad Wani

Srinagar: Saddar Treasury, Srinagar gave a warm send-off to the staff member of the Saddar Treasury Office, Mir Anayat Hussain and Bashir Ahmad Wani, who attained superannuation March 31.



The Treasury Officer of the Saddar Treasury Syed Shabir Ahmad, Basharat Ahmad Zargar, Hilal Ahmad Kalla, Bilal Ahmad, Mubashir Hussain, Sanjay Kumar, Mir Umar, and others were present at the farewell event. On this occasion, the Treasury Officer of the Saddar Treasury Srinagar, Syed Shabir, congratulated him on the successful completion of his active service. He also highlighted his zeal and dedication towards his work.

He added that his punctuality and commitment towards the office will continue to inspire him and wished retiree a very happy and fulfilling post-retirement life. At the end of the function, Basharat Zargar extended the vote of thanks on behalf of the staff to all the staff members and guests who attended the function.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Tax Collections

Of Rs 892.56 crore as Revenue Receipt on account of loss of revenue arising out of implementation of GST during 2021-22.

"Further, it also received Rs 3,845.49 crore debt during 2021-22 (total debt of Rs 5,945.29 crore as on 31 March 2022) as back-to-back loan from the central government in lieu of GST compensation, which would not be treated as debt of the Government of J&K for any norms which may be prescribed by the Finance Commission as per the decision of Department of Expenditure, Government of India," it said.

The CAG said the non-tax revenue receipts increased by 18.74 per cent during 2021-22 with respect to the previous year and major increase was under power, water supply and sanitation, Education, Sports, Art and Culture and Police, while medium irrigation and non-ferrous mining and metallurgical Industries showed a decline in receipt with respect to the previous year.

Receipt under Education, Sports, Art and Culture increased by 1,047.16 per cent during 2021-22 with respect to 2020-21, due to remittance of Rs 461.61 crore by Chief Accounts Officer (CAO) Samagra Shiksha J&K on account of salary of teachers, the report said.

It, however, said the collection under own resources fell short by 32.42 per cent of Budget Estimates.

"The UT Government could not achieve its own targets for own tax revenue and own non-tax revenue in the Budget Estimates. Own Tax Revenue fell short by 28.07 per cent and Non tax revenue fell short by 41.03 per cent of budget estimates," it said.

It said the UT's own resources (Own Tax Revenue and Own Non-Tax Revenue) of Rs 16,547.73 crore during the year 2021-22 was 36.77 percent of committed expenditure (salaries and wages, interest payments and pension) of Rs 45,000.95 crore for the year 2021-22.

Flags Incomplete

"...397 capital works having original estimated cost of Rs 1,518.66 crore, taken up by four departments (viz Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Jammu (61 works) and Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Kashmir (216 work), Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu (119) and Mechanical Engineering Department Kashmir (one) targeted to be completed during the period 2012-13 to 2014-15 and 2017-18 to 2021-22 were incomplete at the end of the year 2021-22," the CAG said.

It said the cumulative expenditure of Rs 1,095.52 crore incurred on these incomplete works got blocked.

Giving the breakup, the report said one project was sanctioned in 2012-13, two in 2013-14, nine in 2014-15, two in 2017-18, five in 2018-19, 85 in 2019-20, 203 in 2020-21 and 90 in 2021-22 at a cumulative cost of Rs 1,518.66 crore.

The irrigation and flood control department, Jammu, made the highest expenditure of Rs 614.22 crore followed by Rs 246.95 crore by the Jal Shakti (PHE) department, Jammu, Rs 233.65 crore by the Jal Shakti (PHE) department, Kashmir, and Rs 70 lakh by the mechanical engineering department, Kashmir.

The CAG also pulled up the government for poor recovery of loans in the Union territory.

"During the year 2021-22, the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir disbursed loans and advances of Rs 73.77 crore and recovered loans and advances amounting to Rs 1.03 crore. Out of total loans disbursed during 2021-22 loans amounting to Rs 40.00 crore was disbursed to J&K Road Transport Corporation Limited (JKRTC) which already had outstanding loans of Rs 439.23 crore ending 31 March 2021 (Rs 383.73 crore received from erstwhile State and Rs 55.50 crore from UT of J&K)," the report said.

It said as per last audited accounts for the year 2018-19, JKRTC booked losses of Rs 117.62 crore.

"Recoveries of loans and advances are not forthcoming from loss-making public sector undertakings. No assessment about potential recoverability of these loans has been made in the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) statements," the CAG said.

It said the government had a total outstanding loans and advances of Rs 168.25 crore ending 31 March 2022.

"In addition, there were loans and advances of Rs 1,740.44 crore disbursed by the Government of erstwhile State which were

outstanding ending 30 October 2019 and were yet to be divided between Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh," the report said.

Centre Begins

full-fledged Statehood for Ladakh, constitutional safeguards under the 6th schedule of the Indian Constitution, early recruitment process & PSC for Ladakh and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts.

According to reports, a 30-member delegation of LAB initially met the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor Brig BD Mishra (Retired) in Leh and briefed him on a host of issues, including the four-point agenda.

Reports added that LG Mishra also met Union Home Secretary A K Bhalla in New Delhi and apprised him about the stand of the Ladakh parties.

Welcoming the move, BJP's Ladakh unit president, Phunchock Stanzin said that New Delhi was always ready for a dialogue but the apex bodies were not.

"It is a good move; all the demands will be addressed. I think a fresh dialogue will be initiated in the next few weeks," Stanzin said.

Earlier, the Leh region witnessed massive protests in January this year after top environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk announced a five-day long climate fast at 18,380 feet high Khardung La pass to invite attention of the BJP-led Centre to address the demands of Ladakhis.

It may be noted that on 3 January, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) constituted a high-powered committee headed by Minister of State Nityanand Rai to "ensure protection of land and employment" for the people of Ladakh.

However, the KDA and LBA in a joint meeting decided to stay away from the Centre's High Powered Committee (HPC).

MeT Predicts

Pahalgam 3.3mm, Kupwara 5.3mm, Kokernag 9.0mm, Gulmarg 3.4mm, Jammu 13.7mm, Banihal 7.8mm, Batote 14.1mm, Katra 12.8mm, Bhaderwah 13.8mm and Kathua 20.

Shah Urges N-E

had faced insurgency. This is an unprecedented example of the victory of India's democracy," he said.

Shah inaugurated the new Assam Rifles battalion headquarters complex in the state.

He said that the Northeast was suffering from insurgencies, lack of rail, road and air connectivity and there was "no trace of development" when the Modi government came to power at the Centre in 2014.

"In the last nine years, we have succeeded in bringing peace in Northeast, improved connectivity and brought the region at par with other parts of the country in terms of development," Shah said.

Noting that the Centre is dedicated to the development of the Northeast, he said the Modi government has increased budget allocation for the region by 276 per cent.

"The Union government is working towards connecting the state capitals of all the eight states with rail, road and air connectivity by 2025 with a project outlay of Rs 1,76,000 crore," he said.

The Union home minister said that since 2014, incidents of violence in the Northeast have dipped by 67 per cent, while deaths of security forces have reduced by 60 per cent and civilian deaths have gone down by 83 per cent.

"Around 8,000 militants in the region have

surrendered since 2014. We have signed a peace agreement with NLFT in Tripura in 2019, rehabilitated 37,000 Brus in Tripura, and brought peace in Assam by signing the Bodo Accord in 2020 and a peace agreement in Karbi Anglong in 2022. Also, there has been a 70 per cent reduction of areas under the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958," he said.

Noting that Mizoram's economy grew by 12.15 per cent in the last decade, especially under the leadership of Chief Minister Zoramthanga, Shah said the Centre will explore possibilities of investment in the tourism, bamboo and solar energy sectors in the state.

He said the Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project will connect Mizoram with Myanmar and bring about economic growth in the northeastern state.

Grand Mufti Fixes

down-trodden, poor, destitute, orphans, homeless and not to Masjid, Shrines, Khanqahs or any religious organisation.

Mufti Nasir-ul Islam said that the Fitr amount should reach the deserving people ahead of Eid so that they too can celebrate the festival along with others.

He said the Fitr amount was fixed after consensus with the Ulema from Kashmir and Jammu region respectively that include head of Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, patron of Darul Uloom Raheemiya Bandipora, Maulana Rehmatullah Qasimi, Mufti Nazir Ahmed Qasmi, Mufti Muzaffar, Mufti Abdur Raheem of Baramulla, Khateeb at the shrine of Hazrat Naqshband Sahab (RA) Prof Muhammad Tayib Kamili, Chairman Karwani-e-Islami Ghulam Rasool Hami, from Sautul Awliya Fayaz Ahmed Rizvi, Shia ulema Aga Syed Hassan al Musavi, Aga Syed Hadi al Musavi and Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari besides Muhammad Yaseen Kirmani, Mufti Himayon, Shabir Ahmed Geelani, Abdul Hameed Nayeemi, Maulana Younus and Abdur Rehman Ashrafi from Qazigund. From Jammu, clerics who were part of the consensus include Mufti Nazir Ahmed, Mufti Shabir Ahmed Noori, Qari Ali Hussain, Haji Muhammad Shafi Nasri, Mufti Liaquat Ali Rajouri, Master Ashraf from Kathua, Maulana Muzaffar Hussain Rizvi from Jammu, Maulana Shafi Rizvi from Samba, Mufti Muhammad Iqbal from Poonch, Hafiz Syed Yasir from Udhampur, Bashir Ahmed Qadri from Reasi and Haji Muhammad Tariq from Jammu

them expressed willingness to identify the accused. Since some of the accused were not present in the court, the identification was deferred till next hearing," Kohli, who is also senior additional advocate general, told PTI.

She said the cross-examination of the other eye-witness was completed but he expressed his inability to identify the accused.

The special TADA court has already framed charges separately against the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief and several others in this case, as well as another related to the abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, by his group in 1989.

While the charges were framed against Malik and six others on March 16, 2020 in the killing of four IAF personnel, the court has framed the charges against Malik and nine others in the 1989 abduction case of Rubaiya on January 11 last year.

Malik was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in April 2019 in connection with a terror funding case, a month after his group was banned by the central government.

SKUAST-K To Take

recommended the introduction of the Subordinate Accounts Course (SAC) part-I and II to ensure efficiency and quality in the accounts wing of both the Jammu and Kashmir chapter of the SKUAST.

"The HR function of the universities was far from satisfactory and was plagued by irregular appointments, favouritism and inadmissible financial up-gradations. Relaxing the minimum standards for appointments and promotions of teachers compromised the quality of teaching and research in the universities," the CAG said in its latest report on compliance audit for the year ending March 31, 2021.

Selected Haj Pilgrims

Banking System by using unique Bank Reference Number in the Specified Pay - in slip

for facilitating growth and development, it said.

World class national highways, expressways, tunnels, bridges, flyovers, ring roads are coming up, Jammu and Kashmir's rail link is expected to be connected to the national network during 2023 and airports are also being upgraded, it said.

Regarding power generation capacity, the report said the same is likely to be doubled in four years and tripled in the next eight years.

In the education sector the indicators have shown notable improvement, the report said.

As far as the tourism sector is concerned, it said that Jammu and Kashmir is developing 75 new tourist destinations, 75 heritage and cultural sites, 75 sufiism and religious sites and 75 adventure treks and sites attracting potential for all the four seasons in the areas of nature, adventure, pilgrimage, heritage and sports.

Empowerment of panchayati raj institutions is proving a game changer, the report said.

Under the PMAY(G), 30,381 families (1.14 lakh cumulative) were provided financial assistance for construction of pucca houses and numerous water bodies were rejuvenated under AmritSaravars scheme.

The chief secretary called the document a true account of "what we have achieved during the financial year".

Absence Of Accused

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Banking System by using unique Bank Reference Number in the Specified Pay - in slip

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

CJ Reviews Functioning, Infra Of District Court Ganderbal

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Chief Justice High Court, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh on Saturday visited the District Court Complex Ganderbal and reviewed functioning of the court besides taking stock of infrastructural facilities there.

Chief Justice was accompanied by Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Administrative Judge District Court Ganderbal.

On arrival, Chief Justice was given guard of honour by District Police Ganderbal.

Chief Justice and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi visited all court rooms and observed proceedings of cases. They also visited the office of District

facilities in the court.

Chief Justice also reviewed the progress on land acquisition for new Court Complex.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal informed the Chief Justice that 40 kanal of land has already been identified and will be transferred after completion of codal formalities.

Chief Justice directed the Chief Engineer, R&B to keep DPR ready as per revenue site plan so that work on new Court complex could be started at an earliest once land get transferred to the law department.

Later, Chief Justice and Administrative Judge of District Ganderbal, chaired a separate meeting of District Bar Association Ganderbal who apprised them of several issues con-



Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal and front office DLSA Ganderbal, and gave certain on spot directions to Judicial Officers and Police Department.

While interacting with the Judicial Officers and Administrative Officers, Chief Justice said that the purpose of visiting this district court complex was to assess the basic infrastructure issues here as courts are important public institutions and needs basic facilities including court rooms, enhanced e-court facilities, facilities for lawyers, public and litigants to function properly. He issued several directions for further streamlining of infrastructural

fronting them while discharging their legitimate duties and the Chief Justice has assured them all genuine issues will be looked into priority.

Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, M.K Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Ritesh Kumar Dubey, Principal District and Sessions Judge Ganderbal, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Registrar Judicial Srinagar, Rafiq Ahmad Rafiq, Chief Engineer, R&B, Shayimber Singh, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Judicial Officers, Nikhil Borkar, SP Ganderbal, civil officers and Bar Members were also present.

Teen Girl Drowned, Two Rescued In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A young woman drowned while her two cousin sisters were rescued after they allegedly jumped into a river in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, police said on Saturday.

The girls had left their home in Jandrola village on Friday to offer prayers at a shrine but did not return, a police official said.

He said a search operation was launched following which

the body of Asiya Kousar (18) was recovered from a river near S K Bridge late Friday night, while two others who were rescued from the water body were shifted to a hospital.

Police have registered a case and further investigation is on, the official said, adding preliminary investigations suggested that the girls were not happy with their families and allegedly jumped into the river to end their lives.

Dir Horticulture Led Team Visits Orchard Infected Areas In Baramulla, Bandipora

Assesses Extent Of Damage Caused By Infestation



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A team of Horticulture Department Saturday visited to several areas in district Baramulla and Bandipora in light of reports of infestation of insects damaging the blossom in apple orchards.

The team was headed by Mr. G. R. Mir (JKAS), Director Horticulture Kashmir, accompanied by Mr. Zahoar Ahmad Bhat, Joint Director Horticulture, three other experts from the Department of Horticulture besides experts from SKUAST, Kashmir.

The purpose of the visit was to identify and assess the extent of the damage caused by the infestation and to determine the appropriate measures that can be taken to mitigate its impact on the apple orchards.

The team inspected various affected orchards in Kreeri area of district Baramulla and Asham area of district Bandipora and took stock of the severity of the pest. Speaking on the occasion Director Hor-

ticulture advised the farmers never to miss any of the spray recommended by the Department/SKUST-K. He emphasized on the orchardists to have a close liaison with the Department for better management of the pest.

The experts accompanying the Director identified the insect on spot as Leaf Roller, also called fireworm. The insect damages the blossom of the apple fruit crop thus reducing fruit set and subsequent fruit yield. The orchardists were given on spot advisory to spray Thiacloprid @ 40ml/100 litre of water or Chlorpyrifos @ 100 ml/100litre of water. The Ad-hoc advisory in this regard will follow.

Director also visited the Pesticide Testing Laboratory (PTL), Kreeri and took stock of its functioning. He also visited Fruit Plant Nursery Pattan where he took stock of various developmental activities and thoroughly deliberated on all the management practices being carried out.



A FRUIT SELLER ROWS HIS BOAT inside Srinagar's Dal Lake on a rainy Saturday evening
KOPHOTO, ABID BHAT

36000 Pilgrims From J&K Performed Umrah In Last 7 Months

Agencies

SRINAGAR: At least 36000 from Jammu & Kashmir performed Umrah since September 2022 till this Ramadan, indicating 50 per cent increase of pilgrims compared to last year in the Union Territory, J&K Association of Haj & Umrah Companies (JKAHUC) said on Saturday.

General Secretary of the association, Muhammad Younis Bhat said that the tour operations have suffered a loss of Rs 5-6 lakh each this Ramadan as they were expecting a huge flow of pilgrims for Umrah in this holy month.

"However, the rush of pilgrims remained less, especially due to the March session for students announced by the government. The tour operators had already booked the blocks of airlines in advance, but as the rush was not up to the expectations, the bookings had to be cancelled and thus lead to the losses of Rs 5-6 lakh each to the tour operators," he said.

He added that at least 36,000 people from across J&K performed Umrah since September 2022 till this Ramadan while 34000 among them are from Kashmir division, adding that the number of pilgrims has increased nearly 50 per cent compared to last year.

The General Secretary further stated that earlier there was only one airline, Air India, available for the pilgrims, but the association played a key role in ensuring an increase in the number of airlines and now three airlines including Air India, Indigo and Spicejet are available for the pilgrims.

During the winters, the tour operators were facing losses, but this year, there has been rescheduling of the flight operations as the flights are connected unlike previous years, he said, adding that the Indigo

earned highest amongst the three.

However, he appealed to the airlines to drop the pilgrims at Terminal 3 where the people from J&K get facilities.

Besides, the association also demanded immigration point at Srinagar international airport, saying that the process should be completed for pilgrims at Srinagar airport.

Reacting to the chaos over package for Umrah, he said that the main reason behind such an issue is the lack of coordination between the people and the tour operators, adding that the people have been demanding the cheapest package, thus the tour operators couldn't manage things with just a meagre amount. "There are three types of packages with tour operators made available at the association level, but people have been seeking cheapest packages, which becomes very difficult for a tour operator to manage the things and ensure proper arrangements for the pilgrim. The pilgrim should check each and everything while fixing the package and the tour operator too should make the things clear to the pilgrim so that there is no confusion among them," he said.

He further said that three packages are available, which include for 15 days, 21-22 days and one month, adding that most of the pilgrims opt for 21-22 days package.

About the upcoming Haj, the General Secretary of JKAHUC, said that the pilgrims must check the past history of the tour operators before fixing the package. He also said that there would be no increase in the amount payable for Hajj this year and the lowest package for a pilgrim will be Rs 6,50,000 like last year.

Asked about the video of

Hajis that went viral after they faced issues in Saudi, he said that there was no fault of the tour operators here, but it was because of the hotel that they faced hardships.

Moreover, he said that the pilgrims going for Umrah should prepare themselves for a 5-6 day stay at Medina as the erstwhile trend of staying for 40 prayers will come to an end as the rates have increased manifold.

The General Secretary further appealed people not to go after the low package and ensure proper check of facilities being provided to him/her while discussing the package.

"The pilgrims should be ready to accept the orders being issued by Saudi Arabia. The norms in Saudi are to be followed and people should be aware about it. They should be aware about economic class and deluxe class packages," he said and appealed to the tour operators to make things clear to the Hajis and ensure proper signature of the pilgrims while divulging the details.

Pilgrims are advised to attend orientation programmes to get aware about the facts, he said, adding that the people from Kashmir staying in Saudi Arabia should not add fuel to any situation, especially when there is any misunderstanding or any issue is taking place with the pilgrims.

He further said that the association has ensured accountability. "The cheating issues have taken place in the past, but we have been ensuring accountability. If there is any such complaint, the matter is being investigated thoroughly. There is no such case in the past three-four years, because the association has been playing key role and the people should meet us in case of any such complaint," he said—(KNO)

Lawyer Seeks Details Of Amount Spent On Gujarati Conman

Also Complaint Filed Against Him In Court For Cheating Srinagar Resident Of Rs 18L

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A Srinagar-based lawyer has filed an application under RTI, seeking total amount spent on accommodation, transportation and other expenses on the alleged conman from Gujarat, Patel Kiran Bhai.

In the application, addressed to Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, the lawyer, Aamir Masoodi, has also sought details of the concerned department who paid the whole amount on behalf of Patel Kiran Bhai on his last two visits to Kashmir valley prior to his arrest last month.

Meanwhile, a local resident from Rambagh, Srinagar has filed a complaint before a court here, seeking direction to SHO Police station Kothi Bagh here to register an FIR against Patel for defrauding him of Rs 18 Lakh as share amount in a company. According to the complaint filed through advocate Masoodi, Patel revealed his name as Chetan Prakash

resident of Begumpur, North West Delhi and projected himself as managing partner at the particular company dealing in areca nuts.

The resident of Rambagh has alleged that he paid Rs.18 lakhs in different installments following the interactions with Patel at Pratap Park Srinagar and at a restaurant in Srinagar last year.

Pertinently, the Government on Wednesday last ordered inquiry into the various aspects related to the visits of "Shri Kiran Patel" who conned the security establishment in J&K into believing him to be a PMO official and enjoyed five star protocol "brazenly" for a considerable period of time prior to his arrest.

The inquiry is being conducted by Divisional Commissioner Srinagar and he is re-

quired to submit a report within a week.

Patel was on his third visit to the Kashmir Valley when he was nabbed by security officials from a five-star hotel in Nishat area of Srinagar on March 2.

As per the police report, Patel has prima facie forged and manufactured some documents including some visiting cards on the basis of which he has defrauded not only a single or group of person but "extremely elevated class of the society including high officials of the civil administration and police authorities." At the end of the day, the police said, Patel succeeded in getting Z Category Security, bullet proof vehicle and enjoyed five star protocol "brazenly" for a considerable period of time. (GNS)

Kumar Reviews Progress On Wandhama Transit Accommodation

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Principal Secretary, ARI & Trainings, Ashok Kumar Parmar on Saturday visited Ganderbal and took stock of developmental scenario in the district.

Principal Secretary convened a joint meeting with DDCs, PRI members and district officers to get first hand appraisal of their concerns, grievances and development issues. He also sought feedback on status of various developmental issues.

The meeting was attended by DDC Chairperson, Nuzhat Ishfaq, ADDC, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; CPO, ACP, DDC mem-

ing/dredging of all necessary canals where ever required at an earliest so that irrigation facilities are improved across the district.

While interacting with the PRIs, Principal Secretary said that purpose of visiting district Ganderbal was to assess the issues and developmental needs of the people. He assured an early action on issues highlighted during the meeting.

He also gave necessary instructions to the officers for conducting regular field visits for proper and timely monitoring of works.

Earlier, Chief Planning Officer, Irfan Giri, presented a de-



bers, BDCs, Sarpanchs, Panchs and other district officers.

During the meeting, DDCs, BDCs and other PRI members highlighted various development issues pertaining to their areas. They demanded early completion of Lari Preng Water Supply Scheme, desilting of Bab Canal, upgradation of High School at Sherpathri, beautification of Nallah Sindh, adequate staff in RDD especially engineering wing, timely completion of Guzhama Bridge and other related issues.

While reviewing progress on Lari Preng scheme, Principal Secretary directed the Executive Engineer R&B for ensuring timely completion of the project besides supply of portable water supply to consumers across the district.

Regarding desilting of Bab Canal, Executive Engineer, I&FC was directed to ensure desilt-

tailed development scenario of the district.

Later, Ashok Kumar inspected progress on various ongoing development works including Transit Accommodation Wandhama, BDC building Gangerhama and Wayil bridge.

While visiting Transit Accommodation Wandhama, Ashok Kumar reviewed the readiness of the apartments being constructed for the Kashmiri migrant employees. He also enquired about the progress on other works including water facilities, electricity, waste disposal, landscaping, inner roads, fencing, transport, and other allied facilities.

During field visit, Principal Secretary passed necessary instructions to the executing agencies for timely completion of these vital projects in the district without compromising with the quality.

'AMRIT KAAL BUDGET'

Govt Aims To Create Strong Ecosystem Focusing On Rural-Urban Partnership With Rs 7097 Cr Funds

4041 Amrit Sarovars To Be Completed, 10000 SHGs Formed, Metro Rail In Jammu, Srinagar To Be Realized

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has allocated a substantial funding of Rs 7097cr in budget 2023-24 to develop a strong ecosystem for the cities, focusing on urban-rural partnership, enhancing market and business opportunities, job creation, filling gaps in education system and ensuring sustainable economic development in rural and urban pockets of the Union Territory.

The implementation of Panchayat Development Index helps in developing and replicating best practices that drive improvement across the socio-economic themes of Panchayats under newly approved Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP).

The identified Panchayats are given special focus to saturate inclusive development schemes which would serve as model Panchayats, an official said. He added the J&K government has selected the most backward 285 Panchayats (One Panchayat per Block) under APDP for holistic development.

The Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Development Index-2022 helps in rating, assessing and analyzing the performance and level of development of various municipalities/ towns of the UT. The urban reform incentive fund is meant for providing reform linked assistance to the ULBs of the UT based on the performance as per the benchmarks prescribed under The Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Development Index-2022.

The Budget has also been earmarked to declare all the villages and ULBs Open Defecation Free plus status (ODF plus).

Notably, Several Municipal Councils and Municipal Committees of Jammu division have self-declared as Open Defecation Free plus status after complying with all bye-laws and development done in Municipal limits as per the Swachh

Bharat Mission norms. Under initiative of "Har Gaon Ek Amrit Sarovar", 4041 Amrit Sarovars have been identified, out of which, 2420 have been completed and remaining will be completed before 15th of August 2023. The dream of elevated light Metro Rail in Capital Cities of Jammu and Kashmir will also be realized in this year's budget.

The government has also earmarked funds for new Townships and Housing Colonies for economically weaker sections (low income group/Middle Income group at Jammu and Srinagar.

To empower and facilitate the marketing of products of women entrepreneurs, the government will establish Ladies HAAT and Ladies Exclusive Markets in Jammu, Srinagar and other Major Towns besides creation of EKTA Malls.

Meanwhile, Rs 50 crore have been earmarked for Samridh Seema Yojana for development of Border Areas.

To provide employment avenues and handhold youth in setting up their enterprises, 10,000 further SHGs to be formed with the Budget of 2023-24.

The government has also allocated funds for constitution of 1500 new Panchayat Ghars to be constructed under "Har Panchayat-Panchayat Ghar" initiative for smooth implementation of welfare programmes of Government at grassroot level besides Rs 1313 crore provided for PRIs and ULBs Rs 271.25 crore for DDCs/BDCs.

Similarly, according to the Budget document, 40,000 new houses for houseless families under PMAY-G would be constructed, 18934 dwelling units to be completed under PMAY-U and New 87,350 IHHLs and 2500 CSCs to be constructed. For restoration and conservation of Dal Lake, Sewage Management of Dal Lake to be accomplished with installation of 89.83 MLD STPs meant for benefiting 6, 20,565 people. Besides, elevated light Metro Rail in Capital Cities of Jammu and Kashmir to be rolled out.

Downtown Heroes Take On Mumbai City At TRC Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC is all set to take on Mumbai City FC (Reserves) in the 2nd Division League (also known as I-League 2) today, Sunday, April 2, at Synthetic Turf TRC here. The match is slated for a 3:30 PM kick off.



The 2nd Division League is the third tier of professional Indian football, with the Indian Super League and the I-League forming the top two. Downtown Heroes are the only football club from J&K participating in the

league, having earned their spot through the Qualifiers round.

Mumbai is currently last in the five-team Group A table, taking one point from their two games. The Heroes are above them in fourth, with three points from three.

Sunday's fixture is a must-win for Downtown Heroes if they

want to climb the Group A table. With only the top two teams going through to the I-League 2 Final round, the Srinagar-based club will hope veteran head coach Hilal Rasool Parray will inspire the Heroes to victory.

J&K Women Lose 13-0 In Senior Football Nationals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K women's football team was hammered 13-0 by Chhattisgarh in the 27th Senior Women's National Football Championship 2022-23 on Saturday at Pant Stadium in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh.

J&K's embarrassing defeat was their third in a row in the championship, after losing 6-0 to Madhya Pradesh in the opening match and 5-0 against Delhi on March 29.

The Chhattisgarh women completely dominated the J&K women, scoring nine goals in the first half. The goals came in the 8th, 10th, 16th, 27th, 31st, 33rd, 43rd, 45th and 45+3 minutes.



Chhattisgarh added four more goals in the second half, with the goals coming in the 55th, 58th, 63rd and 90+3 minutes of the match.

Led by head coach Fayaz Ahmad Shah, the J&K women will now need to regroup, pick themselves up and start afresh as they next play Jharkhand on April 4.



DC'S KHALEEL AHMAD CELEBRATES after taking the wicket of LSG's Marcus Stoinis (not in picture). LSG went on to post a strong total of 193/6. Kyle Mayers top-scored for the team with his 73 (38).

Punjab Kings Defeat KKR By Seven Runs On DLS Method

Press Trust of India

MOHALI: Punjab Kings defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by seven runs on Duckworth Lewis method after heavy rain stopped the proceedings in their IPL season opener, here on Saturday.

Batting first, Punjab Kings scored 191/5 riding on a half-century from Sri Lankan Bhanuka Rajapaksa, who smashed 50 off 32 balls and skipper Shikhar Dhawan, who contributed 40 from 29 deliveries.

In reply, KKR were 146 for 7 in 16 overs when heavens opened up.

The DLS par score for KKR after losing seven wickets in 16

overs was 153 and they were seven runs short. The dismissal of dangerous Andre Russell (35 off 19 balls) in the 15th over by Sam Curran (1/38) and Arshdeep Singh removing Venkatesh Iyer (34 off 28 balls) in the very next over tilted the par score for Punjab Kings.

Brief Scores: Punjab Kings 191/5; 20 overs (Bhanuka Rajapaksa 50, Shikhar Dhawan 40; Tim Southee 2/54) b Kolkata Knight Riders 146/7; 16 overs (Andre Russell 35, Venkatesh Iyer 34; Arshdeep Singh 3/19) by seven runs on DLS Method.



Right Knee Injury May Cut Short Williamson's IPL Stint

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: New Zealand captain Kane Williamson's further participation in the ongoing IPL has been put under doubt due to a right knee injury that he suffered during his team's winning effort against Chennai Super Kings here.

The 32-year-old got injured following a nasty fall while fielding on the boundary during the CSK innings. He had limped off the field in the 13th over on Friday. The extent of his injury is not yet known, but going by what was seen on Friday night, it did not seem a minor injury.

Williamson, who was making his Gujarat Titans debut, inter-

cepted a ball headed for a possible six off CSK opener Rituraj Gaikwad's bat. He managed to palm the ball into the field of play before it bounced onto the boundary ropes. But he fell awkwardly on the ground and clutched his right knee in pain.

He was taken off after receiving on-field treatment and did not come back to bat with B Sai Sudharshan coming in as a substitute fielder first and later he took Williamson's place in the Titans playing XI under the Impact Player rule.

An IPL source told PTI that there is little chance for Williamson to take further part in the IPL though the assessment of his injury is still going on. "Williamson will probably require ACL reconstruction and could be out of competitive cricket for indefinite period of time," said the IPL source.

Titans captain Hardik Pandya had said at the post-match press conference that he did not know how serious was the injury.

"It is knee (injury) for sure but I don't have any update about what exactly has happened. I don't know how serious the injury is and how much time it will take (to heal). Right now there is no time frame," Pandya said.

"I had just messaged him. He (Williamson) has gone for the scans, once he comes back after the scans and doctors check (on him), then only we will be able to know what exactly it is." In Auckland, New Zealand head coach Gary Stead said Williamson's injury was a big blow to the national team.

"Our first thoughts are obviously with him, we're not sure at this stage of the severity of the injury. He's being assessed in the next 24-48 hours, so we will know more after that," said Stead, who had spoken to Williamson since the incident and found him in "OK" spirits.

"All we know at this stage is it's his right knee. Unfortunately I can't give you much more than that now until we find out more information," Stead was quoted as saying by www.stuff.co.nz.

"It's not nice to see anyone, let alone your captain of your white ball team, being injured. It's a big blow for him, and it's a big blow for us." In case Williamson is ruled out, the Titans will ask for a replacement. The probable candidates could be senior Australia batter Steve Smith, who is currently doing IPL commentary, and Sri Lankan captain Dasun Shanaka, who is a handy all-rounder.



Ramazan Kargam

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