

J&K To Have American Type Road Infrastructure In Coming Years: Gadkari Says Kashmir To Kanyakumari Dream Road To Complete By 2024

MAJID NABI

Srinagar: Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari Monday stated that Jammu and Kashmir will compete with the United States of America in terms of road infrastructure in the years to come. Minister also said the dream of having a highway from Kashmir to Kanyakumari will be realised by the beginning of the next year.

Interacting with the media at Lalit Grand Palace here after inspecting the ongoing work at Zojila Tunnel, Gadkari said Jammu and Kashmir will have 19 tunnels at a cost of Rs 25,000 crore while construction of 13.14 Kilometer long tunnel and approach road at a cost of Rs 6800 crore is in the progress. Elaborating, the Union Minister also said a 7.75 meters single tube, 2 lane tunnel will pass under Zojila between Ganderbal district in central Kashmir and Drass town of Kargil. "I am glad to announce that Jammu and Kashmir will



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

compete with the United States of America in terms of Road infrastructure in the upcoming years. Employment opportunities will increase manifold, while tourism will increase 2-3 times with the construction of Zojila Tunnel having a Smart Tunnel system with New Austrian Tunneling Method," he said. The Union Minister also said that Zojila tunnel is equipped with facilities like uninterrupted

power supply, CCTV, radio control and ventilation," said Gadkari. He said work on road development at a cost of Rs 1.25 crore under Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) is in progress; while work on five tunnels is on to reduce the travel time along Srinagar-Jammu national Highway. "Rs 6842 crore will be spent on making Mughal Road an all weather connected road. The Union government is making all out efforts to construct a road from Kashmir to Kanyakumari," Gadkari said. Gadkari said the dream of having a highway from Kashmir to Kanyakumari will be realised by the beginning of the next year. "Kashmir to Kanyakumari road was a dream for us. From Rohtang to Ladakh, four tunnels will be constructed. From Leh, we will come to Kargil and join Zojila and Z-Morh tunnels. "A new road will reduce distance between Delhi and Chennai by 1,312 kilometres. This dream will come true by the start of 2024," **More on P10**

will not only reduce travel time but will prove to be fuel efficient," he added.

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'Zojila Tunnel Historic, Highest In Asia'

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari along with a 13-member Parliamentary committee on Monday reviewed the construction work of the strategic Zojila tunnel, which will provide all-weather connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. While terming the tunnel historic, the minister said that the project is part of a dream to connect the Kashmir valley with Kanyakumari. The Union minister also announced that the Z-Morh tunnel, which connects Gagangir with Sonamarg and provides all-weather connectivity to the resort in the Ganderbal district of central Kashmir, will be inaugurated in October this year.

"This is a historic and important tunnel in the history of India. The tunnel length is supposed to be the highest in Asia," Gadkari told reporters after inspecting the work on the site at an altitude of over 11,500 feet. The Union minister led a 13-member delegation of the Parliamentary consultative committee to the ministry. The tunnel project through the mighty Zojila Pass at an altitude of 11,578 feet on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National highway is of strategic importance as the highway remains closed during winters due to heavy snowfall, cutting off the Ladakh region from Kashmir. The single-tube Zojila tunnel from Baital, in the Ganderbal district **More on P10**

Sharp Decline In RTI Applications In J&K

Findings Of CHRI Reveal 31 % RTI Receipts Less In 2021-22

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory recorded a sharp decline in the number of applications filed with different departments under the Right to Information Act-2005 in 2021-22, a report by a transparency panel said on Monday.

According to an analysis of the Central Information Commission (CIC) annual report for 2021-22 by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), Jammu and Kashmir administration reported a 31.44% decline in RTI applications received in 2021-22 as compared to 2020-21. "Among the UTs, Jammu and Kashmir reported a 31.44% decline in the number of RTI receipts in 2021-22 (1,099) as compared with the 2020-21 figure (1,603)," the CHRI said in its findings.

The CHRI findings further reveal that although Jammu & Kashmir reported only 94 RTI applications carried over from 2020-21, it was nevertheless a 683.33% increase over the 2019-20 figure (12 RTI applications).

The CHRI further said that J&K reported a **More on P10**

Identification Of Minorities

SC Gives J&K 'Last Opportunity' To Respond

Rajasthan, Telangana Also Asked To Submit Response In Six-Weeks

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday gave the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir six weeks to submit its response on the issue of identification of minorities at the state level, after the Centre pleaded for giving them a "last opportunity".

The states of Rajasthan and Telangana were also asked to submit their response within the stipulated time.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) K M Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, told a bench of Justices S K Kaul and A Amanullah that responses were still awaited from Rajasthan and Telangana. Part reply from Jammu and Kashmir was also awaited, he said.

He urged the bench to give them the last opportunity to furnish their responses.

The bench, while giving them six weeks to respond, said copy of its order be sent to the two states and the Union Territory informing them that the apex court will close the opportunity for accepting their responses if they fail to do so within the deadline.

The top court posted the matter for further hearing in July.

The apex court was hearing the pleas, including the one filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar

Upadhyay, which has sought directions for framing guidelines for identification of minorities at the state level, contending that Hindus are in minority in 10 states.

While hearing the matter on January 17, the apex court had expressed displeasure over six states and Union Territories (UTs), including Rajasthan and Telangana, not submitting their comments to the Centre on the issue of identification of minorities at the state level.

"We fail to appreciate why these states/Union Territories do not respond and thus give last opportunity to the central government to obtain the responses from them, failing which we will presume that they have nothing to say," it had said.

On January 17, Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, had referred to the status report filed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs which said that 24 states and six UTs have so far furnished their comments on the issue.

The status report, filed in the apex court in January, had said that comments from six states and UTs -- Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Lakshadweep, Rajasthan and Telangana -- were still awaited.

On November 22 last year, the Centre had told the top court that it has **More on P10**



Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari and J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha pose for a photograph after inspecting the ongoing work on the ambitious Zojila Tunnel project on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

J&K Reports 50 New Corona Cases

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported 50 fresh covid-19 cases while there was no death due to the virus during the last 24 hours, officials said on Monday.

They said that 32 cases were reported from Jammu division and 18 from Kashmir Valley, taking the overall tally to 480223. Among the cases, 174303 are from Jammu division and 305919 from Kashmir Valley.

Providing district wise details of the cases, they said 20 cases were reported from Jammu, nine from Pulwama, seven each from Samba, six from Srinagar, two each from Doda, Reasi, Kupwara and one each from Poonch and Baramulla.

There was no death either from Jammu division or Kashmir valley during the time. So far 4788 people have succumbed to the virus and among them include 2355 from Jammu division and 2433 from the Valley.

Besides, they said, 16 Covid-19 patients recovered during the last **More on P10**

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Iltija Demands Regular Passport For 10 Years

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija on Monday shot off a letter to the regional passport officer here, questioning the decision to issue her a country-specific passport for two years only, and demanding a regular passport for 10 years.

"As per rule 12 of the passport rules, duration of the passport has to be ten years. However, in my case it has been illegally curtailed to two years. In addition, the passport has been issued with an

endorsement that it's only valid for the UAE.

"Both these decisions have been taken in violation of the mandate of the Passport Act," Iltija wrote in her letter to the regional passport officer Davinder Kumar.

Last week, Iltija was issued a passport for a limited period of two years to allow her to study abroad despite an adverse report by the Crime Investigation Department of police.

The 35-year-old daughter of the former chief minister had moved **More on P10**

17 Graft Cases Filed By ACB In Last 3 Months

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Taking tough action against the government officials involved in malpractices, the Jammu & Kashmir Anti-corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered over 17 cases in the first three months of ongoing year against public servants for accepting bribes, besides their involvement in embezzlement of funds, disproportionate assets, and other cases.

According to official figures, the anti-graft body has registered only six cases in Jammu division, while 11 cases have been filed in Kashmir province—indicating



that the corruption in the Valley was much higher than the winter capital.

Three cases have been registered in Jammu city and one each in Udhampur, Doda and Rajouri districts. In the Valley, 7 cases have been registered in Srinagar, three in Anantnag and 1 in North Kashmir's Baramulla

district, the data revealed.

An official from the ACB told Kashmir Observer that the government has ordered a zero policy towards corruption and ACB was leaving no stone unturned to ensure the same.

"Whenever we receive any complaint, we keep the person anonymous and without wasting any time we ensure the person, if found guilty, is behind bars," the official said, wishing not to be named.

Last year the department registered 128 FIRs in J&K against the government officials, including 18 top revenue department **More on P10**

SHORT TAKES

RPF Officer Injured In SPO's Misfire

A Railway Protection Force (RPF) officer was injured in an accidental fire from an AK rifle of a Special Police Officer (SPO) at a railway station here, officials said on Monday. Identified as sub-inspector (SI) of the force, Sudhir Kumar Rai (48) was shifted to a hospital for treatment. He was injured due to an accidental fire from the rifle of SPO Harbajan Singh while crossing a foot-over bridge to exit the station after disembarking the Begumpura **More on P10**

Shooting Stones Block Banihal Highway

The traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway was suspended on Monday due to falling of stones from hillocks in Ramban district, officials said. The road was blocked at Chamalwas near Banihal town at 9.45 am, the officials said. The restoration work on the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, has not started yet, they said, adding the road clearance agency has moved its men and machinery to clear the debris.

LG Inspects Progress Of Yatri Niwas

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday conducted the on-site inspection of the construction work of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board's Office and Yatri Niwas at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar. The Lt Governor emphasized on accelerating the pace of works to ensure timely completion of the project. The new facility will fulfil the long pending demand of all stakeholders and devotees from across the country and abroad.

2 Traffic Cops Suspended For Taking Bribe

Two traffic policemen, including an assistant sub-inspector, were placed under suspension for "unprofessional conduct" in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Monday. The action against ASI Bini Kumar and selection grade constable Mohammed Latief was taken after they were caught purportedly taking money from a driver on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway at Trishol Morh, the police said. A video is doing rounds on various social media platforms **More on P10**

3 ARTO Employees Fall In ACB Net

The anti corruption bureau (ACB) on Monday arrested three employees at the assistant regional transport office (ARTO) office in Sopore for accepting a bribe, said an official. An official said that three employees (consolidated) at ARTO office Sopore were arrested for taking a bribe from the public visiting the office for obtaining Driving License, NOC, Registration of vehicles. There were a number of complaints pouring in from the public against these employees in **More on P10**

Leopard Captured In Budgam

A leopard was captured alive by the officials of Wildlife Department in Kralpora area of Chadoora in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, officials said Monday. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that the leopard was spotted in Kralpora late Sunday night by locals who informed the officials. He said soon after getting information, traps were set up and leopard was captured alive. The official said it will be taken to a safe location and will be set free.

How Parents Feel About Feelings Can Deeply Affect A Child's Development

Press Trust Of India

How our families express feelings, talk about feelings and react to feelings can have ripple effects into the next generation. When someone becomes a parent, the models they had can become embedded in how they in turn parent. A parent's organised set of thoughts and feelings about their own and their child's feelings is what some psychologists call parental meta-emotion philosophy. Understanding this can make a big difference in parenting and children's development. I lead research projects that investigate the usefulness of programmes that teach parents how to understand their feelings about feelings and guide their children in healthy emotional regulation and coping strategies.



The family emotional climate

All of us have a long emotional history that comes from the emotional climate we grew up with. Early experiences become ingrained in how we feel about feelings, and affect our ability to form healthy relationships. Based on their emotional history, some parents become good at what psychologists call emotion coaching. These parents have learned to recognise and accept their feelings, for example that it is okay to be sad. They are aware of their children's lower-intensity feelings and view their children's emotional displays as a time for connection and teaching.

Becoming aware of feelings

Other parents have learned to ignore or deny their feelings and develop a tendency to dismiss emotions. These parents tend to avoid uncomfortable feelings like sadness and anger. Emotionally dismissive parents will likely try to make uncomfortable feelings in children go away quickly or brush them off by saying things like you'll get over it.

Gaining the ability to be aware of, understand and manage feelings is an important part of child development. Studies have shown that parents who have an emotion coaching philosophy support their children's emotional regulation, behaviour and social skills.

The question is, how effective is teaching parents to understand their feelings about feelings at improving the family emotional climate and child development outcomes.

Parenting programmes

Parent education programmes teach parents about children's needs and development and offer them tools to enhance their parenting behaviours. Some parenting classes and programmes are delivered through organisations like family centres and social services.

Others are offered through medical clinics like paediatricians' offices. There are many programmes that help parents respond to children's challenging behaviours for example, teaching parents how to positively reinforce children's appropriate behaviours.

More recently, some parenting programmes have begun to focus on parents' feelings about feelings: emotion-focused parenting programmes. These programmes teach parents specific parenting behaviours that support their children's emotional needs.

Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 E-NIT S.NO:- (02) OF 2023-24 (E-TENDERING)

For And On Behalf Of Lt. Governor Union Territory Of J&K, E-Tenders Are Invited On An Percentage Basis From Approved And Eligible Contractors Registered With J&K State Govt. Cpwd/ Railways/ Other Governments/ Union Territory For The Below-Mentioned Works.

S.No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (In lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc.	EMD 2% of the advertised cost	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Head of Account
01	Construction of escape channel at Rd (-) 12 mtr of Tongri canal	2.20	150/-	4400/-	15 days	DEE	2701-M&R
02	Resectioning, deepening and widening of Natoon Canal from RD 1710 to 3000 M at spots near village Arhama	1.00	100/-	2000/-	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R
03	Restoration of damaged spot Telwan Wunder fall on Awneera canal by way of bed treatment, Cement concrete lining and plugging of breached spot	1.50	100/-	3000/-	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R
04	Construction of lining wall on DI canal at Momen. (Raising only)	1.00	100/-	2000/-	15 days	DEE	2702-M&R
05	Bed treatment and lining of Awneera canal at Karalcheck	2.50	150/-	5000/-	15 days	DEE	2702-M&R
06	Removal of slips/ big boulders including rooted tree trunks from Rd 0 to 4000 mtr at spots of Shah Khul	0.99	100/-	1980/-	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R
07	Restoration of two number offtake points of Chin Ladi at Village Kachdoora	1.03	100/-	2060/-	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R
08	Resectioning, deepening and widening of supply channel and outlets of Imamsahib Storage Tank	0.70	100/-	1400/-	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R
09	Re-sectioning, deepening and widening of Manul Zouira canal from RD 4826 M to 5600 M and from 5920 M to 7500 M at spots	1.00	100/-	2000/-	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R
10	Construction of lining wall on left side of Lainad Khul near the land of Shakeel Ahmad	1.20	100/-	2400/-	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R

POSITION OF FUNDS: BUDGETARY PROVISION.
 ACCORD OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL: ACCORDED VIDE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER HYDRAULIC CIRCLE PULWAMA HQ-SHOPIANS ORDER NO: 80 OF 03/2023 DATED: 29-03-2023 AND NO: 81 OF 03/2023-23 DATED: 29-03-2023.

1. THE BIDDING DOCUMENT CONSISTING OF QUALIFYING INFORMATION, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SPECIFICATIONS, DRAWINGS, SET OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND OTHER DETAILS CAN BE SEEN/ DOWNLOADED FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE WWW.JKTENDERS.GOV.IN AS PER THE SCHEDULE OF DATES GIVEN BELOW:

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	10-04-2023 (05:00 PM)
02	Date of start of downloading	10-04-2023 (06:00 PM)
03	Bid submission start date: Technical/ Financial	11-04-2023 (10:00 AM)
04	Bid submission end date	19-04-2023 (04:00 PM)
05	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online)	19-04-2023 (05:00 PM)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Bids must be accompanied with proof of the cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (tender inviting authority). The name of the work shall be legible along with NIT number and item number. The date of treasury challan should be in between the date of start of Bid and bid submission end date.
- The successful bidder shall have to submit the hardcopy of EMD in the shape of CDR duly uploaded, treasury challan and other allied documents as mentioned in para-4.
- Additional security as prescribed in the below-mentioned tabulation form is to be deposited by the successful bidder as per the latest order by the finance department endorsed by Chief Engineer Km. & FC Department Srinagar vide No. 13566-640 dated 18-03-2022.

Tenders that are below of the advertised cost	Additional security of the advertised cost to be submitted in the form of CDR
Up to and including 15% below	Nil
15% up to and including 20 % below	05%
20 % up to and including 25 % below	10%
25 % up to and including 30 % below	15%
30 % Below	20%

- Bidders are advised to use the (My Documents) area in their user on www.jktenders.gov.in portal to store, the required documents as given below:
 - GSTIN clearance last quarter and PAN.
 - Registration card with the latest renewal.
 - Treasury challan (0702)
 - Scanned copy of EMD.
 - Card verification letter.
 - Registered mobile number and E-mail ID in the shape of Bidders address form.
 - BOQ.
 - The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message at their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (Tender Receiving Authority).
 - The bid for the work shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of the opening of the bid.
 - The earnest money shall be forfeited if:
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of the successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 days after fixation of contract.
 - Instruction to bidders regarding the e-Tendering process: -
- Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from the "Bidders Manual Kit" on web site www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint with the bid submission process.
- To participate in the bidding process, bidders have to get a "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per the Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from an approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per the schedule mentioned in Para- 01.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents with the bid.

Executive Engineer,
 Irrigation Division Shopian.

No: IDS/ 182-200 DIPK-274/23 Dated: 10-04-2023

Office Of The Chairman Islamia Model School (IMPS) Chanderhama Pattan

STATEMENT SHOWING MEMBER MANGING BODY ASSOCIATION

S.NO	NAME OF THE MEMBER	PARENTAGE	RESIDENCE	DESIGNATION/ QUALIFICATION
1	ABDUL MAJEEB DAR	NAZIR AHMAD DAR	CHANDERHAMA PATTAN	CHAIRMAN/BUSSINESS BA
2	ABDUL KARIEM RATHER	HAJIMOHD ABDULLAH RATHER	CHANDERHAMA PATTAN	V. CHAIRMAN/fmit business/TDC
3	MOHAMMAD AKBAR RATHER	GHULAM RASOOL RATHER	CHANDERHAMA PATTAN	MEMBER / PVT. COMP / MA, B.ed
4	MOHAMMAD SHAFI YATOO	BASHIR AHMAD YATOO	CHANDERHAMA PATTAN	PARENT/TDC
5	ABDUL ROUFGANIE	HAJI ABDULLAH GANIE	CHANDERHAMA PATTAN	PARENT /TDC
6	MANZOOR AHMAD MIR	ABDUL AHAD MIR	PALHALLAN PattaN	PRINCIPAL/MA. BIED
7	MOHAMMAD MAQBOOIGA-NAJE	MOHAMAD SUBHAN GANAJE	CHANDERHAMA PATTAN	MEMBER/sodal worker/ UNDER MATRIC
8	NAZIR AHMAD YATOO	GHULAM QADIR YATOO	CHANDERHAMA PATTAN	TEACHER/ BA/BIED

The above members have been selected as body members association of Islamia model school Chanderhama. If anybody have any objection with the selected committee, he/sie may report the chairman's office within seven days of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered as legal.

Sd/- Principal Islamia Model School
 Chanderhama Pattan

fko

Public Notice

The name of my wife in my Army Service Record Bearing No: 070030667 CT/GD, has been wrongly written as Shameema Begam while her correct name is Shamima Begum which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Sajad Ahmad Lone
 R/o Shahpora Chorwan Gurez
 Distt. Bandipora J&K UT - 193502

bb

NOTICE

I have lost my driving license, bearing license no: JK162020001566 while I was travelling from Alamgir bazar to Millstop srinagar, Now I'm applying for the duplicate license, if anybody is having any objection may file the same to ARTO office Ganderbal with in the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Yawar Abbas
 R/O Nabdipora Zadibal Srinagar 190011

shyr

Public Notice

I have lost the Number Plate of my Bike bearing No: JK15-3297. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Altaf Hussain
 R/o Sarai Dangerpora Tehsil Sumbal Sonawari Distt: Bandipora

x

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Peer Inayat Rasool s/o Peer Ghulam Rasool, want to hereby inform that I am getting the name and address of electric bill, ID 020404009360, changed from Peer Ghulam Rasool to Peer Inayat Rasool. If anyone has any objection, please register with the PDD department within 7 days.

Peer Ghulam Rasool ss



DIVISION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION & MANAGEMENT Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Shuhama, Alusteng

Phone No: 0194-2262312; Email id: lpmfvs@skuastkashmir.ac.in

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 7.00 are invited from the registered / authorized Live-stock feed dealers for supplying the below mentioned items.

Name of the feed	(C.P)	(M.Energy)
Compounded Cattle pellet feed Type-2	20% (minimum)	2200 K. Cal/kg

The rates offered shall be valid for 2023-24 and shall include all the handling, packing, loading, lifting & transport charges upto Poultry Farm FVSc AH, Shuhama. Further CDR of Rs. 1000.00 (Rs. One thousand only) pledged to Assistant Comptroller, FVSc & AH, Shuhama must be enclosed with the tendered documents. The sealed tenders should be addressed to Prof. & Head, Division of LPM, FVSc & AH, Shuhama, Alusteng (190006), SKUAST-K. The sealed tenders should reach this office within 10 days of publication of this tender notice in daily news paper. In case of any unavoidable circumstances the tenders will be opened on next working day. Incomplete tender form(s) with an overwriting shall be rejected.

No: Au/FVS/LPM/2023/11
 Dated: 06.04.2023

S/d
 Professor & Head
 Division of LPM

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سبج سربینگر
 ریاض احمد ولد ملدولہ غازی ساکنہ
 نازی دوی منگیری بازار سربینگر
 (مسول)

درخواست برادرانہ کرنے تاریخ پیدائش آزاد
 ریاض احمد غازی تاریخ پیدائش 22-08-1968
 اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدیقہ سائل اسانکے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست قبول ملحقہ لٹریچر اندر کرنے تاریخ پیدائش دارکی ہے۔ لہذا موام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسانکے منظور ہونے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں عدالت میں آکر مورخہ 19-04-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد ازاں عدالت کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 تحریر الصدقہ 10-04-2023

چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سبج سربینگر nj

حاجی عبدالعزیز خان انتقال کر گئے
 تعزیت پڑھی صرف تین یوم تک جاری رہے گی

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ ہی پائی ہے کہ
حاجی عبدالعزیز خان ولد مرحوم
 غلام محمد خان ساکنہ بوند شاہ محلہ (برکت لین) لال بازار سربینگر
 مورخہ 9 اپریل 2023ء بروز اتوار بعد از نماز عشاء اس جناب
 فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ مرحوم کو مقبرہ منڈی مل نوشہرہ میں سپرد
 خاک کیا گیا۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں جگہ عطا
 فرمائے۔ مرحوم کی تعزیت پڑھی صرف تین یوم یعنی 12 اپریل 2023ء بروز بدھوار تک
 جاری رہے گی۔ اور کوئی بھی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی نہیں ہوگی۔

سوگواران : جناب احمد خان فیاض احمد خان، فاروق احمد خان
 دشقانی احمد خان (فرزند ان)، ریاض احمد سکر (داماد)

No Pick And Drop Charges At Airport Parking: Director Airport

Observer News Service

Srinagar: There will be no parking charges for vehicles for drop & go in the departure area at the Srinagar International Airport, its Director said on Monday.

The development followed after a person tagged the Director of Srinagar International Airport Kuldeep Singh Rishi on Twitter, asking him why people have to pay for parking charges if one is just dropping off passengers or picking them up without using the parking space.

"Can you also tell us why we have to pay parking charges if one is just dropping off passengers or picking them up without using the parking space?" the person asked in a tweet.

Responding to the tweet, the Director said there will be no parking charges for vehicles for drop & go in the departure area; however, the vehicles parked in the parking area will have to pay the charges.

"No parking charges for Drop & Go in Departure area Parking fees for parking the vehicles in the parking area Please do not leave your vehicle in No Parking area to avoid congestion Please contact Terminal Manager in case of overcharging/ wrong charging Mob 9419016404," Rishi posted on his Twitter handle.

In an appeal, the Director said people should always park their vehicles in the parking area only for the convenience of other users at the airport.

SVEEP Awareness Program Held At SP College Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As the part of extensive Systematic Voter Education Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Campaign in District Srinagar, an awareness cum registration program was held at Government Sri Pratap College, M.A Road Srinagar by the District Election Authority.

The program was organized by the electoral literacy club of the College in association with Dean Student's welfare while Service Support was facilitated by the department of IT.

The program was presided over by the Principal Sri Pratap College, Srinagar Prof. (Dr) Gh. Jeelani Quershi, Prof Rabia Ahmad Head Department of English, Dean Student Welfare Dr Khalida Hassan, Dr shazia Mushtaq, Dr Rais Mohammad, Coordinator Electoral literacy Club of Sri Pratap College, Dr Syed Javid Ahmad Andrabi, was attended by coordinator SVEEP Zahoor Ahmad Mir, National Level Master Trainer/Consultant and Sr. Election Officials from District Election machinery, besides Administration, Staff and Students of the College.



Nasal swab tests conducted during two day mockdrill that begins in all hospitals amid a sudden spike in COVID-19 cases in J&K, KO Photo Abid Bhat

As Valley Receives Tourists In Hordes, Shikara Picks Up

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With highest numbers of tourists visiting Kashmir, the builders of Shikaras in Kashmir say that demand is on rise as unemployed youth are earning their livelihood by signing up as a boatman in Dal Lake.

A third generation shikara maker, Ghulam Nabi of Baba Mohalla Dal Lake said since last 35 years, he has been making Shikara but demand

has picked up since last year.

"As last year there was a good tourism season, the demand for Shikara has increased as more and more unemployed youth are starting Shikara so as to at least earn some money for themselves," he added.

According to him, they too have to face many challenges as timber is not easily available in the market while rates are high.

"It usually takes a person around 15-20 days to make one Shikara and

mostly deodar strongest timber is used in making it," he said.

A Shikara costs around 2.5-3 lakhs and around 35 ft of timber is required to make a boat.

His Shikaras are in use in Mansar and Tawi in Jammu, Hyderabad, Bengal, Rajasthan and other places as well.

But he complained that the government has never supported them while requesting the authorities to give them timber for continuing their craft.

DC Srinagar For Special Drives To Enforce COTPA Act

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today directed to launch special drives for strict enforcement of Tobacco Control Laws particularly around Hospitals and Educational institutions, public places.

In order to review the implementation and enforcement of Cigarette and Other Tobacco Product Act (COTPA) in the District, a Workshop cum Meeting of District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here today at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex.

The DC also appealed to the people of Srinagar particularly the shopkeepers to desist from the sale of cigarettes and other Tobacco products and save the younger generation from the ill effects of the tobacco products.



Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Superintendent of Police, General Manager DIC, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Assistant Commissioner Drug & Food Control, senior Health functionaries, Tehsildar Headquarter, Executive Director, J&KVHA other concerned and representatives of NGOs were present in the meeting.

At the outset, a threadbare discussion was held in order to chalk out a plan to ensure visible impact of implementation of COTPA on ground by arresting the problem through effective surveillance, feedback mechanism and

taking timely measures to curb the menace of Tobacco products.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner laid stress on the need of awareness generation among the masses regarding the harmful effects of using Tobacco products. He asked the Officers to work in close coordination so that Tobacco Control laws are implemented effectively on ground across Srinagar.

The DC directed for launching special drives for strict enforcement of Tobacco Control Laws particularly around Hospitals and Educational institutions, public places.

Nawa Bazar Residents Complain Shortage Of Essentials On Ration Depots

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Residents of Nawa Bazar locality in the old city have been facing a severe shortage of Rice and Flour at a local Ration depot in the month of Ramadan.

Locals said the short-

age of Rice and Flour has been ongoing for several days now, leaving many families in a state of distress. The residents have urged the administration to take immediate action and address the situation as soon as possible.

"We are facing a lot of difficulty as we are unable to get rice and flour from the Ration depot. We have been visiting the depot for the last few days, but it has not been stocked with these essential items," Mohammad Ramzan, a local said.

From The Office Of Advocate Saleem Jahanger & Associates
Chamber No 316 District Court Complex, Srinagar

Vikar Ahmad Bhat
S/O Ghulam Ahmad Bhat
R/O 13, LD Colony, Sanat Nagar Srinagar
Prop EMINENT MEDICAL AGENCY

V/S
Public at Large
In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of Section 148A CPC.

That the caveators has reason to believe/apprehension that non-caveator may file a suit or other type of proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court or District court on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation or cooked story and may succeed in obtain some relief/order at their back/exparte against the caveators and such eventuality the caveator will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators are given opportunity of being heard by this Hon'ble Court before passing any order.

nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my driving license, bearing license no: JK1620200001566 while I was travelling from Alamgiri bazar to Millstop srinagar. Now I'm applying for the duplicate license, if anybody is having any objection may file the same to ARTO office Ganderbal within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Yawar Abbas
R/O Nabdipora Zadibal,
Srinagar 190011

ss

سہاٹی خدمات کی بے لوث، ہمدردیت کا دلدادہ سالانہ تحریک

51ST YEAR OF SERVICE

J&K Yateem Trust | جموں و کشمیر یتیم ٹرسٹ (رجسٹرڈ) | Serving the Deserving خدمت نامیوں

شہر سرینگر میں جموں و کشمیر یتیم ٹرسٹ کے زیر اہتمام

لڑکیوں کا پہلا یتیم خانہ۔۔

بیٹ البنات قائم کیا گیا۔

آپ کی زکوٰۃ صدقات کا منتظر۔۔ آئیے:

اس رمضان میں ان یتیم بچیوں کے سر پر ہاتھ رکھ کر یتیم پروری کا ثبوت دیں اور اللہ رب العزت کے حضور اجر عظیم حاصل کریں۔

آپ بیٹ البنات یتیم خانہ جموں و کشمیر یتیم ٹرسٹ متصل اقبال پارک تفریف لاکر اپنی عطیات پیش کر سکتے ہیں یا بیٹ البنات کے بینک اکاؤنٹ میں داخل کر سکتے ہیں۔

0067040100096569

جموں و کشمیر بینک ہری سنگھ ہائی سٹریٹ برانچ

بیٹ البنات یتیم خانہ: باراں پتھر ہفت چنار متصل اقبال پارک سرینگر

فون: 7006034564, 0194-2310559

Genuineads19419031137

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES :
2479488,245222,2452155
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
- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 4 :39
ZUHR 12:32
ASR 5:09
Magrib 7:01
ISHA 8:26

HIJRI CALENDAR
20 RAMAZAN
1444

This Day In History

- 491 - Flavius Anastasius becomes Byzantine Emperor, with the name of Anastasius I.
- 672 - Deusdedit III begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1079 - Bishop Stanislaus of Krakow is executed by order of Boleslaw II of Poland
- 1471 - Wars of the Roses: King Edward IV of England conquers London from Henry VI
- 1512 - Battle of Ravenna: French forces under Gaston de Foix defeat Holy League in a major battle of the Italian Wars
- 1564 England & France sign Peace of Troyes
- 1677 - Battle at Montcassel, French troops beat Prince William III
- 1689 - William III & Mary II crowned as joint rulers of Britain
- 1713 - Peace of Utrecht; France cedes Maritime provinces to Britain - English, Prussian, Savois, Portuguese & French peace treaty
- 1783 - Hostilities formally cease in the American Revolutionary War
- 1814 - Napoleon abdicates unconditionally; he is exiled to Elba
- 1848 - Hungary becomes constitutional monarchy under king Ferdinand of Aust
- 1856 - Battle of Rivas; Costa Rica beats Wm Walker's invading Nicaraguans
- 1862 - Rebels surrender Ft Pulaski, Georgia-Rebels surrender
- 1863 - Battle of Suffolk, VA (Norfleet House)
- 1865 - Battle of Mobile, AL - evacuated by Confederates
- 1865 - Abraham Lincoln urges a spirit of generous conciliation during reconstruction
- 1895 - Anaheim completes its new electric light system
- 1898 President McKinley asks for Spanish-American War declaration
- 1899 - Treaty of Paris ratifies ends war; Spain cedes Puerto Rico to US
- 1914 - Mexican President Huerta breaks off diplomatic relations with the US
- 1919 - The International Labour Organization is founded.
- 1921 - Turkestan ASSR forms in Russian SFSR
- 1925 - Abd el-Krims Rifkabylen beats French army in Morocco
- 1939 - Hungary leaves League of Nations
- 1945 - Allied troops liberate Basket-Compasuum

From KO Archives

'I Lived Like Fish Without Water For 57 Years'

Kashmiri's Wait To Visit Father's Grave Ends

LAWASI (MUZAFFARABAD) - Raja Naseeruddin was just three when his father died in a traffic accident. On Friday, 59 years later, he saw his father's grave for the first time.

Naseeruddin was one of 19 Indian Kashmiris who travelled to Pakistan-controlled Kashmir by bus on Thursday, the first to run across the heavily fortified military line dividing Kashmir in nearly 60 years.

"How can I express myself? I simply don't know how," said a tearful Naseer after offering prayers at his father's simple grave in the mountain village of Lawasi.

"I don't remember my father. I was too young when he died," he said. "Now, at least I feel relief to have visited his grave. I want to come here again."

Naseer's family, like so many others, was split apart by the Line of Control drawn across the scenic valleys of Kashmir.

After his father was killed in 1946 near Muzaffarabad his mother took him to live with relatives near Srinagar.

A year later, with the armies of newly independent Pakistan and India were battling over Kashmir, Naseer was unable to return to his home Village — and so it was until this week.

"Returning to my land, I feel like a fish being thrown back into water," he said.

(Kashmir Observer, 11 April, 2005)

Gulf Nation Ruler Warned Me Of Army Chief's 'Conspiracy': Imran Khan

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: A year after his ouster as the prime minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan on Monday said that he was cautioned by the ruler of a Gulf nation last year that the then Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa was conspiring to topple his government.

Last year in April, Khan was ousted as the prime minister of Pakistan and his government toppled through a no-confidence motion brought in Parliament by the opposition parties led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

On Sunday, Khan, who is the chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, issued a white paper on the one-year performance of the PML-N-led coalition and termed it the worst in the country's history.

"Before the no-confidence motion against me was tabled in April last year, the ruler of a Gulf country told me that my Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa was conspiring against my government to get his extension (from the PML-N and its allies). Bajwa was a mastermind of this conspiracy," Khan claimed.

He criticised Bajwa for destroying Pakistan merely for his extension which he could not



get despite a promise by (prime minister) Shehbaz Sharif.

"Things have revealed later that the conspiracy to overthrow my government was not hatched by the US. Gen Bajwa hired former envoy to US Husain Haqqani to launch propaganda that Gen Bajwa was pro-America and Imran Khan was anti-America," Khan said.

Following his removal, Khan had initially blamed the US for playing a role in his government's toppling.

However, later he held Gen. Bajwa responsible for the 'conspiracy' which resulted in his ouster. Months before his retirement in November last year, Gen Bajwa had repeatedly said that he was not seeking another extension in service. He also made it clear that the Pakistan Army has decided to distance itself from the country's politics.

Israel No Match for Iran's Army, Says Army Chief

Agencies

The chief commander of the Iranian Army says the Israeli military, which heavily relies on sophisticated Western-built munitions, is no match for Iran's Armed Forces, dismissing hostile remarks by the Israeli army's chief of staff that Israel is "ready" to attack Iran even without US support.

Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said on Monday that such comments are merely meant to boost the morale of the Israeli soldiers and fix the internal problems of the regime.

"Anyone already familiar with the military capabilities of both sides knows well that the updated size and scale of the Zionist regime's military would maximally correspond only to one of the plentiful operations that Iran's Armed Forces undertook during the 1980-1988 Iraqi-imposed war on the Islamic Republic," Mousavi said.

"The Zionist regime, which is sinking and the signs of its collapse are now becoming more evident than before, is too feeble to be viewed as a threat to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The actions of its leaders, which are far from rationality and prudence, will only accelerate the downfall of the regime," the top General added.

"We are ready to act against



Iran. The Israeli army has the ability to strike both in distant countries and near home," Israeli army's Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi said on Wednesday.

He further claimed that the Israeli military will enhance its capabilities for a pre-emptive strike on Iran in the next few years, and such a strike would be "overwhelming" despite the geographical distance.

Iran's Army chief has already dismissed Israel's military threats, saying the regime is unable to take an Iranian response to any hostile act that it may carry out given the political tensions it faces inside the occupied territories and its sense of insecurity in the broader region.

Addressing a meeting with senior Army commanders on December 22 last year, Mousavi said Iran is closely and constantly monitoring all the enemy's moves, and that the Armed Forces are fully ready to counter any threat at once.

China opposes Amit Shah's visit to Arunachal Pradesh days after renaming 11 places

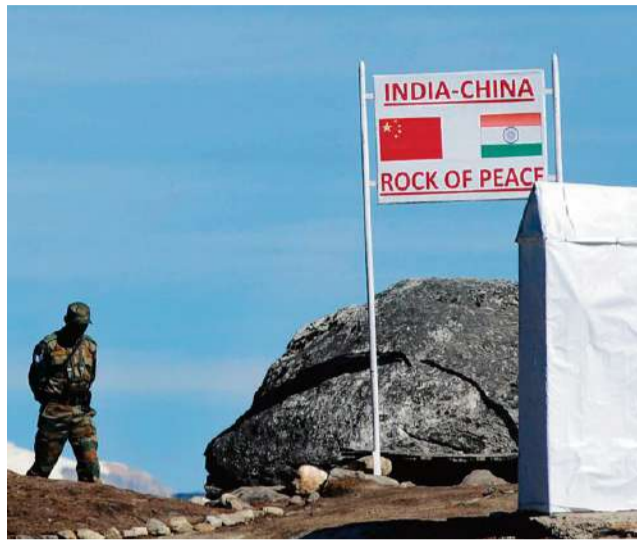
Agencies

BEIJING: China firmly opposes a visit by home minister to Arunachal Pradesh and views his activities in the area as violating Beijing's territorial sovereignty, a foreign ministry spokesperson told a news briefing on Monday.

China has renamed 11 places in what India regards as its eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as part of its territory.

"Zangnan is China's territory," spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in response to a question on the visit by Indian Home Minister Amit Shah.

"The Indian official's visit to Zangnan violates China's territorial sovereignty, and is not conducive to the peace and tranquility of the border situation."



China and India have had several skirmishes over the disputed border and clashes in mountainous regions in recent years have seriously strained ties.

Gyanvapi: SC To Hear On April 14 Plea Seeking Nod For Ritual Ablution During Ramzan

Press Trust Of India

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on April 14 a plea by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid committee seeking permission for 'wazu' (ritual ablution) at the Gyanvapi mosque complex in Varanasi during the month of Ramzan.

The apex court had on November 11 last year extended till further orders the protection of the area where a 'Shivling' was claimed to have been found.

The matter was mentioned before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the Masjid committee, requested the bench to take up the matter for hearing soon, saying the month of Ramzan is underway and adequate arrangements should be made.

He said the water for wazu is being used from a drum and the number of worshippers has increased in view of Ramzan.

The CJ said the matter will be taken up for hearing on April 14 by the bench also comprising Justice Surya Kant. On March 28, the apex court had agreed to list for hearing on April 21 a plea of the Hindu side seeking consolidation of all suits filed in a Varanasi court pertaining to the Gyanvapi mosque complex row.

The bench had taken note of the submissions of lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain that the district judge of Varanasi has deferred five times the decision on a plea seeking clubbing of all civil suits pertain-



ing to the dispute.

The apex court had earlier allowed the Hindu parties to move an application before the Varanasi district judge for consolidation of all lawsuits filed on the Gyanvapi mosque-Shringar Gauri row.

It had also directed the Hindu parties to file their replies within three weeks to the appeal by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid committee challenging the Allahabad High Court order on appointment of a survey commissioner.

On May 17 last year, the top court had passed an interim order directing the Varanasi district magistrate to ensure protection of the area inside the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex where the structure claimed to be a 'Shivling' was found during a video survey ordered by the court of the civil judge (senior division) in Varanasi.

The mosque committee, however, maintained the structure was part of the water fountain mechanism at the 'wazukhana', the reservoir

where devotees perform ablutions before offering namaz.

The apex court had transferred the case to the district judge on May 20 last, pointing at the "complexities" and the "sensitivity" of the issue and saying that a more senior judicial officer should handle it.

In its May 17 last year order, the top court had directed protection of the area around the claimed 'Shivling' while also allowing Muslims to offer namaz in the mosque.

It had said the interim order shall remain in operation till the maintainability of the suit is decided by the district judge, and then for eight more weeks to allow the aggrieved parties to approach a higher court.

The Varanasi district judge is now hearing the plea by a group of women seeking permission for daily worship of idols of Hindu deities located on the mosque's outer wall. The Hindu side has also sought a survey of two locked basements in the mosque complex.

"Falls To New Depths..." Jairam Ramesh Slams Ghulam Nabi Azad's Charge

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Monday slammed former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and said that the latter falls to new depths with each passing day to demonstrate his true character and loyalty to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a tweet, Jairam Ramesh said, "With every passing day, Ghulam Nabi Azad falls to new depths to demonstrate his true character and his loyalty to Mr Modi. His contemptible statements on the Congress leadership reflect his desperation to remain relevant. I can only say that he is PATHETIC."

The Congress leaders' reaction comes after Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Ravi Shankar Prasad on Monday demanded answers from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on the allegations made by Mr Azad that he meets "undesirable businessmen" during foreign tours.

While talking to the reporters, Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "Ghulam Nabi Azad made serious allegations that whenever Rahul Gandhi goes abroad, he meets 'undesirable businessmen'... With whom did Rahul Gandhi meet? What is the agenda? Is Rahul Gandhi working with anti-India businessmen to weaken the country?"

Notably, Mr Azad resigned from Congress over a difference of opinion with Congress leadership mainly Rahul Gandhi. He also led the 'G23' grouping which had demanded reforms in the party including independent internal elections.

His critics in Congress had accused Mr Azad of working closely with the BJP to destabilize Congress. Speaking to ANI, he rubbished the allegation calling it immature, stupid and childish.

He said, "That is stupid. If G23 was the spokesperson of



the BJP, why they are made MPs by Congress? Why have they made them MPs, general secretaries and office bearers? I'm the only one who formed the party. The rest of the people are still there. It is an ill-conceived, immature and childish allegation."

After quitting Congress, Mr Azad formed his own political outfit called Democratic Progressive Azad Party in his home state of Jammu & Kashmir and has now penned a book titled 'Azaad: An Autobiography', in which the former Congress veteran wrote on his working relations with Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others. He also highlights incidents, events and Congress mismanagement.

He also said that he holds nothing against Congress and its ideology.

"I must say that having been in Congress since childhood, I don't want to expose and totally want to demolish Congress party. I may have some differences with leadership, I have no differences with Congress party or Congress ideology; two things one is Congress ideology and one is previous Congress leadership and one is present leadership. I have no difference of opinion with Congress ideology, no difference of opinion with earlier Congress leadership, of course here and there in my book I mentioned what went wrong during Nehru's time, Indiraji's time, what has gone wrong during Rajiv's time but I also said they were tall leaders."

Air India Flight To London Returns To Delhi, Deboards Unruly Flier: Report

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Air India on Monday deboarded an unruly passenger from its Delhi-London flight, which returned to the national capital, according to sources.

The sources said flight AI 111, which had around 225 pas-

sengers, returned to the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) here as there was an unruly male passenger onboard.

The unruly passenger was deboarded at the airport and later the flight took off for London Heathrow, they added.

A statement from Air India on the incident was awaited.



NEWS MAKERS

World's Most Expensive Car Number Plate Sells For ₹123 Crore. It Reads...

Agencies

A wealthy bidder has splashed out a world-record 55 million dirhams (\$15 million or ₹123 crore) for a rare car license plate in Dubai, smashing a bar set in the United Arab Emirates more than a decade ago.

Emirates Auction LLC sold plate number P 7 - which, at first glance, looks like the number 7 alone, with the P off to the side - on Saturday during a charity auction, according to the company. Proceeds will go to Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid's global food aid initiative, the 1 Billion Meals Endowment.

The UAE has made a habit of auctioning off vanity plates, used by the ultrarich to show off their status and wealth, for charity. The latest auction broke a record set in 2008 by local businessman Saeed Abdul Ghaffar Khouri, who paid 52.2 million dirhams for a plate bearing the number 1 in Abu Dhabi.

The identity of this weekend's auction winner was not disclosed.

Vanity plates have also fetched eye-watering prices outside the Middle East: Someone bought the single-letter "R" plate at auction in Hong Kong earlier this year for HK\$25.5 million (\$3.2 million).

For years, Dubai has been a safe space for the mega-wealthy to flash their

wealth and live a tax-free lifestyle. While other parts of the world worry about an economic downturn, the emirate's economy remains strong - with high oil prices benefitting its neighbors and most important customers. An influx of wealth has buoyed the real-estate market.

Even moderately-paid expats splash out on cars they can newly afford thanks to lower sales tax rates than back home. But the recent Covid-era boom has driven up rents and squeezed middle-class residents.

Businessman Balvinder Singh Sahni, known as Abu Sabah, purchased plate D 5 in 2016 for 33 million dirhams. "Dubai is a city of gold," he said in an interview Monday. "It's a city of big people, secure people, nice people. So everybody wants to show their status."

Sahni told of how when he first visited the luxury hotel Burj Al Arab in 2006, he was refused entry because his car license plate had too many numbers. He was told he needed either a two-digit number plate - or a reservation. "It was always my dream to have a single-digit number," he said. "When I got the chance, and they told me this money all goes to charity, I went all in." A self-described numbers guy, Sahni said the D 5 plate fit because his favorite number is nine, and if you add D (the fourth letter of the alphabet) with five, you get nine.

Agnihotri Discharged After Apologising In Court

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri appeared before the Delhi High Court today and tendered an unconditional apology in connection with a criminal contempt case over his alleged remarks against a judge of the court.

Accepting his apology, a bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Vikas Mahajan discharged Agnihotri of the contempt charge and cautioned him to remain careful in the future.

The high court recalled the criminal contempt notice issued to him and noted that an affidavit filed by Agnihotri also reflected the regret and remorse unconditionally expressed by him to the court.

"In view of the circumstances that Vivek Agnihotri stated that he has utmost respect for the institution of judiciary and did not intend to wilfully offend the majesty of this court, the notice to show cause issued to him is hereby recalled. Vivek Agnihotri stands discharged as the alleged contemnor," the bench said.

"Mr. Agnihotri we will be cautioning you to be careful in future," the bench told the filmmaker who appeared before the court in pursuance of its earlier direction.

In 2018, the filmmaker had put out tweets alleging bias against Justice S Muralidhar, who was then a judge of the Delhi High Court and is currently the chief justice of the Orissa High Court, as he had released rights activist Gautam Navlakha from house arrest in the Bhima-Koregaon violence case.

Subsequently, contempt of court proceedings were initiated against Agnihotri and others by the high court.

On December 6 last year, the court asked the filmmaker to "show remorse in person" after he tendered an unconditional apology through an affidavit.

"We are asking him (Agnihotri) to remain present because he is the alleged contemnor. Does he have any difficulty in appearing before this court? He has to be present and show remorse in person," the court had said.

Doctor, Hospital To Pay ₹12 Lakh After Patient's Death During Surgery

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC) has upheld a state commission's order directing a city-based hospital and a doctor to pay more than ₹12 lakh in compensation to the family of a senior citizen, 15 years after her death due to excessive use of anaesthetics during a surgery.

The NCDRC had on March 29 rejected the appeal filed by the doctor and the hospital, challenging the order passed by the Maharashtra State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in 2015 in favour of the victim's family.

The NCDRC held that though negligence was attributable to the anaesthesiologist, the hospital shall not be absolved from the vicarious liability.

As per the complaint filed by the daughter of the deceased woman, Kusum (66) was operated on by Dr Ajay Rathore, an orthopaedician, at Parel-based hospital for a fracture on her forearm on June 21, 2008.

The anaesthesiologist was Dr Mulji Khemji Gada (who died during the proceedings before the state commission).

Though the operation was conducted in the morning, the patient did not regain consciousness due to excessive use of anaesthesia. Her condition worsened further, she was intubated and put on a ventilator, it stated.

The patient was hospitalised for a long period in an unconscious condition. The neurologist, after performing a CT scan and MRI,

diagnosed her with 'hypoxic encephalopathy'. Thereafter, the unconscious patient was shifted to another hospital, where she died on October 24, 2008. Initially, a complaint was filed before the district forum, Central Mumbai, which rejected her plea.

Nikam then moved the state consumer commission in 2015. In 2018, it ruled in her favour and ordered the hospital and doctor to pay her a compensation of more than ₹12 lakh.

In 2019, the doctor and the hospital filed appeals before the national consumer commission, denying any negligence.

The NCDRC held that it is evident that the anaesthesiologist had not performed the pre-anaesthetic test properly.

"In my view, it was the negligence and failure of duty of care from the anaesthesiologist, who administered an excessive dose of ketamine and failed to manage the hypoxic event," it observed.

It is pertinent to note that the anaesthesiologist did not even read the reports of investigations of the patient, the NCDRC said.

The expert committee report from the department of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Surgery of Grant Medical College and Sir JJ group of Hospitals had given stated that there was no medical negligence on the part of the operating surgeon.

The NCDRC, however, referred to the opinion of one of the experts, a neurosurgeon, who cited that as a certain parameter was low, it should have been built up before surgery and pre-anaesthetic fitness should have been recorded.

India's Priorities For G20 Presidency To Benefit Global South: Ex-Diplomat

SRINAGAR: India has set priorities for its G20 Presidency which will benefit the global south, former diplomat J S Mukul said here on Monday.

India assumed the Presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1, 2022, to 30 November 2023.

"We don't forget our friends in the global south. That's why the prime minister held a virtual summit of 125 countries to set the agenda for India's presidency. India, as the host, has invited organisations and countries from the global south. It shows the priorities," he said in his keynote address at a G20 University Connect event organised by the Central University of Kashmir.

He said events had been scheduled in 50 cities of the country to showcase "Incredible India as the mother of democracy".

According to the former ambassador to the Netherlands, the themes outlined by India for its presidency have green development and climate change mitigation at the top of the list.

"The global south needs technical support and finances to meet the challenges of climate change. The developed countries had agreed to pay USD 100 bn a year for mitigation of climate change. That would be one area where India would press," he said.

Mukul said India's response

to the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that adversity can also be dealt with positively.

"The CoWin app through which 2 billion vaccine doses were given and UPI payments were used. The pandemic has brought to fore the importance of IT and digital infrastructure," he said.

Other areas of priority will be developed countries coming good on their commitment of spending 0.7 per cent of their GDP for sustainable development, food security especially in the global south, reform in multilateral institutions including the UN and gender equality, he added.

R R Bhatnagar, Advisor of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, said the G20 gives an opportunity to the union territory administration to showcase the tourism potential.

"Next month from 22nd May we have working group on tourism. As we all know tourism is major sector for J&K, it will be our opportunities to showcase J&K as an outstanding tourist destination which can match any destination in the world," he said.

Bhatnagar said in J&K, there has been "a new dawn of peace, progress and growth".

"It is a new opportunity for everybody to participate especially our youth who are going to be the leaders of tomorrow," he added.

J&K Demotes Officer After Probe Finds Violations During His Stint With LCMA

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir government has demoted a retired officer from the date he was placed as in-charge deputy superintendent of police (DySP) after an inquiry established that there were building plan and master plan violations during his stint with the Lakes & Waterways Development Authority which has been re-named as the Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA).

In an order, J&K's Home department has imposed a penalty of "reduction to a lower post" on Shah Sikander, in-charge DySP (now retired).

The Home department's order states that Shah Sikander, in-charge DySP, is demoted to the post of inspector with effect from 20.07.2012, the date he was placed as in-charge DySP.

Sikander, the then enforcement officer of Lake and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA), was arrested by then State Vigilance Organisation on March 14, 2017 in a case

registered against him in 2015 for violations in peripheral areas of Dal Lake.

According to the order, Sikander was served charge-sheet on June 21, 2017 for submitting a written statement of defence within period of 21 days.

He submitted his statement on September 25, 2017 and re-futed all the charges.

As per the order, the response submitted by the officer was found unsatisfactory and accordingly, it was decided that the charges were required to be inquired thoroughly.

On January 01, 2018, the government appointed an inquiry officer to probe the charges against him.

In the report, the inquiry officer established that there was violation of building permission norms and instances of illegal construction around the Dal lake during his posting with LAWDA (now LCMA).

"The competent authority decided to impose the penalty of "reduction in rank" for violating J&K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971," reads the order—(KNO)

JK Cable Car Corp Cautions Tourists Against Touts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation on Monday cautioned Tourists of falling in the trap of Touts.

A statement issued said that "It has come to the notice of the Management of the Cable Car Corporation that some of the tourists fall into the trap of touts and some miscreant elements regarding tickets of Gulmarg Gondola project".

It reads that "All our esteemed tourists are informed through this press note that the tickets of Gulmarg Gondola Project are available only through online mode on official website www.jammukashmircablecar.com and there is no other means to get the ticket of Gulmarg Gondola Project".

There is a transparent system of online ticketing of Gulmarg Gondola and the question of black-marketing of Gondola tickets does not arise, therefore, our esteemed tourists are advised not to fall prey to the propaganda of touts and do not go for gondola booking by any mode other than online booking through official website www.jammukashmircablecar.com.

The intending tourists/visitors are advised to plan Gondola ride as per availability of tickets on the official website.

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A WOMAN HELPS HER SON wear a mask outside the Jawaharlal Nehru memorial (JLNM) hospital, where a Covid-19 mock drill was carried out on Monday.
KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

1.7 Lakh Students With 96.6% Pass Middle Standard Exam

Director SCERT Extols Stakeholders For Successfully Accomplishing Strenuous Task

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Monday, announced the Middle Standard Result for the academic year 2022-23. This marks a significant moment as it is the first time the government has implemented a unified academic calendar in J&K UT and conducted exams during the March-April session.

Approximately 175,547 students from both government and private schools in all the 20 districts of J&K took the examination of the second term

of the academic year 2022-23. The UT of J&K was divided into two zones: Soft and Hard, to ensure a smooth and efficient examination process.

"The results have been overwhelmingly positive, with a total 169,564 candidates qualifying, resulting in an impressive overall pass percentage of 96.6," the Joint Director said.

The Jammu Division saw a total of 88,506 candidates appearing for the exam, out of which 86,132 candidates qualified, with a pass percentage of 93.85 for government schools and 97.84 for private schools.

In the Kashmir Division, a

total of 87,041 candidates appeared for the exam, out of which 83,432 candidates qualified, with a pass percentage of 95.67 for government schools and 95.53 for private schools.

Director SCERT, Prof Parikhsat Singh Manhas, congratulated the students on their success and wished them luck for their future endeavors. He also thanked the SCERT, DIETs and other stakeholders who contributed to making this strenuous exercise possible.

The SCERT and the associated (DIETs) were entrusted with the job of supervising the entire process of conducting the examinations.

CS Asks Youth To Take Benefit Of Govt Schemes

Virtually Participates In Panchayat Level Convergence Meetings Held Across The UT

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday virtually participated in the panchayat level convergence meetings across the UT in connection with the finalization of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GDP) 2023-24.

These meetings saw the enthusiastic participation of panchayat members, Prabhari Officers, senior citizens, local youth from villages in large numbers. These meetings of Gram Sabhas provide an opportunity for locals to come together and participate in the decision making process for their respective panchayats.

Dr Mehta said that GDP is a participatory decentralised planning process of Gram Panchayat for overall development of the villages by utilising all available resources, adding that inter-departmental coordination is important in this regard.

Dr Mehta, during this interaction, impressed upon the Prabhari Officers of each Gram Panchayat to take full responsibility of representing Government in their assigned areas. He exhorted upon them to create a proper mechanism for escalation of grievances at appropriate levels so that each of them are resolved up to the satisfaction of the people.

He directed the Prabhari Officers to frame a comprehensive plan in consultation with the members of Gram Panchayats for formulating self-employment, tourism, sports and Swachhta plans, besides others. He directed the POS to ensure that the approved GDPs are reflective of the needs and aspirations

of the community and paves the way for the achievement of Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).

He said that common people should come forward and speak up for their villages and be part of the development process. For better monitoring and execution of development works, Chief Secretary said that people should be informed of developmental activities carried in their areas. The PRIs should also be made aware of the developmental works taking place in their respective panchayats.

Stressing on self-employment generation programme in villages, CS said that the youth should take full benefit of the various government schemes as they will be assisted in every possible way. He said that it is the duty of the Prabhari Officers to make sure that they do not face any problems. He said that there is no limit to the numbers of youth that can be provided self-employment under different schemes.

Dr Mehta also laid special emphasis on cleanliness in villages and said that Swachhta Mission should be fully implemented before August 15 this year. He commended the unique environment friendly initiative started in a far flung panchayat of Sadiwara in Hiller Shahabad block of South Kashmir's Anantnag district and asked others to follow the example. The village head has started a campaign called 'Give Plastic and Take Gold' wherein if someone gives plastic waste of 20 quintals, then the panchayat will give him a gold coin.

He said that efforts have to be put in place so that all aspiring

villages move to model villages as quickly as possible as per the norms of government of India.

Chief Secretary also disclosed that ranking of panchayats will be done based on set parameters and panchayats should move ahead while the government will act as a facilitator.

He also enquired about the usage of digital services in villages and whether people are being benefited. The villagers expressed satisfaction over the use of online services and said that the online mode has saved them a lot of time and money.

He told them to ensure convergence of sectoral plans in the District and UT plans as per the nature and scope of the work and impressed upon completion of all works before December end.

Dr Mehta asked from the representatives and village level workers about the functioning of Schools, Health Centres, Anganwadi Centres and other village institutions. He also took appraisals from them about different amenities like condition of roads, water, electricity and monthly ration provided to them. He even enquired from each of them about the status of Sports stadiums, online services and Door-to-Door collection of waste in their villages.

The Chief Secretary has made it a regular feature to reach out to people at grassroots level for directly taking feedback from them about the working of administration and listening to their suggestions and grievances for making instant resolutions and passing on directions to the concerned officers for taking necessary action.

Azad Ungrateful Towards Nehru-Gandhi Family: J&K Cong

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Several Congress leaders from Jammu and Kashmir on Monday hit out at Ghulam Nabi Azad over his tirade against Rahul Gandhi, saying he should have also spoken about the four decades of power he enjoyed due to the Nehru-Gandhi family.

"Azad's criticism is manifestation of treachery and highest form of ungratefulness towards Nehru-Gandhi family on his part. Former Congress LOP in Rajya Sabha should also have counted out of turn' promotions, favours and positions both (official and organisational) he enjoyed during his four decades in power due to Nehru-Gandhi family's blessings and trust reposed in him," Chulam Ahmad Mir, Saifuddin Soz and Tariq Hameed Karra said in a joint statement here.

They were reacting to Azad's interviews appearing on different media channels in the backdrop of his book launch event in Delhi recently.

"Hailing from a remote area of Doda district, Azad was recommended by late Mufti Mohd Sayeed to Madam Indira Gandhi, who made him a youth leader without any political background or fan following."

"Then he (Azad) was rewarded with party ticket to contest the Lok Sabha elections from Maharashtra where Madam

Gandhi herself campaigned and ensured his victory by a thumping majority, with the result he made his entry in Lok Sabha for the first time.

"Since then, the Nehru-Gandhi family, whom Azad is now targeting, made a sea of opportunities available for him. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha many times, subsequently made the Union minister a number of times without facing elections, which he should also count while speaking on the Gandhi family," the statement stated.

Azad had recently said that Rahul Gandhi was the primary reason why he and many others were no longer in the Congress and claimed that one has to be "spineless" to remain in the grand old party.

He further claimed that it was not in the hands of Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi or even Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to ensure his return in the party fold even if they wanted.

The Congress leaders said Azad was defaming the party to create confusion among masses in view of the Gandhi scion's constructive role and the appreciation he was receiving for "fighting the battle against crony capitalism and organised loot of the nation's wealth on the part of the Narendra Modi government".

Bukhari Seeks Probe Into Wrong Alignment Work On Banihal Highway

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) president Alif Bukhari on Monday appealed to the Union minister Nitin Gadkari to order a probe into a construction agency for its alleged failure to stabilise the Srinagar-Jammu national highway for smooth vehicular movement.

The former J and K minister also asked Gadkari to take "special classes" of the officers engaged in Smart City project in Srinagar and Jammu for narrowing the vital roads on the pretext of beautification.

"Gadkari is on a visit of Jammu and Kashmir and we welcome him. We appeal to him to announce a commission of inquiry into the wrong alignments (undertaken by the construction companies working on the four-laning Jammu-Srinagar national highway project) which resulted in frequent occurrences of shooting stones (from the hillocks overlooking the road)," Bukhari told reporters after addressing a workers meet in Ramgarh area of Samba district.

The work on the four-laning project of the 270-km highway, the only all weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, has been going on since 2011.

"The contractors engaged by the concerned agency have undertaken the works without considering the fallout and have taken their money, but over the years, the highway has not been stabilised," he said.

Praising the Union Road Transport and Highways minister for his efforts, Bukhari suggested him to focus on construction of a tunnel on Mughal Road, an alternate route connecting the twin districts of Pooch and Rajouri in Jammu with south Kashmir's Shopian, which usually remains closed during the winter owing to heavy snowfall.

"You have promised a tunnel for Mughal Road (to make it an all-weather road). You are inspecting the works on Zojila tunnel (along Srinagar-Leh national highway) and you should also visit Mughal Road to see the progress of the tunnel besides

reviewing the progress on Poonch-Loran and Uri-Poonch roads and Kishtwar-Dachhan tunnel," the JKAP president said.

He expressed his displeasure on the works being undertaken under Smart City project in the twin capitals of Srinagar and Jammu and said the breadth of the roads are being narrowed on the pretext of beautification.

"They are narrowing roads and need a lesson in a closed room. They are utilising Rs 1,000 crore each on the two projects and they should be made accountable as this money belongs to the public," he said.

Responding to a question about the resignation of Junaid Azam Mattu from his post of youth president of the party, Bukhari said he resigned from his post after the completion of his term.

"There is nothing wrong in his decision. He has completed his term as party youth president and we have got a new team after recent party elections. He has not resigned from the party and he will continue as Mayor of Srinagar," he said.

He said his party is enthusiastic about the assembly elections and "our preparedness makes them (BJP) to delay the elections".

Earlier, during his address, he opposed the policies of the J and K administration including its anti-encroachment drive, awarding contracts for minor minerals and liquor to outsiders.

"We are ready to sacrifice our lives for the nation but we will not stay silent when you are taking our land forcibly," he said.

Blaze Renders Two Families Homeless

SRINAGAR: A massive overnight blaze rendered two families homeless in Kanyari Payeen area of Sonawari in North Kashmir's Bandipora District.



along with belongings in the mysterious overnight fire incident.

Cowsled along with livestock were also charred to death in the incident, reports added.

Meanwhile, the victims have urged the administration to take the first hand assessment of the incident and provide compensation to the fire victims.

Chicken Shop Sealed Over Outrageous Slaughtering

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A video wherein a man is seen slaughtering chicken in an inhumane and cruel manner in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district went viral, prompting authorities to seal his shop and cancel his licence, police officials said on Monday.

A video was shared on social media of a chicken shop at Bus Stand in Kishtwar which irked a particular commu-

nity as the slaughtering of the birds was being done by the butcher against religious norms, they said.

Acting swiftly, a police team, along with a food and safety inspector and the executive Magistrate, raided the shop and got it sealed, the officials said, adding the licence of its owner was also cancelled.

Police have also initiated preventive proceedings under relevant sections of law against the erring butcher, they said.

Notorious Drug Peddler Booked Under PSA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday said to have booked a notorious drug peddler from central Kashmir's Budgam district under stringent Public Safety Act.

"Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Budgam Police have booked one notorious drug peddler under Public Safety Act (PSA) after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority", said a spokesperson in a statement.

Identifying the accused as Fayaz Ahmed Ganie son of Late Abdul Ahad

Ganie resident of Hanjibugh Magam, the spokesperson said the booked notorious drug peddler has been detained and lodged in Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu.

The said drug peddler, the spokesperson said, was involved in several NDPS cases registered in various police stations of the district and was promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth of District Budgam.

"Despite his involvement in many FIRs, the drug peddler did not mend his activities", maintained the statement.

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday | 11-04-2023

Second Warmest March

The European Union's climate monitoring agency's report that Earth had its second-warmest March on record with Antarctic sea ice shrinking to its second-lowest extent is cause for deep concern. The report is based on data from satellites, ships, aircraft and weather stations around the world and shows that temperatures were higher than average in most parts of the world, including North Africa, southwestern Russia, Asia, North America, South America, Australia, and coastal Antarctica.

It is clear that global warming is having a direct effect on sea ice, with the Antarctic sea ice extent being 28 percent below average, the second lowest for March in the 45-year satellite data record. We are now at a point where dangerous tipping points could be reached. Furthermore, the report states that the past eight years were the eight warmest on record and that the record-breaking temperatures will figure among the coolest within three or four decades as global temperatures climb, even if planet-warming emissions drop quickly. It is time to take action. We must do our part to reduce our carbon footprints and push for more stringent. Climate change is an alarming reality that we can no longer ignore.

There are dire projections for health, the global food system, and economic productivity if no preemptive action is taken. Though the world is working towards capping the temperature increase at 1.5C, the prospects of this happening anytime soon look remote. Even with the temperature remaining at 1.8C, humanity could, by 2100, be exposed to periods of life-threatening climate conditions arising from the coupled impacts of extreme heat and humidity.

Over the last two years we have been witness to temperature increases across the world and to the havoc it has wrought. Last year, the world was buffeted by successive natural disasters that took thousands of lives and cost tens of billions of dollars. The countries such as Kenya, and Somalia witnessed droughts, Nigeria and Pakistan were wracked by devastating floods and vast swathes of the globe including the United States experienced unprecedented heatwaves. This has made people across the world understand the urgency of the creeping climate change and they want world leaders to act.

There is thus an urgent need for the world to come together and take remedial measures to pre-empt the catastrophe. In Kashmir too, climate change has led to considerable changes in weather patterns. Triggering alarm bells is the slowly shrinking glaciers that are the source of the Valley's water bodies. But the factors causing climate change are global in nature and so any effort to reverse the damage has to be backed by the world. And this should be done sooner than later.

OTHER OPINION

Conman saga reveals dangers of bureaucratic raj in J&K

Patel, who was finally arrested in March, visited the union territory four times from October 2022, once with his family, on two other occasions accompanied by the businessman son of Hitesh Pandya, a senior official in the Gujarat chief minister's office, with another businessman once, and on one visit a doctor who wanted to organise a conference in Pulwama. He was given a bullet-proof vehicle, two escort vehicles and a dozen security personnel from the Seema Sashastra Bal. Patel held meetings with officials, projecting power with nothing more than a visiting card and a false designation, stayed in five-star accommodation courtesy of the administration, was even allowed to visit the Line of Control at Uri. Recall that 15 years ago, a man named David Headley pulled a hoax in Mumbai, charming his way through the city's social circuit as he receded the city for the 26/11 attacks. What if Patel had been a man with more deadly intent? The episode has demonstrated a complete failure of institutional mechanisms that are supposed to be in place just to prevent such eventualities. But it seems that in the general climate of unaccountability that prevails in J&K's bureaucratic raj since 2018, officials have been playing merry with the rules, no questions asked.

After his son's involvement came to light, Pandya, who had worked in the Gujarat CMO since 2001, had to step down. But while an enquiry has got underway, the J&K administration is yet to act against the officials who enabled the elaborate fraud. Patel is one among many political power brokers who have mushroomed since 2019 and believe the Valley is now their playground. They push their way around dropping names, all the while milking "naya" Kashmir for their own benefit. The administration has closed its eyes to these unsavoury developments even as it works to ensure there is no word of criticism.

As a state of strategic national importance, J&K cannot be treated as a remote outpost of the ruling party where anything goes. Where guards can be lowered depending on who pulls the strings. While the state waits for its long overdue election, people need to be assured that those who rule in their name have no unchecked powers. Those behind the Patel breach need to be held accountable as per due process, whatever their rank

The Indian Express

Story of Waste Segregation Sheds

Create technical Human Resource , Ensure Behavioral change & Sensitize Engineers of REW about SWM Rules Water Act while executing Rural Waste Management works in J&K

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Swachh Bharat Mission -phase II has been operationalized in Jammu & Kashmir for almost one year now. The Rural Development Department has procured trash bins for crores of rupees across Jammu & Kashmir last year. Thousands of these bins were installed in villages but after a few weeks they were choked with trash and there was nobody to clear them. I had written a detailed piece on this issue last year in November titled, A Tale of Forlorn Dustbins.

Soon after that article was published, the Rural Development Department stopped further distribution of trash bins in many villages. The ground staff of RDD like Panchayat Secretaries, Gram Rozgar Sevaks (GRS) plus Sarpanches/Panches too felt that installing a trash Bin or dustbin was not the solution to address solid waste issues in rural areas because there was no facility available to clear these bins. They stopped further distribution of these bins made mostly of high quality steel. The Department of Rural Development last year also started work on construction of waste processing and collection sites which they call Segregation Sheds. This has become a common name for waste collection sites in rural areas. Between November last year to March end this year, hundreds of such sheds were constructed in rural areas of Jammu & Kashmir. Unfortunately, engineers of the Rural Engineering Wing (REW) allowed construction of these sites near water bodies and roadsides which will not only engender lives of people especially children but is again Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 constituted under the Environmental Protection Act of 1986 by Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change Govt of India.

Violation of SWM Rules 2016

The Govt of India under Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 3, 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and in supersession of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 Solid Waste Management Rules were constituted through a gazette notification dated 8th April 2016. This rules apply to every urban local body, outgrowths in urban agglomerations, census towns as declared by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, notified areas, notified industrial townships, areas under the control of Indian Railways, airports, air bases, Ports and harbours, defence establishments, special economic zones, State and Central government organisations, places of pilgrims, religious and historical importance as may be notified by respective State government from time to time and to every domestic, institutional, commercial and any other non residential solid waste generator situated in the areas except industrial waste, hazardous waste, hazardous chemicals, bio medical wastes, e-waste, lead acid batteries and radio-active waste, that are covered under separate rules framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

In Jammu & Kashmir, many rural areas fall under the outgrowths in urban agglomerations and SWM Rules 2016 apply to such areas like outskirts of Srinagar or Jammu Municipal corporation or other smaller municipalities (councils or committees). In addition to it the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act also called Water Act 1974 was enacted in 1974 & it applies to every area whether rural or urban.

Violation of Water Act 1974

By setting up Segregation Sheds, Compost units near Water Bodies in villages the Rural Development Department (RDD) especially its Rural Engineering Wing (REW) is openly violating the Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act 1974 and they can be prosecuted for the same of someone files a simple complaint before local magistrate or the National Green Tribunal. The preamble of Water Act 1974 says that this law is to provide for the prevention and control of water pollution, and for the maintaining or restoring of wholesomeness of water in the country. The Act was amended in 1988. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act was enacted to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on water consumed by persons operating and carrying on certain types of industrial activities. This cess is collected with a view to augment the resources of the Central Board and the State Boards for the prevention and control of water pollution constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The Act was last amended in 2003. Section 24 of

Water Act 1974 prohibits use of stream or well for disposal of polluting matter. The relevant section reads:

Subject to the provisions of this section, no person shall knowingly cause or permit any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter determined in accordance with such standards as may be laid down by the State Board to enter (whether directly or indirectly) into any [stream or well or sewer or on land] or no person shall knowingly cause or permit to enter into any stream any other matter which may tend, either directly or in combination with similar matters, to impede the proper flow of the water of the stream in a manner leading or likely to lead to a substantial aggravation of pollution due to other causes or of its consequences.

A person shall not be guilty of an offence under sub-section (1) of Water Act 1974, by reason only of having done or caused to be done any of the acts like (a) constructing, improving or maintaining in or across or on the bank or bed of any stream any building, bridge, weir, dam, sluice, dock, pier, drain or sewer or other permanent works which he has a right to construct, improve or maintain or depositing any materials on the bank or in the bed of any stream for the purpose of reclaiming land or for supporting, repairing or protecting the bank or bed of such stream provided such materials are not capable of polluting such stream. Even setting up these structures on roadsides is dangerous as it will invite dogs and will be a great threat to people especially children who won't be able to walk during school time from such areas ?

gated in these sheds nor had any mechanical segregator been installed anywhere which can mechanically segregate the waste into biodegradable and non-bio-degradable waste. There is no facility available in fact to dispose of the hazardous waste material like used diapers or sanitary napkins or used syringes etc.

Solution

With regard to implementing a rural waste management programme the following things need to be done:

Massive Information Education and Communication (IEC) programme need to be taken up in association with local Imams, religious leaders and schools

The people who have been provided with compost pits and soakage pits need to be guided and handheld how to use them. For this matter technical agencies and NGOs need to be hired as mandated under 6.10.7 of Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin.

The guideline number 6.11.2 says that in order to implement the projects professionally, Specialists/ Consultants/Agencies from the fields of IEC, Human Resource Development, School Sanitation & Hygiene Education, SLWM, Monitoring and Evaluation etc may be hired at the State and district levels for the project period. The SBM Gramin guideline number 6.11.3 says that State / UT Governments are advised to post a government officer as a full-time Block Sanitation Officer (BSO).

SBM G guidelines has made it mandatory for every Gram Panchayat (GP) to have one Support Organization (SO) like an NGO member etc associated with it for assisting in fur-



“This makes it clear that we have no deficiency of funds under the rural infrastructure and waste management sector especially from the last 3 to 4 years. What we lack is the dearth of technical human resources who could have made SBM Gramin successful

thering the sanitation programme. The State and District Missions are supposed to take necessary steps for providing supporting organisation to each panchayat. This is lacking in J&K and we get no desired results on ground.

The Rural Engineering Wing (REW) while executing the works under SBM Gramin Phase II must be sensitized about laws like Environmental Protection Act 1986, Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 and Water Act 1974 so that they take due care of these laws and rules while making civil constructions. It must be made mandatory upon those households who have been provided with compost pits to treat all the kitchen waste there and regular inspections should be done for the same

Conclusion

At an average Rs 4.50 lakhs are provided to each Panchayat for constructing segregation sheds, compost pits and soakage pits. For 5000 village panchayats in J&K, a whopping amount of Rs 225 Crores has been allocated. In addition, crores of rupees have been spent on purchase of steel trash bins as well. Rs 23.40 lakhs are available given to each panchayat halqa every year plus share from DDC and BDC grants. This makes it clear that we have no deficiency of funds under the rural infrastructure and waste management sector especially from the last 3 to 4 years. What we lack is the dearth of technical human resources who could have made SBM Gramin successful. This is a big lacuna which needs to be addressed. Waste management is not at all about undertaking civil works or purchasing a large number of trash bins. This is more than that and demands behavioural change. Let us all become part of this change.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow & Anant Fellow for Climate Action

The Anchor

By Wasim Nabi

In a misty March day, Ghulam Rasool Najar sits steady to craft a new houseboat with a grand artist's devotion. Frequent hammer thuds on wood echo his derelict houseboat yard in Kashmir capital, Srinagar's famed Dal Lake. Najar's snow-white beard, parched face and intense looks give away his gravity as a veteran craftsman struggling to retain the vintage hook in houseboats – the floating marvels, called a shimmering specimen of Kashmir's rich artistry.

The feisty octogenarian occupies a quintessential carpentry workplace in the middle of the lake bereft of tourists. The long-faced locals here own houseboats, having no match in the world.

Many call this part of Srinagar as an 'amphibian world'. It houses the famous Hanji community of Kashmir in a loose cluster of hutments and houseboats. A meandering corridor from the bustling Dalgate side—a prominent sightseeing area in the mountainous region—takes one into the backwaters filled with a sense of pity and site of pollution, forcing many to give up on their glorious vacant vassals.

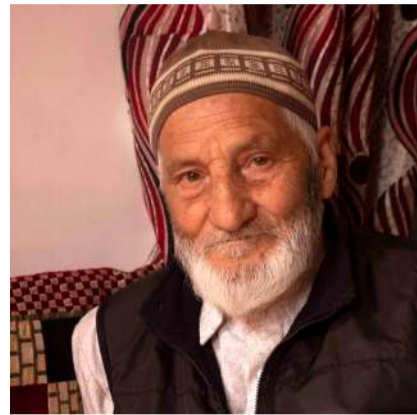
But one man—Najar—standing tall beyond his retirement age is making it sure to continue to make houseboats as the pride of Kashmir.

Much before Najar's birth, the art of houseboat-making had started when the World War-I was raving the empires across the globe. Somewhere in 1918, a bunch of war-weary Imperial British had arrived in Kashmir as duck-hunters and sightseers.

To live closer to the lake full of ducks, they constructed houseboats. Construction process needed the local manpower and expertise. Srinagar being an artisan hub played its great role in beautifying these floating houses. Among those artists were the houseboat carpenters.

"Houseboat carpenters are completely different from other carpenters," Najar says, between his intermittent silences and frequent metal thuds. "The art of making houseboats involves three different teams who work in tandem. One team forms the base, other one makes the whole structure, while the third team chips in with the interior designs."

One among those pioneering carpenters was Najar's father, Mohammad Hanief. "My father was considered as the finest artist of his times," he says, with a faint smile.



Among Hanief's craft marvels is a Sufi shrine in Srinagar – the place known for housing some revered and carpentry-rich shrines. But after his sudden death, Najar as a Class 2 student, had to step into his father's 'big' shoes.

It was 1952, and Najar got his first gig as an apprentice of his father's friend for a shrine-repairing in Srinagar. It was the beginning of his long carpentry journey, which would shortly pass through the lake for houseboat-making.

"I made my first houseboat in Srinagar's picturesque Nigeen Lake," Najar recalls.

Being a relatively less crowded water body, the Nigeen Lake was famous among foreigners of yore for its meditative calm. Later Najar would make a houseboat called Khyber in the Dal Lake. After that, there was no looking back.

Today, nearly 70 years after Najar started his rare carpentry, houseboats in the Dal Lake have become mesmerizing art-pieces. But at the same time, the perpetual political problem in the region has taken a huge hit on the industry.

Kashmir being the UN-recognised dispute between India and Pakistan saw the two nuke-armoured South Asian neighbours waging three wars on it. By late eighties, as militancy erupted in Kashmir, the region's high-end foreign tourism – the lifeline of houseboat industry—collapsed, more so, in the face of a torrent of travel advisories shot by western countries.

As the armed conflict dragged on, the government imposed a ban on building new houseboats 'to prevent pollution' in the Dal Lake.

"It was a bizarre decision," Najar says. "Instead of coming to the rescue of the conflict-battered houseboat community, the government imposed sanctions on it and shattered the once thriving industry."

With the result, many houseboat carpenters were forced to switch over to other means of living. However, a handful of carpenters, including Najar, stayed put. His obscure tribe managed to prolong their ties with the fading art by sustaining on the occasional houseboat repairing work orders.

But for his amazing skill and dogged resilience to keep the heritage promise intact, Najar, the elderly 'wouste' (master) holds a great sway and admiration over the houseboat community.

To his credit, he says, are around 45 percent of the houseboats in the lake. It usually takes him around 15 months to make one houseboat.

"Back in the day, when Kashmir was peaceful and packed with tourists and travellers, we used to work endlessly, without compromising on quality," he says. "Even today houseboat owners seek my services. Yes, the demand is less, but I'm still very much passionate about my work."

His keenness as a craftsman saw him producing some exceptional floating artifacts.

In the year of 1983, on one foreign tourist's description, Najar made a famous Butterfly Houseboat in Nigeen Lake. "It took me four years to complete it," he recalls with a glint in his eyes. "That is one of my masterpieces."

Today, only a few good looking houseboats—a symbol of rich Kashmiri artistry—are left in the lake. And most of them are Najar's creation.

"From once 2500, the number of houseboats has now come down to 915," says Manzoor Pakhtoon, owner of group of houseboats in the Dal Lake. "The houseboat decline can be prevented by supporting the skillful houseboat carpenters, like Najar. These veterans should be engaged in training sessions and workshops, so that the next generation grappling with a biting unemployment could earn their decent living and take their legacy forward."

But inside the houseboat yard, Najar sulks over the state of affairs.

"We're into different times now," he breaks a fleeting silence. "Earlier, foreign tourists knew the value of art and artists. But today, this craft has just become a mere formality." Sadly, even the lake he helped shine with his skill is fast losing its sheen.

There're rampant constructions going on at certain places right under the nose of the regional authorities. Residential houses, concrete buildings and black tops have already made inroads in the water body. "Dal Lake was once a cleanest water body in the valley, but its slow death and the government's apathy has marred its beauty," Najar laments.

However, in the lake lacking the yesteryears' buzz and business, the 'wouste' continues to hold the fort. But what happens next, after the master departs and abandons the yard completely, is the question haunting the already distressed houseboat community of Kashmir today.



KARGIL'S TOURIST WONDERLAND

By Nitisha Dubey

The Mushko Valley is nestled in Drass – the second coldest inhabited place in the world. Drass which is 141 kilometres from Srinagar is also called the gateway to Ladakh.

If you're planning to visit cold desert Ladakh, a visit to Mushko valley is a must as it will set your mode and tone to explore the beauty of twin districts of Leh and Kargil.

Tourist flow to Kargil increased after the Kargil War in 1999. The department of tourism has been promoting and developing the place for tourism activities vigorously since then.

Before travelling to Leh where barren mountains will welcome you with their changing colours depending upon the time of the day, Mushko Valley offers you breathtaking

meadows filled with different varieties of wild flowers.

Mushko situated at an elevation of around 11,000 feet is just eight kilometers from the main market in Drass. The valley has a population settled in a beautiful highland village surrounded by the mountains and meadow on all sides. The village has a breathtaking landscape as River Dras also flows through it.

From Mushko one can also trek to Tilail in Gurez (Bandipora) in few days which passes through many meadows. The meadows are dotted with different varieties of flowers.

The mountain slopes in the Mushko Valley give the village a breathtaking beauty. The villagers are mostly involved in farming and sheep rearing.

-The author is a senior scribe based out of New Delhi.

• **Best time to visit:**

Summer season between May and September is the best time to visit the destination.

• **Accommodation:**

Tourism department has its own bungalow at Drass which has well furnished rooms where the food of your choice will be served. Some guest house and hotels have also come up in the Drass.

• **How to visit:**

Srinagar is connected to Kargil / Drass via National Highway 1. The route passes through Zoji La pass at an elevation of 10,764 feet above sea level.

The local cabs especially Mahindra Xylo and the Toyota Innova are readily available at Tourist Reception Centre Srinagar which operate to Kargil and Leh on a daily basis. It takes four hours to reach Drass from Srinagar.

Scientists Develop Eco-Friendly 3D Printed Polymer Parts From Terrestrial Insects

Press Trust of India

An international team, including researchers from India, has successfully developed a method of using a compound from terrestrial insects to manufacture eco-friendly polymer composite parts with the 3D printing method.

The researchers, including those from Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College in Tamilnadu, used Chitosan derived from chitin, a compound found in the exoskeletons of arthropods such as insects, as well as in sea creatures such as the shells of crabs.

The 3D printing technology is a form of manufacturing which has become popular in recent times due to its ability to produce complex shapes and geometries difficult to achieve using traditional manufacturing techniques.

As a result, the demand for raw material for 3D printing is on the rise. It is crucial to ensure responsible usage of raw materials for 3D printing to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goal 12, i.e., promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Terrestrial insects are a potential source of chitosan due to their abundance, accessibility, and relatively high chitin content in their exoskeletons.



There are several potential benefits to extracting chitosan from terrestrial insects, including sustainable and eco-friendly production.

Insects are a sustainable source of chitosan, as they can be easily farmed and harvested in large quantities without contributing to environmental pollution.

In contrast, traditional sources of chitosan such as shrimp and crab shells

can be unsustainable and have negative environmental impacts.

The study, published in the Journal of Polymers and the Environment, investigated the feasibility of developing an environmentally friendly composite material using 3D printing technology.

The team, including researchers from Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Tamilnadu, found that the addition of chitin and chitosan, derived from terrestrial insects, to the

The team, including researchers from Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Tamilnadu, found that the addition of chitin and chitosan, derived from terrestrial insects, to the polylactic acid (PLA) matrix led to a decrease in strength and stiffness, which worsened with increasing concentrations of chitin and chitosan. PLA is the most widely used plastic filament material in 3D printing.

polylactic acid (PLA) matrix led to a decrease in strength and stiffness, which worsened with increasing concentrations of chitin and chitosan. PLA is the most widely used plastic filament material in 3D printing.

The composite material with 0.5 per cent by weight chitin reinforcement had the lowest tensile and flexural

strength compared to other composites produced using additive manufacturing, the researchers said.

The reduction in strength and stiffness of the chitin/PLA and chitosan/PLA composites, in comparison to neat PLA, was attributed to the decreased interfacial bonding between the reinforcement and matrix, they said.

The chitin/PLA and chitosan/PLA composites demonstrated enhanced ductility relative to neat PLA, with the 0.1 weight per cent chitin composite showing the highest ductility, the degree to which a material can sustain stress.

The study concluded that chitin and chitosan could contribute to toughening the PLA composite.

The team also found that the density of the composites increased with increasing concentrations of chitin and chitosan.

The Chitin/PLA and Chitosan/PLA composites exhibited good thermal stability, and could have potential applications for food product packaging based on their compressive properties, the researchers added.

Other researchers in the study are from Singapore Institute of Technology, Newcastle University in Singapore, Mahidol University in Thailand, and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

A Possible New Mechanism Behind Earth's Self Cleaning Process Uncovered

Press Trust of India

Despite the absence of sunlight, special atmospheric conditions could produce hydroxide (OH) molecules, which power atmosphere's self-cleaning mechanism by reacting with pollutants and eliminating them, according to a new study.

The researchers of the study, including one from University of California, Irvine (UCI), US, report that the presence of a strong electric field at the interface of airborne water droplets and the surrounding air can create OH by a previously unknown mechanism.

"You need OH to oxidize hydrocarbons, otherwise they would build up in the atmosphere indefinitely," said Sergey Nizkorodov, professor of chemistry at UCI.

"OH initiates the reactions that break down airborne pollutants and helps to remove noxious chemicals such as sulphur dioxide and nitric oxide, which are poisonous gases, from the atmosphere," said Christian George, an atmospheric chemist at the University of Lyon in France and lead author of the study.

A key player in atmospheric chemistry, researchers said that a deeper and fuller understanding of OH sources and sinks is important to mitigating air pollution.

The new mechanism uncovered has been published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Before, researchers assumed that sunlight was the chief driver of OH formation.

"The conventional wisdom is that you have to make OH by photochemistry or redox chemistry. You have to have sunlight or metals acting as catalysts," Nizkorodov said.

"What this paper says in essence is you don't need any of this. In the pure water itself, OH can be created spontaneously by the special conditions on the surface of the droplets," Nizkorodov said.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION
UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
NAAC Accredited Grade "A+" | HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage (%age) basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/U.T/ Central Governments for the following works

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Beautification of Interior Roads and allied Miscellaneous Works at Main campus.	17.62Lacs	Rs.800/-	35,240/-	08-04-2023 to 15-04-2023 (6.00 PM)	17-04-2023 (11.30 AM)	"BEE" & "CEE"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.

NIT No: - F(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/06/23
DATED: 08/04/23

DIPK-NB-140/23
dated: 10-04-2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer

Union Territory Govt, of Jammu & Kashmir
Directorate Of Health Services Kashmir
visit us at www.dhskashmir.org

SUBJECT: - REVISED FINAL SENIORITY LIST OF HEAD. SUPERVISOR. Senior AND JUNIOR LAB/ X-RAY/ DENTAL/ OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIANS OF DISTRICT CADRE KASHMIR DIVISION.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, this office had issued 1st, 2nd and Final Seniority list of Junior to Head Lab/ X-Ray/ Dental/ Ophthalmic Technicians category, through print media vide this office Notification No's: -DHSK/Est/4th/NG/149/S. list/Jr.Tech.Staff/3501-22. Dated: - 08.03.2023, DHSK/Est/4,h/NG/149/S. list/Jr.Tech.Staff 4260-81.Dated:-24.03.2023, and DHSK/Est/4,h/NG/149/S. list/Jr.Tech.Staff/4781-4803, Dated:-04/04/2023, the copy of which was made available on official website also for inviting objection (if any) in this behalf.

Whereas, some representations have been received by this office which have been examined and accommodated accordingly as per S.O.334, Dated: -13.07.2022 and as per Rule 24 (1) of J&K CCA and Appeal Rules of 1956 for fixation of seniority of the officials.

Now the REVISED FINAL SENIORITY LIST has been prepared and issued for its publication in print media and a copy of the same is also made available on official website (www.dhskashmir.org) for its vide publicity.

No: - DHSK/Est/4th/NG/149/S.List/Jr.Tech.Staff/5212-33
DIPK-265/23
dated: 10-04-2023

Deputy Director (HQ)
Health Service Kashmir

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT.
Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
e-NIT No:- 01/206-15/2023-24/RnB/Bla Dated 08.04.2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest money, (In Rs.)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of	Major Head of Account	Project Authority	Position of AAA	Position of funds
1.	Construction of Working Plat-form with Shed for establishment of Solid Waste Management at Municipal Committee Pattan	99.97	200000/-	1600/-	120days	AAY	Solid Waste Management	Executive Officer MC Pattan	Accorded (MC/Ptn/ Actt//2021-22/756-58 of 2022 dt: 04.07.2022	Available
2.	Construction of lane from H/O Fayaz Ahmad Khan up to H/O Peer Mohd Karim Khan at upper Sangri Ward No 15	8.26	16520/-	600/-	30days	C&D	Normal Resource of MC Baramulla	Chief Executive Officer MC Baramulla	Accorded (MC/ BLA/A/ 2023/3893-97 Dated 06.03.2023)	Available

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	08.04.2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10.04.2023 to 25.04.2023 4:00PM
3	Bid submission Start date	15.04.2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	25.04.2023 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	26.04.2023 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 mentioning there in the name of work/ NIT No. in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 3% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/ Maintenance Period.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Baramulla.

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

6. The bidder shall be debarred for tendering process if:-
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
7.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
7.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
7.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
7.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as L1 immediately after opening of financial bid.
7.6. Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of Works executed/ under execution by the agency during the year 2022-23
7.7. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The tender receiving authority reserves the right of opening of the tenders on due date or any other convenient available date or rejecting any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof
10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rates inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
11. Price escalation & taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified deductions on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
13. In case of CRF & any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding documents shall be followed
All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 206-15
DIPK-288/23 Dated 10.04.2023

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Baramulla

Centre Asks States To Enforce BIS Certification On Consumer Products



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday directed state governments to enforce Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) certification on consumer products while stressing the use of digital technology to protect consumer rights and reduce pending cases in consumer courts.

After inaugurating a day-long workshop on "Consumer Protection in the northern states" held in Chandigarh, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh emphasized the role of technology in strengthening the consumer protection ecosystem and the importance of infrastructure and human resources in consumer commissions.

The Secretary said, "State heads should ensure that BIS Certification is enforced on required products for consumer safety," an official statement said. He also discussed the time dissemination project by

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to reduce India's reliance on Western countries for time accuracy. Nidhi Khare, Additional Secretary in the Consumer Affairs Ministry, stressed the use of digital technology to protect consumer rights, reduce the pendency of cases in consumer commissions, and the importance of moving towards mandatory e-filing.

She highlighted the work of the ministry on misleading advertisements, endorsement guidelines, e-commerce platforms, and direct selling guidelines, and urged consumers to be cautious of misleading ads on all platforms. She also made consumers aware of gambling games, products without BIS Certification, and influencers promoting products, the statement added. Senior officials from Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh governments attended the workshop.

Qatar Eyes Lion's Share Of Global Halal Economy



Agencies

RIYADH: Qatar's halal economy has been witnessing massive growth, with the country encouraging core sectors with high growth potential to develop products and services prescribed by Islamic law, a state agency said.

According to the Investment Promotion Agency of Qatar, the state recorded market assets worth \$156.4 billion in financial markets in 2021, followed by \$1 billion in Islamic insurance, also known as takaful, \$14.2 billion in Islamic tourism, \$5.1 billion in healthcare and \$849 million in Islamic fintech.

The study also highlighted Qatar's role in developing the global and national halal accreditation ecosystem by establishing the Organization of Islamic Cooperations Halal Accreditation Centre and the evolution of the Ministry of Public

Health's guidance on importing halal food products.

The state is developing as the halal economy hub in the region.

"The country's halal economy value chain is supported by players across industries, from purchasing halal inputs to certifying and accrediting products for halal standards and logistics and distribution to end-users," the report stated.

Qatar is also promoting initiatives such as the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's "Halal Livelihood" program to raise awareness about halal living and the significance and potential of takaful, green investments and sukuk issuance.

As part of its ambitious Qatar National Vision 2030, the country aims to position itself as a leading hub for trade, tourism and investment in the region, including in its halal economy, which ranks in the top 10 on the Global Islamic Economy Indicator.

Covovax Booster Dose To Be Available On CoWIN, Cost Rs 225: Report

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: In view of rising cases of COVID-19 in various parts of the country, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya is learnt to have approved the inclusion of Serum Institute's Covovax on the CoWIN portal as a heterologous booster dose for adults, official sources said on Monday.

Covovax is likely to be available on the portal in a few days at a price of Rs 225 per dose plus applicable GST.

The move comes after a letter was written by Prakash Kumar Singh, Director, Serum Institute of India (SII) to the Union health ministry on March 27, the sources said.

According to an official source, Singh had mentioned in his letter to the ministry that Covovax is a world class vaccine approved by the DCGI, WHO and USFDA and it should be included on the CoWIN portal



as a heterologous booster dose for adults.

Covovax can be administered to those who have already vaccinated with Covishield or Covaxin. Last month, the COVID-19 Working Group headed by Dr N K Arora also recommended to the Health Ministry for the inclusion of the vaccine on the portal as a heterologous booster dose for adults who

have been vaccinated with two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on January 16 approved the market authorisation for Covovax for those who have been administered two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin. Also, Covovax has been approved by WHO and USFDA, USA.

'Nandini Better Brand, Don't Need Amul': Karnataka Congress Slams BJP

ANI

NEW DELHI: Congress Karnataka chief DK Shivakumar on Monday visited a Nandini Milk parlour in the Hassan amid the ongoing charges and counter-charges between the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress and JD(S) over Amul's announcement of foraying into the Karnataka market.

Shivakumar expressed support for Karnataka's home-grown milk brand Nandini, which he claimed is better than that of the Gujarat-based dairy cooperative Amul. He was seen buying and consuming Nandini products.

"We already have Nandini which is a better brand than Amul...We don't need any Amul...our water, our milk, and our soil is strong," Mr Shivakumar told ANI.

"In Karnataka, it's a question of our farmer's rights. More than 70 lakh farmers produce milk and give it to Nandini. Gujarat's Amul is also by farmers. But it's not right to push Amul forward and Nandini back. Their (BJP) government has not provided any help to farmers. We have to save our product and our farmers," Mr Shivakumar said.

The Congress leader said that the ruling BJP government had "raised the prices of all dairy products and they haven't done any help to farmers. In between, we are in the situation where we can't sell milk."

Meanwhile, Police detained workers of Karnataka



Rakshana Vedike in Bengaluru, who protested over Amul's entry into the State.

Amul had recently announced that it will sell dairy products in Bengaluru following which Opposition Congress and the JD(U) expressed their protest.

Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) has hit out at the Congress for running a "misinformation campaign." State BJP general secretary Ravi Kumar stated that Nandini is on number two position in India ever since BJP came to power in Karnataka.

"Nandini is on number two position in the whole country, so in the coming days, we will also export to different countries, this is our idea. Nandini products are supplied in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Nandini's milk is also used to make laddoos in Tirupati temple," added Ravi Kumar.

BJP state general secretary Aswathnarayan said that former chief ministers Siddaramaiah of the Congress and HD Kumaraswamy of JD(S) along with some oth-

ers like DK Shivakumar had been over the past few days spreading misinformation and "hulla gulla."

BJP leader Amit Malviya had on Sunday tweeted, "There is a reason why India doesn't TRUST Congress. They LIE! Latest being the misinformation campaign that Karnataka Milk Federation, which owns Nandini, is going to merge with Amul. Here are the facts - BJP has done far more to strengthen KMF and make Nandini a global brand."

Mr Malviya in a series of tweets clarified that Amul will not be entering Karnataka and both Amul and KMF sell their products across quick-commerce platforms.

"Amul is NOT entering Karnataka - Both Amul and KMF sell their products across quick-commerce platforms - KMF's turnover went up by 10,000 crore after BJP came to power in 2019. In 2022, turnover stood at 25,000 crore, of which 20,000 crore went back to farmers of Karnataka," he tweeted.

RBI Issues Detailed Norms For Outsourcing Of IT Services By Banks, NBFCs

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Reserve Bank of India on Monday came out with detailed norms for outsourcing of IT services by banks, NBFCs and regulated financial sector entities to ensure that such arrangements do not undermine their responsibilities and obligations to customers.

In its 'Master Direction on Outsourcing of Information Technology Services', RBI said that Regulated Entities (REs) have been extensively leveraging IT and IT-enabled Services (ITes) to support their business models, products and services offered to their customers.

In February last year, the central bank proposed the issuance of suitable regulatory guidelines on outsourcing of IT services with an aim to ensure effective management of attendant risks. Later, draft norms were issued.

According to RBI, the underlying principle of the directions is to ensure that outsourcing arrangements neither diminish REs' ability to fulfil its obligations to customers nor impede effective supervision by the

central bank. With a view to provide REs adequate time to comply with the requirements, the norms will come into effect from October 1, 2023.

A RE shall take steps to ensure that the service provider employs the same high standard of care in performing the services as would have been employed by the RE, if the same activity was not outsourced, the central bank said.

According to the central bank, a RE should not engage an IT service provider that would result in reputation of RE being compromised or weakened.

Notwithstanding whether the service provider is located in India or abroad, REs should ensure that outsourcing should neither impede nor interfere with the ability of the RE to effectively oversee and manage its activities, as per RBI.

Further, REs have been told to evaluate the need for outsourcing of IT services based on comprehensive assessment of attendant benefits, risks and availability of commensurate processes to manage those risks.



Retail Loan Securitisation Rises 56% To Rs 1.76 Lakh Cr In FY23

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Retail loan securitisations jumped a robust 56 per cent to Rs 1.76 lakh crore in the just concluded fiscal 2023, while that of wholesale rose to around Rs 6,600 crore, coming out of the pandemic blues finally, says a report.

The secondary market for standard retail assets has seen a robust growth of 56 per cent in FY23, reflecting the resilient retail asset pools in the secondary market as well as the preference of banks to meet their retail assets to grow priority sector lending requirements, according to a Care Ratings analysis. Such robust growth was possible as bank lending to NBFCs grew 32 per cent and there is a positive correlation between interest rate and relative premium for PSL assets. Both these factors augur well for securitisation market, the agency said.

"We expect the market to continue to grow but at a moderate pace in FY24," senior directors Sanjay Agarwal and Vineet Jain said in a note. The total volume, including direct assignment transactions, rose to Rs 176,000 crore from around Rs 1,13,000 crore in FY22, led by direct assignments which constituted around 61 per cent of the total securitisation market with pass-through certificates (PTCs) making up the remaining volume. The credit quality of retail assets remained resilient, and the total credit growth of banks increased by just over 15 per cent,



while bank credit to NBFCs grew by more than twice that rate.

The two main drivers of growth for the securitisation market continue to be the priority sector lending requirement and the need to expand the retail asset book. The robust growth also shows that the regulatory changes in December 2022 did not have any material impact on the overall volumes except that securitisation volume by fintech lenders were negatively impacted in the second half of the fiscal. With new originators from universal banks—up 30 per cent, small finance banks, NBFCs and HFCs coming to the market, driven by higher demand for retail assets, DA transactions dominated the market volume and mortgage-backed securitisation transactions comprised the lion's share of it with 50 per cent. Asset-backed securitisation and micro-finance loans constituted around 31 per cent and 19 per cent of the volumes, respectively. DA transactions grew around 49 per cent, while PTC volumes, mainly driven by ABS pools, contributed around 76 per cent of the total PTC issuances, with around Rs 42,500 crore coming from vehicle financing, followed by MFI loans contributing around 13 per cent.

Unruly Passengers: DGCA Issues Advisory To Airlines, Reiterates Norms To Deal With Such Incidents

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Aviation regulator DGCA on Monday issued an advisory to airlines reiterating the existing provisions in place to deal with unruly passengers.

The advisory comes against the backdrop of rising incidents of unruly passengers onboard flights and also on a day when a male passenger was deboarded by Air India from a Delhi-London flight for causing physical harm to two cabin crew members.

In an advisory, DGCA said there are provisions under the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) for action to be taken by the airline to deal with unruly passengers.

Besides, it said the responsibilities of pilots, cabin crew members and the director of inflight services are also mentioned in the CAR.

DGCA said that in the recent past, it has noticed a few incidents such as smoking in air-



craft, consumption of alcoholic beverages resulting in unruly behaviour, altercations between passengers and sometimes inappropriate touching or sexual harassment by the passengers onboard an aircraft during the flight, wherein "post holders, pilots and cabin crew members have failed to take appropriate actions".

"Such incidents have potential of compromising the safety of aircraft operations," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said.

The watchdog has advised the heads of operations of all airlines to sensitise their pilots, cabin crew and post holders on handling of unruly passengers

through appropriate means.

The measures can be "but not limited to training programme for ensuring effective monitoring, maintenance of good order and discipline on board the aircraft so that safety of aircraft operations is not jeopardised in any manner," the advisory said.

DGCA regulations provide for classifying unruly passenger behaviour into three levels and such people can face flying ban for varying periods.

Unruly behaviour such as physical gestures, verbal harassment and unruly inebriation are classified as Level 1 while physically abusive behaviour like pushing, kicking or sexual harassment will be classified as Level 2.

Life threatening behaviour such as damage to aircraft operating systems, physical violence like choking and murderous assault will be considered as Level 3.

Tourism Deptt Kulgam Launches Rural Tourism Planning At Village Tangmarg Aharbal

Observer News Service

KULGAM: The Tourism Department Kulgam Monday launched a Rural Tourism Planning Programme at the village Tangmarg Aharbal.

Speaking on the occasion, Asst Director Tourism Kulgam said that the main focus of the programme is to stimulate rural economy through rural tourism, besides creation of the new business and self employment opportunities especially through home stays.

The officer said that revitalization of local art & craft, home stays and best tourism village are other agendas of the programme.

The convergence between tourism and rural development through involvement of panchayat will be key to development of village tourism. The panchayat tourism plans have been framed early this year and now need an action plan for execution.

The officers laid stress on cleanliness and sanitation of tourism villages with special focus on Aharbal villages. Clean and green Kulgam will be important for the long run of sustainable tourism.

Needless to mention that due to



special focus on Aharbal through summer and winter festival, tourism in Kulgam has doubled.

The panchayats, tourism department, Aharbal development authority (ADA) and RDD are key contributors to this success.

The programme was launched in collaboration with RDD & PR Kulgam. The Sarpanches, Panchs, youth club members and many local people participated in the programme. The officers/officials of Tourism, ADA and RDD departments also remained present. All the participants appreciated the move to revitalize the rural tourism.

Sensex, Nifty Eke Out Gains In Volatile Trade, Rise For 6th Day

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty eked out gains in volatile trade on Monday, extending the winning streak to a sixth day even as investors preferred to stay on the sidelines ahead of the start of quarterly earnings.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended marginally up by 13.54 points or 0.02 per cent to 59,846.51. During the day, it climbed 276.14 points or 0.46 per cent to 60,109.11. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 24.90 points or 0.14 per cent to finish at 17,624.05.

Among the Sensex firms, Tata Motors ended with over 5 per cent gains. Wipro, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, Titan, Tata Consultancy Services and HCL Technologies were among the other major winners.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Japan ended in the green, while Shanghai settled lower.

The US markets ended in positive territory on Thursday. The stock markets in the US were closed on April 7 for Good Friday.

"The positive quarterly business updates from auto and real estate firms caused strong movements in their respective sectors, but the overall mood was slightly dampened by solid US job data, which raised fears of further rate hikes by the Fed.

Rahul Gandhi has ties with 'undesirable business', alleges Ghulam Nabi Azad; BJP asks Rahul to clarify; Cong attacks Azad

AGENCEIS

New Delhi: Former Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad's allegation that Rahul Gandhi has ties with "undesirable businessmen" triggered a political row on Monday with the BJP asking Gandhi to clarify the "serious charge" made against him.

The Congress hit back at Azad alleging that with every passing day he "falls to new depths" to demonstrate his loyalty to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Azad's contemptible statements on the Congress' leadership reflect his desperation to remain relevant, the Congress said.

In an interview with the Malayalam News channel Asianet News on Sunday, Azad, referring to the Gandhi family, said, "the entire family has associations with businessmen, including him (Rahul). I can give you 10 examples of where he would go, even outside the country, to meet people who are undesirable businessmen."

Seeking an explanation from Rahul Gandhi over the allegation, senior BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "Ghulam Nabi Azad

has made a serious allegation that whenever Rahul Gandhi goes on a foreign tour, he meets many 'unwanted businessmen.'"

"Who are these 'unwanted traders' and what are their interests? Is Rahul Gandhi trying to weaken India at the behest of anti-India businessmen and working against Modi ji (PM Narendra Modi)?" he said at a press conference in Patna.

Prasad also wondered why Gandhi is maintaining a "stoic silence" over the alleged involvement of Congress leaders in "a number of scams".

"Revelations made by Azad are serious in nature... Rahul Gandhi needs to clarify," the senior BJP leader said.

Azad's charge on Sunday came a day after Rahul Gandhi had taken a swipe at some leaders who have quit the Congress in recent years and some of whom have joined the BJP, while keeping up his offensive against the government over the Adani issue.

Hitting back at Azad, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "With every passing day, Ghulam Nabi Azad falls to new depths to demonstrate his true

character and his loyalty to Mr (Narendra) Modi."

"His contemptible statements on the Congress leadership reflect his desperation to remain relevant. I can only say that he is pathetic," Ramesh said in a tweet.

In a sharp counter-response to Ramesh, BJP general secretary (Organisation) BL Santhosh said, "with every passing day you are becoming a bigger trumpeter for 'Emperor without clothes.'"

Coinciding with the launch of his autobiography, Azad has been giving a series of interviews, slamming the Congress leadership and the party and said one has to be "spineless" to remain in the Congress party.

He also made some disparaging remarks against Rahul Gandhi as he squarely blamed him for his ouster from the party.

Congress leaders from Jammu and Kashmir also hit out at Azad on Monday, saying his criticism is a manifestation of "treachery and highest form of ungratefulness" towards the Nehru-Gandhi family on his part.

"Former Congress LOP in Rajya Sabha should also have

counted out of turn' promotions, favours and positions both (official and organisational) he enjoyed during his four decades in power due to Nehru-Gandhi family's blessings and trust reposed in him," Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Saifuddin Soz and Tariq Hameed Karra said in a joint statement.

Hailing from a remote area of the Doda district, Azad was recommended by late Mufti Mohd Sayeed to Madam Indira Gandhi, who made him a youth leader without any political background or fan following, they said.

"Then he (Azad) was rewarded with a party ticket to contest the Lok Sabha elections from Maharashtra where Madam Gandhi herself campaigned and ensured his victory by a thumping majority, with the result he made his entry in Lok Sabha for the first time.

"Since then, the Nehru-Gandhi family, whom Azad is now targeting, made a sea of opportunities available for him. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha many times, subsequently made the Union minister a number of times without facing elections,

which he should also count while speaking against the Gandhi family," the statement stated.

Azad, who floated the Democratic Progressive Azad Party after quitting the Congress, had recently said that Rahul Gandhi was the primary reason why he and many others had left the party and claimed it was not in the hands of Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi or even party president Mallikarjun Kharge to ensure his return to the party fold even if they wanted.

The Congress leaders said Azad was defaming the party to create confusion among the masses in view of the Gandhian's constructive role and the appreciation he was receiving for "fighting the battle against crony capitalism and organised loot of the nation's wealth on the part of the Narendra Modi government".

Meanwhile, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also came out in support of her brother saying she is proud of her brother who faces injustice with dignity and won't back down from the truth no matter how many desert him.

Preventive Detention Laws Colonial Legacy, Must Be Used Only In Rarest Of Rare Cases: SC

New Delhi: Preventive detention laws in India are a colonial legacy with a great potential to be abused and must be used only in the rarest of rare cases, the Supreme Court said on Monday.

The top court said courts must analyse cases arising from such laws with extreme caution to ensure there are checks and balances on exercise of power of the government.

A bench of Justices Krishna Murari and V Ramasubramanian made the observations while setting aside a detention order for a man accused in a gold smuggling case.

"Preventive detention laws in India are a colonial legacy, and have a great potential to be abused and misused. Laws that have the ability to confer arbitrary powers to the state, must in all circumstances, be very critically examined, and must be used only in the rarest of rare cases.

"In cases of preventive detention, where the detenu is held in arrest not for a crime he has committed, but for a potential crime he may commit, the Courts must always give every benefit of the doubt in favour of the detenu, and even the slightest of errors

in procedural compliances must result in favour of the detenu," the bench said.

The apex court said every procedural rigidity must be followed in entirety by the government in cases of preventive detention, and every lapse in procedure must give rise to a benefit to the case of the detenu.

"The Courts, in circumstances of preventive detention, are conferred with the duty that has been given the utmost importance by the Constitution, which is the protection of individual and civil liberties.

"This act of protecting civil liberties is not just the saving of rights of individuals in person and the society at large, but is also an act of preserving our Constitutional ethos, which is a product of a series of struggles against the arbitrary power of the British state," the bench said.

The top court's judgement came on an appeal filed by Pramod Singla challenging an order of the Delhi High Court which had rejected his plea to quash the detention order against him on the grounds of delay in considering his representation.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K To Have American

Gadkari told reporters here.

The minister was in the union territory to attend the second meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Road Transport and Highways.

Gadkari said when the BJP government was formed at the Centre in 2014, we prepared a roadmap for road infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Since then we have undertaken projects worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore in Jammu and Kashmir. Once these projects are complete, the tourist footfall to Jammu and Kashmir will increase by four times. People go to Switzerland, our J&K is more beautiful," Gadkari said.

The minister said Jammu and Kashmir administration has identified 13 acres of land for creating roadside facilities for tourists.

"The tourism increase will lead to job creation for locals. In the coming few years, we will take the road network of Jammu and Kashmir to American standards," he added.

In an announcement focusing on pilgrim tourism, Gadkari announced plans for construction of a tunnel between Sheshnag and Panjtarni on the Amarnath yatra route which, he claimed, will reduce the yatra time from the current three days to just nine hours.

"A 110 kilometre road from Khanabal to Panjtarni will be constructed for the ease of Amarnath yatis at a cost of Rs 5,300 crore. The DPR for 73 km stretch from Khanabal to Chandanwari will be done in July 2023.

"The DPR for a 37 km stretch from Chandanwari to Baltal via Panjtarni at a cost of Rs 3,500 will be done in October this year. A 10.8 kilometre-long tunnel will be constructed between Sheshnag and Panjtarni," the minister said.

According to the minister, the Srinagar Ring Road (from Galander in Pulwama district to Ganderbal district), which is being constructed at a cost of Rs 4,660 crore, will ease the traffic congestion and pollution in the city.

Further, the minister made the announcement of construction of a tunnel at Pir Ki Gali on Mughal Road, connecting Poonch in Jammu region to Shopian in the Valley.

"The Rs 6,000 crore project includes a Rs 5,000 crore tunnel at Pir ki Gali, which comprises the construction of an all weather road," he said.

He gave details of the ongoing road projects in the union territory, saying it will reduce the travel time on most routes.

"Tunneling on the Jammu-Srinagar corridor has reduced the distance by nearly 20 per cent. The travel time has already been reduced to 5.5 hours (between Jammu and Srinagar). It can be reduced further by two hours once the ongoing works on the remaining five tunnels are complete," he added. With inputs from PTI

'Zojila Tunnel

of central Kashmir, to Minimarg, in Drass town of Kargil district of Ladakh, is 13 km long with an approach road of 18 km.

Gadkari said the estimated cost of the project was Rs 12,000 crore, but, after discussions with experts and international consultants for a year, its cost was brought down by Rs 5,000 crore.

"This is the first time in the history of our country that we have a saving of Rs 5,000 crore as far as the estimated cost is concerned. This is a very difficult task, the people are working here in minus 26 degrees," he said.

This is to be a state-of-art-project and with the cooperation of J-K LG Manoj Sinha and his administration, it will be very helpful for us, he said.

Laying out a roadmap for connecting several cities across the country, Gadkari said the Zojila tunnel is one of the important things of "our dream to connect Kashmir to Kanyakumari". This will be connectivity between north to south, he added.

He also applauded engineers and contractors, saying it is very difficult to work here.

The union minister said about 38 per cent of the work has been completed, and a part of the project will be inaugurated this year for providing relief to the people.

"With the permission of the prime minister, the LG, we want to try to inaugurate a part of the project because that will give relief to the people," he said.

According to Harpal Singh, Project Head of Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd, which is constructing the project, the total length of the project from Sonamarg to Minimarg is 31 km. From Sonamarg to Baltal, it is 18 km, and then the main tunnel from Baltal to Minimarg is 13 km long. The work is going on at a rapid pace on both projects.

Gadkari said the project once completed would develop tourism in the area.

"The tourism in Kashmir will be increased 3-4 times and tourism is a sector which creates maximum employment avenues," he said.

"I have requested LG and JK government to plan resorts, and adventure sports, and just like Switzerland, we can develop a lot of things here, he said.

People are already coming here, Baba Amarnath road is here, so we can increase the tourism potential here, which will create more employment potential for the people of J-K. It will eradicate the poverty in Ladakh and J-K, the minister added.

He said former prime minister AB Vajpayee at the time of the Kargil war, visualised that we should have a good road between Ladakh and Srinagar.

"This is under the leadership of prime minister Narendra Modi that we have started this and we are hopeful that we will get this tunnel (completed) as early as possible," he said.

Asked about its significance in terms of

defence forces on the Indo-China border, Gadkari said while he would not like to comment on the defence point of view, the project is very important because the previous war the country fought was Kargil, for which the tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity.

"So, this is the area we are going to develop and there will be no migration of the people and the most important thing is this will be the world attraction just like Switzerland and people from India and abroad will come here for tourism and it is going to increase the employment potential in this area which will be a great thing," he added.

To a question on developing airstrips near the country's borders, the minister said the government is working on 29 road-cum-airstrip projects, out of which nine have been completed.

"Somewhere, we need permission from the airforce, it is in the process. At the time of emergency, we can use those," he said.

Asked once the breakthrough of the tunnel is achieved, would the army be allowed to travel on the rough tunnel if need be, Gadkari said whatever has to be done at the time of emergency, it will be done at that time.

"In times of emergency and in the interest of the country, a result is achieved with positivity. There has not been a such need, and there is no possibility of such need, but, if there arises a need, then we will surely do what our defence forces say," the union minister said.

Later, the minister inspected the work progress on the Z-Morh tunnel, and announced it will be inaugurated in October this year. "We will inaugurate Z-Morh tunnel in October. This will help the people a great deal and also help increase tourism, and employment opportunities," Gadkari said.

During the event, JK LG Manoj Sinha requested the union minister that local youth be given more employment opportunities in the project. The minister assured Sinha that the contractor has been directed to provide maximum employment opportunities to the local youth.

Sharp Decline

sharp decline in the proportion of RTIs transferred by PIOs in 2021-22 as compared to 2020-21. In 2021-22, 4.73% RTI applications were transferred in J&K while it was 38.74% in 2020-21, the CHRI said. It is pertinent to mention that Central Right to Information Act-2005 became applicable in Jammu & Kashmir UT after the Centre effected constitutional changes in 2019.

Before these changes, Jammu & Kashmir had its own RTI law—(KNO)

J&K Reports

24 hours—all from Jammu division. There are now 426 active cases— 158 in Jammu and 268 in Kashmir.

SC Gives J&K

held consultative meetings with all state governments, UTs and other stake holders on the issue of identification of minorities at the state level and 14 states had furnished their views so far.

During the earlier hearing, Upadhyay had told the bench that he has challenged the validity of section 2(f) of the National Commission for Minority Education Institution Act, 2004.

Terming section 2(f) of the Act, which empowers the Centre to identify and notify minority communities in India, as "manifestly arbitrary, irrational, and offending", his plea has alleged that it gives unbridled power to the Centre.

"Can minority status be decided district-wise? How can that be done," the bench had earlier observed during the hearing.

On May 10 last year, the apex court had expressed displeasure over the Centre's shifting stand on the issue of identification of minorities, including Hindus, at the state level and directed it to hold consultations with the states within three months.

In supersession of its earlier stand, the Centre had told the apex court that power to notify minorities is vested with the Union government and any decision with regard to the issue will be taken after discussion with states and other stakeholders.

Itija Demands

the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in February for the issuance of a passport to study abroad after her application for travel document was not cleared. In her fresh communication to the regional passport office, Itija said no reason has been furnished to her for making such an order.

"The action is hit by Section 5 (3) and Section 7 (b) of the Passport Act. As no reasons have been furnished, the order of endorsement and time period is illegal, offending the mandate of passport act & also violates my fundamental right to travel abroad.

"You are accordingly requested to withdraw the endorsement and also immediately issue a passport for the regular duration of ten years. Your failure to do so will be a gross negligence of your constitutional duty & a brazen violation of my fundamental right," she said.

17 Graft Cases

officials, including Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars and Patwaris.

Of these, 88 FIRs have been lodged in the Valley, 40 in the Jammu division at the ACB's Police Station. The official figures further reveal that around 64 officers were caught red handed in Jammu while 99 including a lady corporator in Valley fell in ACB net.

The data clearly shows that Kashmir has surpassed the Jammu region as far as corruption

cases registered by the anti-graft body are concerned.

ACB Police Station in Srinagar (central Kashmir) which covers Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal districts has registered 40 corruption cases, followed by 29 in Baramulla (north Kashmir) which includes Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara. Anantnag (south Kashmir) has reported 13 cases.

The data further reveals that 33 cases of corruption have been reported from the Jammu division. Among these, 16 have been registered by ACB Jammu including Samba and Kathua followed by 11 by ACB Doda (Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar), and 4 by Udhampur (Udhampur and Reasi), and 2 in Rajouri (Poonch, Rajouri).

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj said that the UT Government is taking comprehensive measures for ensuring transparent, accountable, and responsive governance.

The government has launched Mobile Application 'Satark Nagrik' and Departmental Vigilance Officers Portal of J&K Anti Corruption Bureau with an aim to facilitate seamless flow of information about corruption and enable citizens to submit their grievances with ease and mobility.

Pertinently, the UT administration has made it mandatory for all government employees to have vigilance clearance for obtaining a passport.

An employee seeking a passport will have to secure a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the concerned department on the basis of a vigilance report.

RPF Officer Injured

Express train around 2.10 pm, they said. The rifle went off when Harbajan was handling the weapon while taking charge from the previous sentry, they said, adding that a case has been registered into the incident.

2 Traffic Cops

wherein a traffic police personnel deployed at Ramban Bazar to Trishol Morh is allegedly seen indulging in an "unprofessional conduct" by accepting money from a driver, they said.

Taking a serious view of the incident, the two policemen were placed under suspension with immediate effect, police said, adding a departmental inquiry has been initiated against them.

3 ARTO Employees

connivance with various touts they were indulging in corrupt practices.

The arrested employees were identified as Aijaz Ahmed Mir, Farooq Ahmed Wagay and Mohammad Ashraf Dar.

Besides the arrest of three employees, documents were also seized.

The trio has been sent to custody and are scheduled to produce before the court of Anti Corruption tomorrow for remand, said an ACB official—(KNO)

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

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Dravid & Coaching Staff To Chalk Out WTC Blueprint

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The top Indian stars might be busy with the IPL but head coach Rahul Dravid and his team will assemble at the National Cricket Academy on Tuesday to start preparations for the World Test Championship final in June. India will meet Australia at the Oval from June 7-11 for their second consecutive appearance in a World Test Championship final.

With injuries to key first team players like pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer and the main overseas match-winner Rishabh Pant, there are a lot of issues that need to be addressed ahead of the big final. The workload management aspect also needs to be looked at keeping the ODI World Cup in mind.

"Dravid along with batting coach Vikram Rathour, bowling coach Paras Mhambrey, fielding coach T Dilip and the other support staff will be meeting the NCA team headed by VVS Laxman to discuss various issues related to senior team," a BCCI source, privy to development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Laxman, as the head of NCA, is not only overseeing the rehabilitation module of centrally contracted in-



jured players under the aegis of Sports Science and Medicine team but at the same time is responsible for tracking the progress of 'Targeted' players (India, India A) as well as the Emerging

Players (aged between 19 and 23).

It is expected that both Dravid and Laxman along with their respective teams would extensively discuss workload management and

the plans with regards to preparation for the final.

It is there to be seen whether Head of Sports Science Nitin Patel encounters any tough questions

about regular breakdown of players, who are coming back after extensive rehabilitation. Case in point will be Iyer (red ball) and Deepak Chahar (white ball).

PROS AND CONS OF WORKLOAD MANAGEMENT

Most of the IPL franchises have confirmed to PTI that there has been no written communication from the BCCI to them on workload management of fast bowlers during the event.

The five pacers, who are certain to make the main WTC squad list, if fully fit, are Mohammed Shami (GT), Umesh Yadav (KKR), Mohammed Siraj (RCB), Shardul Thakur (KKR) and Jaydev Unadkat (LSG).

A noted coach, who has been a key support staff member of the Indian cricket team, accepted that it is a problem.

"If June 7 is the start of WTC final, currently all the Indian pacers need to bowl at least 200 deliveries (33 overs approximately) per week (7 days). That's how you build the miles (in simple words stamina) in your legs," he said, "But in IPL, the main star bowlers would hardly come for each and every training session. You will mostly see them

getting rest a day before the game as one day before that, there is travelling. "The heavy travelling part actually can cause more injuries and hence they won't be able to bowl in training," the former coach said.

Skipper Rohit Sharma had said after the Australia series that all first team bowlers would be given red Dukes ball and if anyone wants, they can train with it.

Lack of Good Quality Practice Game

With English county season on and WTC being an ICC event, even if IPL team members, who don't qualify for play-offs, leave early for UK, they can only play intra-squad matches amongst themselves.

Even if BCCI requests ECB to put up a scratch squad, it will be mostly rookies or players from minor country as the main sides will not release any player for a warm-up game.

How to get quality net training and also match practice ahead of the game will be a concern for BCCI.

Also the kind of net bowlers that will be picked alongside bowlers in main squad. Navdeep Saini, Avesh Khan, Shivam Mavi, Kamlesh Nagarkoti are some of the bowlers expected to travel with team.

Domestic Cricket: Ranji Trophy From Jan 5, 2024



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian cricket's 2023-24 domestic season will kick-start with the Duleep Trophy tournament starting on June 28 while the flagship Ranji Trophy set to commence from January 5, next year.

The Duleep Trophy, which will be played among six zonal teams, will be followed by Deodhar Trophy (List A) (July 24 to August 3), Irani Cup (October 1-5), Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy men's T20 national championships (October 16-November 6) and Vijay Hazare Trophy (November 23-December 15).

Ranji Trophy will be last tournament of the men's senior calendar with the elite group league matches to be played from January 5 to February 19, while the knock-out round will be from February 23 to March 14. The duration of the tourney is for 70 days.

The league matches of the plate group will be held between January 5 and February 5 while the knock-out round will be played from February 9-22.

Each of the four elite groups will be made up of eight teams while the lone plate group will have six teams. The two top teams from each group will qualify for the quarterfinals.

In the plate group, the top four teams out of the six will qualify for the semifinals.

The two plate group finalists will be promoted to the elite group next season (2024-25). The two bottom teams from all elite groups combined based on points/bonus points/wins/quotient will be relegated to the plate group in 2024-25 season.

SENIOR WOMEN'S MEET STARTS OCTOBER 19

The senior women's season will begin with the national T20 championships to be played between October 19 to November 9, followed by Inter-Zonal T20 Trophy from November 24 to December 4.

This will be followed by senior women's one-day trophy to be played between January 4-26.

The senior women's T20 Trophy and one-day trophy will have five groups -- two with eight teams and three with seven teams. The two top teams from each of the five groups will qualify for the knock-outs.

After the group matches, the teams will be ranked 1-10 based on their points/wins/NRR. The teams ranked 1-6 will directly qualify for the quarterfinals while the four teams ranked 7-10 will play a pre-quarterfinal round to decide the remaining two slots.

JD YSS Visits Khanmoh



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Joint Director (Kashmir) Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Waseem Raja (JKAS) visited the assigned Panchayat of Khanmoh C in the outskirts of Srinagar district on Monday. The visit was in connection with Special Gram Sabha Meeting under Special Gram Sabha for preparation and approval of Gram Panchayat Development Plan for the financial year 2023-24.

PRIS and representatives of the area highlighted various issues pertaining to the development of the area. Prabhari of-

ficer, Waseem Raja stated that the Government is committed to address the problems of the people at their doorsteps. He took a review of the various projects being initiated under different government schemes.

"The Department of YSS would ensure that the youth of the area get the best possible opportunities of play. Developing modern sports infrastructure in the area would be prioritized. Engaging youth in sports activities would help the area in getting maximum from the energies of the young blood. It would help as an anti-drug addiction tool," he added.

IPL 2023: DC, MI Look For First Win



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Both Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians will be expecting a lot more from their local talent as they search for their maiden victory in the Indian Premier League in New Delhi on Tuesday.

It is extremely difficult to gain consistency in the highly competitive league if the Indian players are not delivering and that is what is plaguing both sides.

Delhi have been forced to go back to the drawing board after three losses in as many games

while perennial slow starters Mumbai have also lost two in two. Both have their work cut out in all the departments.

Delhi's top-order was 'boulded' in the last game, raising questions about Prithvi Shaw's ability against fast bowling. He has been dismissed in different fashion -- pace, bounce and swing, in his three innings and there doesn't seem to be a quick fix to his technical issues.

With wickets falling at the other end, skipper David Warner has got the runs but it has come at a strike rate of 117. He is expected to do better than that.

Getting the opportunity in the absence of Mitchell Marsh, who got married on Sunday, Manish Pandey lasted only one ball and the veteran batter will be keen to make an impact at Kotla.

Delhi's pacers, including Anrich Nortje, Mukesh Kumar and Khaleel Ahmed, have been taken to the cleaners and the team must address that issue against Mumbai.

The star-studded Mumbai Indians too have a lot to figure out, starting with their explosive top-order which has flattered to deceive so far.

Perks Of BCCI's Honorary Job: First Class Travel, Suite Room & USD 1000 Per Day On Foreign Trips

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: An office bearer of the all-powerful BCCI will now be paid a daily allowance of USD 1000 on foreign tours and will fly first-class.

The increase in allowances doled out to the BCCI office bearers was tabled in the Apex Council meeting on Sunday but came into effect last October. The per diem (daily allowance) has been revised after more than seven years. Earlier, the office bearers of the world's richest board used to get USD 750 per day on overseas tours.

The office bearers, including the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and joint-secretary, will be also entitled to Rs 40,000 per day for meetings within India and business class travel, according to the BCCI document accessed by PTI. For 'work travel', they will be paid Rs 30,000 a day. They can also book for a suite room both on domestic and overseas trips. The allowances of IPL chairman has also been bracketed in the office-bearers' category.



Members of the BCCI Apex Council, including two representatives from the Indian Cricketers' Association, will get Rs 40,000 per day for their quarterly meetings and USD 500 on overseas tours. However, it is usually the office bearers who travel overseas for work.

The board has also revised the allowances for the members of its state units who will now get Rs 30,000 per day during domestic travel and USD 400 on foreign travel.

The three members of the

Cricket Advisory Committee, which picks the head coach of both men and women national teams, will be paid Rs 3.5 lakh each for meetings. Foreign travel is unlikely in their case but each of them is entitled to an amount of USD 400 per day for this.

It is to be noted that a BCCI office bearer's post is an honorary one. Its well-paid employees like the CEO will get a daily allowance of USD 650 on foreign tours and Rs 15,000 per day within India.

Here's How Champions League Quarter Finals Are Shaping Up

Agencies

MILAN: A host of Champion League matches are on the horizon. Apart from Inter and AC Milan, here's a look at the six out of eight quarterfinalists:

REAL MADRID

Facing Chelsea for a third straight year in the knockout stage, Madrid will host the English side following a tough loss at home to Villarreal in the Spanish league.

That result virtually ended its title hopes and left it in danger of losing second place to Atletico Madrid.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said the team was not 100% motivated but promised that "it will be a different story-on Wednesday against Chelsea.

He rotated some players following the team's 4-0 rout over Barcelona in the Copa del Rey last week.

Madrid advanced past Chelsea in the quarterfinals last season, and lost in the semifinals the previous year.

MANCHESTER CITY

With eight wins in a row in all competitions, Manchester City's form looks ominous.

While the Premier League champions remain second to Arsenal in the race for the title, they are still in contention to win a treble of trophies this season.

Erling Haaland is flying with 44 goals and might be the difference in City's long search for the Champions League title.

Pep Guardiola is still to win the competition since lifting it for a second time with former club Barcelona in 2011.

The closest he came to winning it again was in 2021 when losing in the final to a Chelsea team managed by new Bayern Munich coach Thomas Tuchel.

NAPOLI

Unlike the other two Italian clubs, Napoli has never been in the Champions League quarterfinals.

But Napoli is set to end its own wait for a league title.

Napoli is 16 points ahead of second-place Lazio and nearly assured of winning its first Serie A title since Diego Maradona led the club to its only two Italian league championships in 1987 and 1990.

However, it recently suffered its heaviest defeat of the season -- to the team it will meet in the quarterfinals -- when it was routed 4-0 by Milan.

That was only the second time in 14 matches that Napoli coach Luciano Spalletti had lost to Milan counterpart Stefano Pioli.

BAYERN MUNICH

Did Bayern make the right call firing coach Julian Nagels-

mann and replacing him with Thomas Tuchel? Tuesday's game at Manchester City could provide an answer.

Tuchel's tenure started with an impressive 4-2 win over title rival Borussia Dortmund despite having only a few days to prepare.

That game, though, was arguably more about Dortmund imploding after a goalkeeping



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE[®]

blunder than a great Bayern victory.

Two games against Freiburg have increased the scrutiny on Tuchel.

In both the 2-1 German Cup loss on Tuesday and 1-0 Bundesliga win on Saturday, Bayern lacked a cutting edge in attack.

City and former Bayern coach Pep Guardiola offer a very different challenge, but if Bayern doesn't play to its best, unflattering comparisons will be made with Nagelsmann's assured win over Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16 just weeks ago.

CHELSEA

Frank Lampard is back at Chelsea and has the chance to further enhance his legendary status among the club's fans by leading it to the unlikely of triumphs in European soccer's elite competition.

Chelsea's all-time leading goal-scorer and former manager has been hired on a short-term basis until the end of the season after Graham Potter was fired this month.

But he didn't get off to a good start -- losing 1-0 to relegation-fighting Wolverhampton in his first game in charge.

With Real Madrid in the quarterfinals, Lampard faces arguably the most difficult of tasks to advance to the semis.

BENFICA

One of the surprises of the Champions League, Benfica's nearly perfect season took a hit on Friday with a home loss to rival Porto in the Portuguese league.

It was only the team's second loss, following defeat at Braga 17 matches ago.

It had won 13 of its last 15 matches in all competitions since then.

Benfica will enter the first leg at home to Inter on Tuesday without right-back Alexander Bah, who was injured in the game against Porto.



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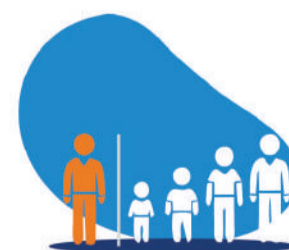
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