

Jumat-ul-Vida Observed With Solemnity, Special Prayers Held

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Thousands of devotees converged at Hazratbal shrine here on Friday and offered congregational prayers on Jumat-ul-Vida, the last Friday of the holy month of Ramazan, even as the historic Jamia Masjid in old Srinagar was locked by the authorities for prayers due to unspecified reasons.

Besides Hazratbal, tens of thousands of fasting Muslims thronged mosques and shrines across Kashmir Valley to participate in the congregational Friday prayers.

Due to the closure of Jamia Masjid, the biggest congregation was witnessed at Hazratbal shrine. Devotees, including a large number of women from length and breadth of the Valley attended the congregational prayers.

Emotional scenes were witnessed when Imam-Hi or chief cleric of Hazratbal shrine displayed the holy relic after congregational prayers. Devotees, many with moist eyes, raised their hands in supplication



Thousands of faithful offered congregational prayers on 'Jumat-ul-Vida' (last Friday of Ramzan) at the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

seeking Allah's blessings. Similar congregations were held in several other mosques

and shrines in the valley including Jenab Sahab Soura, Asar Sharif Shah-e-Kalashpora, Syed

Yaqoob Sahab-Sonwar, Dastgeer Sahib Khanyar and Sarai Payeen, Asar Sharif Lal Bazar **More on P6**

Jamia Masjid Locked, 'Jumat-ul-Vida' Prayers Disallowed

The local authorities disallowed the congregational prayer on 'Jumat-ul-Vida' (last Friday of Ramzan) at the Jamia Masjid here, the grand mosque's managing body said. Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid -- the managing body of the mosque located in the city's Nowhatta area -- said in a statement that the district magistrate and police officials visited the mosque on Friday morning and asked the management to lock the gates as "the administration had decided that 'Jumat-ul-Vida' prayers will not be allowed at the mosque". "The Auqaf strongly resents this move of the authorities causing great distress to lakhs of Muslims, who traditionally come from all

parts of the Valley to offer prayers on the last and greatly blessed Friday of Ramzan in Jamia Masjid where offering prayers on (the) last Friday has great significance," the statement said. National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah also expressed regret over the disallowing of the congregational prayers at the Jamia Masjid here. "I regret this," Abdullah told reporters at the Hazratbal Shrine here when asked about the administration's decision to disallow congregational prayers on the occasion of the 'Jumat-ul-Vida'. "If the situation is good, then why the prayers were not allowed at Jamia Masjid?" Abdullah, the Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, **More on P6**

Thousands Rally For Al-Aqsa On Quds Day



Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The last Friday of the fasting month of Ramazan was observed in the Kashmir valley as the Yaum-ul-Quds with people marching on the streets and calling for the liberation of Masjid-al-Aqsa, first qibla of Muslims and third holiest place in Islam.

Rallies and demonstrations were held at many places across the length and breadth of Kashmir valley. People from the mostly Shia community participated in the rallies. The demonstrators raised pro-Palestine and anti-Israel slogans and called for an end to the Zionist occupation of the holy land.

Biggest processions were taken out from Gupkar shrine on Dal Lake Boulevard, Hassanabad and Chattabal in Srinagar. Big procession marched through the Magam bazar with a sizable number of women joining the rally. Similar demonstrations were held in Budgam town and many areas across Baramulla district. **More on P6**

Baisakhi Celebrated With Fervour In J&K



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Baisakhi, marking the beginning of the Sikh New Year, was on Friday celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety in Jammu and Kashmir as devotees thronged different gurdwaras to offer prayers.

In Kashmir, the main function was held at Gurudwara Chati Patshahi in the Rainawari area of Srinagar, which was attended by a huge number of Sikh devotees.

The celebrations by the members of the Sikh

community were also held in various districts of the valley.

The festival of Baisakhi, which is mainly celebrated in the north Indian states of Punjab and Haryana, marks the beginning of the Sikh new year. It is also a commemoration of the formation of the Khalsa Panth of warriors under Guru Gobind Singh in 1699.

Cutting across faiths and religious lines, the Army personnel stationed across Kashmir also celebrated Baisakhi.

The main celebrations were held at an Army camp in HMT area on **More on P6**

LG Announces 62-Day Amarnath Yatra From July 1

Says His Administration Is Committed To Ensure Smooth, Hassle Free Pilgrimage

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday announced a 62-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in South Kashmir beginning July 1.

Sinha said that the registration through online & offline modes for the annual yatra will start from 17th April. The yatra from the twin routes of Baltal and Pahalgam will commence on 1st July and culminate on August 31.

In the announcement that came a day after he met Home Minister, Amit Shah in New Delhi, Sinha asserted that his administration is committed to ensure smooth and hassle free pilgrimage.

"Hassle-free pilgrimage is top priority of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home



Minister Amit Shah. The administration will provide best-in-class healthcare and other essential facilities to all the visiting devotees and service providers. Telecom services will be made operational prior to the commencement of Pilgrimage.

All the stakeholder departments are working in coordination to ensure facilities for lodging, power, water, security and other arrangements for the smooth conduct of Yatra," he said. The Yatra would commence simultaneously **More on P6**

G-20 SUMMIT

Multi-Tier Security, High End Ambulances To Be Deployed

SMC Flouts Tenders To Introduce Smart Bunkers In Srinagar
Aujib Javed

Srinagar: A multi-tier security, advanced life support mobile ambulances and traffic diversions are some of the security arrangements being made for the delegates attending G-20 summit in this capital city, where smart bunkers are also being introduced to replace the existing ones.

According to the officials, the administration is on its toes to ensure all the necessary arrangements, including security and beautification work, is completed before the scheduled G-20 summit in Srinagar from May 22 and 24.

"The meeting will be hosted

at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC). Right now necessary arrangements and makeover of infrastructures is underway," a senior official, wishing not to be named, told Kashmir Observer.

He said advanced life support mobile ambulances at the venues will be also deployed to meet any emergency situation.

He further said that the preparation related to the upcoming meeting is in its final stage and various arrangements related to multi-tier security and traffic diversions are also being worked out.

"The foreign delegates will also be taken on a sightseeing tour to Baramulla, Dachigam National Park in Srinagar, and also to the ski resort of North Kashmir's Gulmarg," he added.

While the G20 member countries comprise Argentina, Brazil, Canada, **More on P6**

28 Tourists Caught With Fake Gondola Tickets

Srinagar: At least 28 tourists from Mumbai were caught with fake Gondola tickets at famous ski resort Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said on Friday.

The tourists, they said, were given these fake tickets by their tour operator in Mumbai.

In a statement issued here, a spokesperson said the ticket scanning team of Gulmarg Gondola Project got hold of a group of 28 passengers from Mumbai at the scanning point of Gulmarg Gondola station. "These passengers were

carrying edited fake tickets through their tour Manager Makrand Anand Ghanekar S/o Anand Ghanekar of Mumbai," reads the statement.

It reads, "We have an in-built system of dealing with such type of cases in place at Gulmarg Gondola Project. Our team of officers at the project handled this case in a meticulous manner and it was confessed by the tour Manager that he had himself edited these tickets at Mumbai and the passengers were not aware **More on P6**

Whatsapp Post Against Article-370 Move

Bombay HC Refuses To Quash FIR Against Kashmiri Prof

Observer Monitoring Desk

Srinagar: The Bombay High Court has dismissed a petition seeking to quash an first information report (FIR) registered against a young Kashmiri professor for his WhatsApp status terming the abrogation of Article-370 as a "black day" for Jammu and Kashmir.

A Division Bench of Justices Sunil Shukre and MM Sathaye made the observation while refusing to quash a FIR registered

against professor, Javed Ahmed Hajam, accused of promoting enmity between two groups with his WhatsApp status about the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution by BJP-led government at the Centre on August 5, 2019. Bar and Bench reported Friday. Hajam, a professor at the Kolhapur College, had also allegedly posted another WhatsApp status wishing Pakistan Happy Independence Day on August 14.

"The first message which has been posted on the whatsapp application by the petitioner is, without giving any reason and without making any critical analysis of the step taken by the Central Government towards abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution. In our view, this message has the tendency to play with emotions of different groups of people in India as there are strong feelings of contrasting nature about status of Jammu and **More on P6**

SHORT TAKES

151 New Cases, 1 Covid Death In J&K

Jammu and Kashmir reported 151 fresh covid-19 cases while there was one death due to the virus during the last 24 hours, officials said on Friday. They said that 57 cases were reported from Jammu division and 94 from Kashmir Valley, taking the overall tally to 480746. Among the cases, 174524 are from Jammu division and 306222 from Kashmir Valley. Providing district wise details of the cases, they said, 38 cases were reported Jammu, 27 from Srinagar, 15 from Budgam, 10 each from Pulwama and **More on P6**

'Super Thief' Facing 500 Cases Arrested

Delhi Police has arrested Devender Singh alias Bunt, a notorious thief who was allegedly involved in around 500 cases of theft across the country and inspired a Bollywood flick, officials said on Friday. Nicknamed "super thief", 53-year-old Singh was nabbed from Uttar Pradesh in connection with two recently executed thefts in the national capital, they said. Singh started committing thefts since the age of 14 years. He was previously involved in more than 250 cases of theft in **More on P6**

Two Gamblers Held In Khrew: Police

Police on Friday claimed to have arrested two gamblers in a raid in Khrew area of South Kashmir. Acting on specific information about gambling activities in Khar Check Shar Shali village of Khrew, a team of cops led by SHO Manzoor Ahmad carried out a raid and arrested two gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said Friday. Besides playing cards, he said, an amount of Rs 20,100 was also seized from the spot. The police identified the accused as Bilal Nazir Bhat alias Veerapan and Tawseef Ahmed Wani. **More on P6**

Wet Spell Predicted In J&K After Apr 15

The weather department on Friday predicted a wet spell in Jammu and Kashmir from April 16, even as night temperature recorded a rise in the Union Territory on Friday. A meteorological department official here said that from April 16-17, generally cloudy weather with intermittent light rain, thunderstorm and lightning "with occasional moderate intensity rains for short period" at scattered to fairly widespread places of Kashmir and a few places of Jammu division. From April 18-19, **More on P6**

Unknown Woman Found Dead

The body of an unidentified woman was recovered from Nallah at Gurwatan area of Damhal Hajipora in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday, officials said. Police sources said that some passerby noticed a female body lying in Veshow Nallah near a bridge and informed the police. On getting information, a police team rushed to the spot and retrieved the body from the nallah, they said. They said the body was shifted to hospital for medico and legal formalities while identification is being ascertained--(KNO)

6 Drug Peddlers Arrested In Kashmir: Police

Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday claimed to have arrested six drug peddlers in Baramulla, Kulgam & Awantipora and recovered contraband substances from their possession. A Police party under the supervision of SDPO Tangmarg Imtiyaz Ahmad, assisted by Incharge Police Post Babashri during routine patrolling at Shranz Crossing Tangmarg arrested a drug peddler namely Mohd Ashraf Malla son of Gh Qadir resident of Dodbugh, a police spokesman said in a statement here. **More on P6**

'Health Benefits Of Living In Cities For Children And Teens Diminishing'

Press Trust of India

The advantages of living in cities for young people's healthy growth and development are shrinking across much of the world, according to a global analysis of trends in child and adolescent height and body mass index (BMI).

The research, by a global consortium of over 1500 researchers and physicians, analysed height and weight data from 71 million children and adolescents (aged 5 to 19 years) across urban and rural areas of 200 countries from 1990 to 2020.

Cities can provide a multitude of opportunities for better education, nutrition, sports and recreation, and healthcare that contributed to school-aged children and adolescents living in cities being taller than their rural counterparts in the 20th century in all but a few wealthy countries.

The study, published recently in the journal Nature, found that in the 21st century, this urban height advantage shrank in most countries as a result of accelerating improvements in height for children and adolescents in rural areas.

The researchers also assessed children's BMI, an indicator of whether they have a healthy weight for their height.

They found that on average children living in cities had a slightly high-



er BMI than children in rural areas in 1990. By 2020, BMI averages rose for most countries, albeit faster for urban children, except in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia, where BMI rose faster

in rural areas. Nevertheless, over the 30-year period, the gap between urban and rural BMI remained small less than 1.1 kilograms per square metre (kg/m²)

globally, the researchers said. "Cities continue to provide considerable health benefits for children and adolescents," said Anu Mishra, lead author of the study, from Imperial College

London's School of Public Health.

"Fortunately, in most regions, rural areas are catching up to cities thanks to modern sanitation and improvements in nutrition and healthcare," Mishra said.

The results of this large global study challenge the commonly held perceptions about the negative aspects of living in cities around nutrition and health, the researcher added.

While height and BMI has increased around the world since 1990, the researchers found that the degree of change between urban and rural areas varied greatly among different middle and low-income countries, while small urban-rural differences remained stable across high-income countries.

Middle-income and emerging economies, such as Chile, Taiwan, and Brazil, have seen the biggest gains in rural children's height over the three decades, with children living in rural areas growing to similar heights as their urban counterparts.

"These countries have made great strides in levelling up. Using the resources of economic growth to fund nutrition and health programmes, both through schools and in the community, was key to closing the gaps between different areas and social groups," said Professor Majid Ezzati, senior author for the study, from Imperial College London.

Contrary to the widespread as-

sumption that urbanisation is the main driver of the obesity epidemic, the study found that many high-income western countries have had very little difference in height and BMI over time - with the gap between urban and rural BMI differing by less than one unit in 2020.

"The issue is not so much whether children live in cities or urban areas, but where the poor live, and whether governments are tackling growing inequalities with initiatives like supplementary incomes and free school meal programmes," Ezzati added.

The trend in sub-Saharan Africa is also a cause for concern, the researchers said.

"Rural sub-Saharan Africa is now the global epicentre of poor growth and development for children and adolescents," said Professor Andre Pascal Kengne, co-author for the study, from the South African Medical Research Council.

"As the cost of food skyrockets and countries finances get worse due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, the rural poor in Africa are at risk of falling further behind," Kengne said.

Faltering growth in school-aged children and adolescents is strongly linked to poor health through life, lost educational attainment and the immense cost of unrealised human potential, the researchers added.

Detailed Map Of Dark Matter Proves Einstein's Theory Of Gravity

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have developed a detailed mass map of invisible dark matter distributed across a quarter of the entire sky, extending deep into the cosmos.

The international team of researchers forming the Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT) collaboration further said that the map also confirmed Einstein's theory of how massive structures grow and bend light over the entire 14-billion-year life span of the universe.

The yet-to-be-published study which appears in the pre-print repository arXiv.org recently and have been submitted to the Astrophysical Journal.

"We have mapped the invisible dark matter across the sky to the largest distances, and clearly see features of this invisible world that are hundreds of millions of light-years across," said Blake Sherwin, professor of cosmology at the University of Cambridge, where he leads a group of ACT researchers. "It looks just as our theories predict." Despite making up 85 per cent of the universe along with influencing its evolution, dark matter is hard to detect because it does not interact with electromagnetic radiations such as light and is known to interact only with gravity.

The team of researchers tracked how the gravitational pull exerted by large, heavy structures including dark matter bent the cosmic microwave

background (CMB) radiations to produce a new mass map.

CMB radiations are the diffuse light emanating following the dawn of the universe's formation, the Big Bang, referred to by the cosmologists as the "baby picture of the universe" and are on their 14-billion-year journey to the Earth. The universe was only 3,800,000 years old then.

"We've made a new mass map using distortions of light left over from the Big Bang," said Matthew Madhavacheril, assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Pennsylvania.

The team built and gathered data from the National Science Foundation's Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT) located in the high Chilean Andes mountain range.

"Remarkably, it provides measurements that show that both the 'lumpiness' of the universe, and the rate at which it is growing after 14 billion years of evolution, are just what you'd expect from our standard model of cosmology based on Einstein's theory of gravity," said Madhavacheril.

Recent measurements using background light emitted by stars in galaxies, different to the CMB, have sparked an ongoing debate, termed by some as the 'The Crisis in Cosmology'. These measurements produced results suggesting that dark matter was not lumpy enough under the standard model of cosmology, thereby, leading to concerns that the model may be broken.

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From The Principal District Judge, Srinagar

Present : Mr. Jawad Ahmad

Mst Dilshada W/O Abdul Rashid Sheikh R/O Sd Colony Batmaloo Sgr
1 Public At Large
2. Imran Rashid Sheikh
3. Momin Rashid Sheikh
4. Sujat Rashid Sheikh
All Sons Of Late Abdul Rashid Sheikh Residents Of Sd Colony Batmaloo Srinagar
In the matter of
Application for issuance of Succession certificate in favour of the petitioner(s)

Notice to public at Large

Where the petitioner(s) Filed Above Titled Petition Before This Court Of Issuance Of Succession certificate in favour of Petitioner(s) in respect of Rs 1786151 as debits and securities in name of Deceased Namely: Abdul Rashid Sheikh S/O Late Abdul Gaffar Sheikh R/o SD Colony Batmaloo Srinagar who died on 24-02-2023. The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed on 28-04-2023 Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the drop of this proclamation that at any one has any objection for issuance of succession certificate, he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 28-04-2023. Failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same
In case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on --

Jawad Ahmad

Principal District Judge, Srinagar

Before the Hon'ble Judge Small Cause

Bashir Ahmad parray S/O Late Abdul Rahman Parray R/O Near Narbal crossing, Sozeith, Goripora Beerwah, Badgam.

Applicant

VERSUS

Registrar Birth & Deaths S.M.C, Srinagar

Non Applicant

in the matter of : Application for recording the date of Death of the deceased father of the applicant

May it please your honour;
The application is submitted as under
1- That the date of death of the below named person has not sofar been recorded in the records SMC Srinagar N.O.C to this effect by Non-applicant is enclosed here within
2. That the applicant wishes to get the date of death of below mentioned person be recorded in record of SMC Srinagar and solicit this application accordingly
3 That this application is supported by duly sworn affidavit.

IN THE PREMISES IT IS THEREFORE prayed that the non applicant be directed to record the following particulars regarding Date of Death of the below named parson.

1. Name of the deceased:	Abdul Rehman Parray
2. Sex:	male
3. Father's Name:	Mohammad Asad parray
4. Mother's Name:	Jana Begum
5. Wife's Name:	Raja Begum
6. Date of death:	15.04.2020
7. Place of death:	Maqdam Mohallah Sozeith Goripora, Srinagar.
7. Residence:	Maqdam Mohallah Sozeith Goripora, Beerwah, Badgam.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I Dr. Mohamad Jehangeer Bhat has lost my "Internship completion certificate" vide certificate no. 1148 on 04/04/2023 around GMC Srinagar. I have tried all necessary measures to recover the certificate, but didn't succeed. Now, I wish to apply for the duplicate of the same certificate, and anybody having any objections in this regard may contact concerned authorities of GMC Srinagar within 7 days from date of publication of this notice, after which no objection will be considered.

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Allegations Against Scholar Probed As Per Law: KU On Media Reports

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir said on Friday that its Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) investigated the complaint filed by a PhD scholar against her then Supervisor promptly, and as per the law, refuting that any "obstruction" was created in the matter.

Referring to a news report on some social media platforms which came into the notice of the varsity administration, a KU spokesperson said the University took all steps necessary to address the alleged complaint with promptness and to facilitate the complainant in completion of her PhD degree.

"Upon receiving the alleged complaint from the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, the University referred the matter to its Women's Empowerment and Grievance Committee without delay. Since the complaint involved allegations of sexual harassment, as well as a complaint about the delay in the complainant's PhD thesis submission, the matter was also referred to the University's Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)," the spokesperson said.

He added that the ICC provided the complainant with a fair opportunity to record her statement freely and without fear, and the faculty member against whom the complaint was made was also provided with the same opportunity.

"To arrive at a just conclusion, the Committee also contacted the teaching and non-teaching staff at CCAS to record their

observations. According to the complainant's recorded statement before the ICC, she alleged that she was harassed in 2016 while she was preparing her synopsis and had not yet registered for her PhD," the spokesperson said.

"However, she did not file a complaint with the authorities until December 2019 i.e. a gap of almost three years. As per the provisions of UGC (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in HEIs) Regulations, 2015, an aggrieved person/complainant can file a written complaint within three months of the incident," he said.

The Spokesman said despite the time lapse, the ICC went ahead with the investigation into the complaint and subsequently submitted its report to the competent authority. He said the ICC's report concluded, among other things, that the complaint was a result of "animosity resulting from non-compatibility between the scholar and the supervisor."

"In view of the non-compatibility, a Co-Supervisor was nominated by the University to Co-supervise the complainant's PhD and undertake all the process including evaluation/examination, academic clearance, formulation of panel of examiners, supervisor's report, viva-voce, and any other necessary formalities. The co-supervisor, from the Department of Sociology, was also authorized to assess and examine the thesis of the complainant and undertake all other formalities leading to the award of the PhD degree," he said.

DC Srinagar Visits Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi; Greet Sikh's On Baisakhi

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today paid a visit to Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi in Rainawari area of the city to extend warm greetings to the Sikh fraternity on the occasion of Baisakhi marking of the new solar year and the harvest season.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by senior functionaries of the Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee.

While extending warm greetings on the occasion, the DC expressed hope that this day would contribute towards strengthening brotherhood, unity, harmony and would be a harbinger of peace, progress and prosperity in J&K

in general and in District Srinagar in particular. The Gurudwara authorities expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and conveyed their gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner in this regard.

Deputy Commissioner marked his presence during the Gurbani session inside the Gurudwara. He also addressed the gathering of devotees and highlighted how Vaisakhi as a major Sikh festival marks the birth of the Khalsa order by Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru of Sikhism, on 13 April 1699. He also mentioned that Panj Pyares exemplify Unity in Diversity as they hailed from different parts of our country and represented a multicultural ethos embedded in the social fabric of our society.

Fire Service Day Observed In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Fire Service Day was observed in Srinagar to pay homage to those martyrs of Jammu and Kashmir who have attended emergencies in great odds and sacrificed their precious lives while fighting fires.

In this regard a function was observed at Fire and Emergency Services Headquarters Batamaloo Srinagar. April 14 is observed as "National Fire Service Day". "Two minutes of silence was observed as a mark of respect to the Martyrs and wreaths were laid on the Martyr's Column as mark of respect to the brave fire fighters," according to a statement issued by the department.

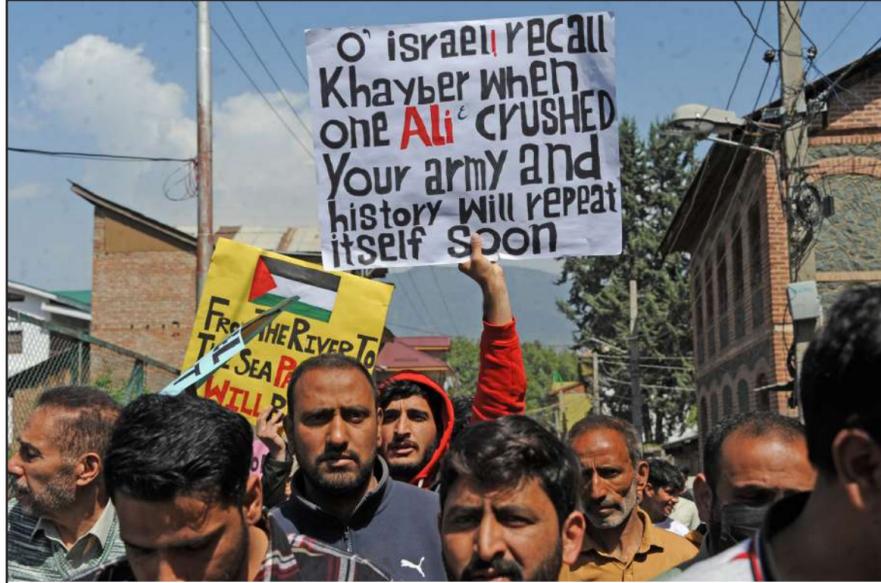
Bashir Ahmad Shah, Joint Director Fire &

Emergency Services Kashmir Range Srinagar, presided over the function.

He briefed the officers and personnel of the services and stressed upon them that they shall never show their back to fire and they should always be prepared to even sacrifice their lives for saving the precious lives and property of people as the motto of "our services which is "We Serve To Save".

Such functions were also organized at all District Headquarters of the J&K and at Station Level, the statement said. Fire Service week will be observed throughout the J&K from April 14 to 20.

This year's theme is "Awareness in Fire Safety for growth of National Infrastructure (AGND).



Thousands of people on Friday observed Yaum-al-Quds and staged rallies and demonstrations to express solidarity with the people of Palestine, besides calling for liberation of Masjid-al-Aqsa from Zionist occupation/ KO Photo Abid Bhat

DHSK Managed Hospitals In Srinagar Sans MRI, CT Scan Facility, Reveals RTI

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In Srinagar, hospitals falling under the jurisdiction of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir are without MRI and CT scan facilities.

Besides, there is only one permanent female X-Ray technician across Srinagar hospitals managed by the Directorate of Health Services.

"There are only 3 permanent X-Ray technicians, of which one is female. In the majority of the hospitals, there are no female ECG technicians. Female patients are reluctant to go for Electrocardiogram tests, mostly done by male employees," one of the officials said.

The official claimed that there has been no direct recruitment of X-Ray technicians in the Srinagar Zone for the last five years.

"Most of the female patients



Most of the female patients prefer to go for ECG tests at private diagnostic centers as no female ECG technician is available in the government hospitals. However, poor patients have no choice but to approach a male ECG technician

prefer to go for ECG tests at private diagnostic centers as no female ECG technician is available in the government hospitals. However, poor patients have no choice but to approach a male

ECG technician," he said.

Meanwhile, in response to an application filed under RTI Act by senior Journalist and social activist, MM Shuja, the Chief Medical Officer Srinagar has confirmed that no Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and CT Scan is available in any of the health centers functional under the jurisdiction of Directorate of Health Services Kashmir.

The absence of technical hands has made matters worse. "The upgraded NTPHCs have facilities like X-Ray, UltraSound, but due to a lack of technical staff, they don't use these machines."

One of the top officials claimed that those who are at the helm of affairs at the Directorate of Health Services are in slumber. He said authorities must not sleep over such matters as it pertains to the health issues of common people.

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BUBHERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
24 RAMAZAN
1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:33
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:11
Magrib	7:05
ISHA	8:30

This Day In History

- 1632 - Battle of Rain; Swedes under Gustavus Adolphus defeat Count Tilly of the Holy Roman Empire during the Thirty Years' War.
- 1654 - England & Netherlands sign peace treaty
- 1689 - French King Louis XIV declares war on Spain
- 1697 - Charles XII succeeds Charles XI as King of Sweden
- 1788 - Britain, Netherlands & Prussia sign peace treaty
- 1858 - Battle of Azimghur, Mexicans defeat Spanish loyalists
- 1865 - Abraham Lincoln dies 9 hours after he is shot attending the play "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre in Washington
- 1892 - General Electric Company formed by merger of Thomas Edison's General Electric Company with Thomson-Houston Electric Company, arranged by J. P. Morgan and incorporated in NY
- 1902 - Rioting and arson continue in Russia with peasants plundering estates to find food.
- 1902 - Russian minister of interior and head of secret police, Sipyengin, is assassinated by the 'Terror Brigade' of the Socialist Revolutionaries

From KO Archives

Legislative History Created, Entire Opposition Expelled

Observer News Service

Jammu- History of sorts was created here state legislative assembly here today, with at least fifteen people including seven legislator sustaining injuries in a clash between watch and ward staff of the Assembly and opposition MIAs in the course latter's forcible removal as ordered by the Speaker Ali Mohammed Naik. Barring Dilawar Mir (JD), Yusuf Tarigami (CPM) and Bhagat Ram Chand (BSP) entire opposition was expelled for the rest of the current session.

The Speaker's order followed unprecedented pandemonium that broke out in the house, soon after today's session started, with Naik announcing the question hour. The agitating members left their seats and assembled in the well of the house demanding suspension of the question hour and asking for a discussion over the situation arising of the agitation of Jammu students against the alleged "injustice" done to the students from that division. The opposition members also demanded that the list of selected candidates for MBBS and BDS courses be scrapped.

The trouble started immediately after Speaker resumed his seat when members the BJP, Congress and Janta Dal got up to raise the issue of "large scale bungling, irregularities and corruption" in the recently released selection list of MBBS and BDS. The speaker Ali Mohd Naik however ignored the shouts of opposition and instead named the member, on top of the list of questions slated for today, to ask his question. But the agitated opposition continued with slogan shouting and amidst unruly noisy scenes in the house, nothing was audible. As the protest continued, CPM member Yusuf Tarigami was heard inviting the attention of the speaker about the "environment of the house" saying "we want to speak about environment of the state but the environment inside the house is not well".

When the speaker disallowed all pleas of the opposition, the agitated members walked to well of the house and staged a dharna shouting slogans against ministers and ruling party members. Harsh Dev Singh (NPP) Mohd Yusuf alias Kuka Parrey (AL) Satpal Lakhittra and Jagdish Dubey (JD) also joined the dharna and continued shouting slogans demanding scrap of list. The BJP and Congress members including Mehbooba Mufti, Ashok Sharma, Balbir Singh, Lal Singh, Searing Dorjay, and Tara Chand also joined the BJP legislators headed by Shiv Charn Gupta and demanded suspension of question hour and a reply from the government. At one stage some opposition members were seen rushing towards the Speaker's podium amidst shouts of slogans.

At this stage Law minister P L Handoo, who also hold Parliamentary Affairs portfolio, moved a motion seeking expulsion of all the members for rest of the session. The motion was seconded by Finance Minister Mohd Shafi carried by a voice vote and then followed Naik's order expelling all the 17 members, indulging in "uncalled for behaviour" for remaining period of the current session of the assembly. After the motion was adopted and Speaker gave his ruling, the members were asked to leave the house. However as the members defied the repeated orders of the chair, the Speaker adjourned the house for half an hour. But the opposition members continued their dharna and slogan shouting in the well of the house. As the house re-assembled, after stipulated time, the opposition was there in the well busy in slogan shouting and making it impossible for the Speaker to go ahead with the proceedings.

The Speaker at this stage ordered the Marshall of the house to remove the expelled members physically with the help of watch and ward staff, this resulted in violent clashes between the members and the watch and ward staff with the former offering stiff resistance. Chairs and microphones were used in the melee that followed leading to multiple injuries to Ashok Sharma, Ch. Lal Singh,

Shiv Charn Gupta, Prithvi Chand, Bali Bhagat, Ch Chuni Lala, Ch Piara Singh and Satpal Lahotra. Seven members of the watch and ward staff also received injuries.

The Chief Minister and his ministerial colleagues did not respond to opposition members' demand for scrapping the list or discussion over the issue.

(Kashmir Observer, 15 April, 1998)

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Road Accidents A Concerning Trend

Amir Suhail Wani

Rash Driving Claiming Lives of Passengers in J&K", reads a headline from a recent news article. There are shocking figures on the loss of life due to road accidents, annually. Recent reports state that 677 lives lost in 5189 accidents in the past 10 months. There are other reports suggesting that "Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed as many as 76,942 road accidents between 2010 and 2022 in which 12,429 people were killed, while 1,04,983 individuals were injured". The phenomenon of road accidents has witnessed a spike in the backdrop of causes like rash driving, bike stunts, over-speeding, overloading and overtaking. While repeated pleas have been made to the drivers and young bikers in particular not to resort to unsafe and risky modes of driving, the message isn't percolating where it should and no visible change is being seen in the modes of driving and accidents, instead of coming down, are soaring up.

Needless to say that in terms of the life threatening challenges created by the phenomenon of rash driving, it has ceased to be an individually isolated event, but has now assumed the dimensions of social evil by virtue of its pervasive and perilous nature. The loss of life of a young biker last week stirred a wave of concern among people about rash driving and in one voice people mourned the death and condemned such acts.

The police promptly jumped into action launching a special anti-stunt wing to identify and act against bikers involved in such activities. But these measures, though welcoming in the context of curbing this menace, are neither sufficient nor effective to completely eliminate the evil. Let's then try to understand the various dimensions of the problem and how addressing these facets can eliminate the problem.

Let's start with the elementary level and that is family and parental control. Parents need to realize that when they get their children high end



Ceasing vehicles from drivers not complying with the minimum age, levying high fines on those violating traffic rules, penalising those driving without safety helmets and a strong action against those involved in stunts

bikes, they are actually seating them on killing machines. They need to understand and take full responsibility for the fact that they are a party to any driving misadventure which their children might execute and they have equal share in any unfortunate accident that precedes. Once parents realise the burden of this responsibility, they will not budge under the child's pressure and even if they get their children a vehicle, they will assure that their child doesn't engage in rash driving or biking stunts. A bit of legal intrusion is necessary

here and that concerns the age deemed fit for issuing a driving license and more importantly the minimum age at which one is allowed to drive. We see kids in our streets and roads running their vehicles at high speeds and more than often they go around bluffing traffic men and causing harm to themselves and others. As is evident, the blame in this case lies both on parents and the authorities, for the one fails in his moral responsibility and the other in his legal responsibility.

Next comes a series of socio-psychological is-

ssues specific to youth including, but not limited to unemployment, identity crisis, drug abuse, craving for public attention and a host of other factors which push them towards bike stunts, careless driving and driving feats which result in loss of their own lives and the lives of pedestrians. No sooner the child enters his teenage years, it is incumbent upon parents to counsel and guide him, try to understand his problems and address the same in an amicable way. What is seen to the contrary is that parents do not lend an attentive ear to their child and as a result these grownups end up in ill practices of all shades. Let it be reminded in passing that how important a role schools and teachers also have in these affairs, for it is usually under their nose that stunts and biking somersaults are performed. Is it not possible for schools, tuition institutions, our clerics and other men of impact to speak against this evil of careless and rash driving?

Having talked about family and institutions of secondary importance, let us now look at the role of state, law and traffic cops in curbing this menace and eliminating evil. A passing reference to the negligence of police was made above and in the same vein it can be said that a body of comprehensive laws to guide and regulate driving and the stringent implementation of the same is a must in this direction. Ceasing vehicles from drivers not complying with the minimum age, levying high fines on those violating traffic rules, penalising those driving without safety helmets and a strong action against those involved in stunts. These measures, if implemented in true spirit will surely bring down the saddening episodes of road accidents and we shall have safer roads both for the people driving vehicles and the pedestrians alike.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is a Srinagar based columnist*

The Russian media reported that President Vladimir Putin made an extraordinary gesture as President Xi Jinping left the Kremlin following the state dinner last week on Tuesday evening by escorting him to the limousine and seeing him off.

And Xi during the goodbye handshake reportedly responded, "Together, we should push forward these changes that have not happened for 100 years. Take care."

Xi was alluding to the past 100 years of modern history that witnessed the United States transforming from a country to the north of Mexico in the Western Hemisphere to a superpower and global hegemon.

With his profound sense of history and dialectical mind, Xi was recalling the intense talks with Putin that dwelt on the contemporary realities burying the US' unipolar moment in the dustbin and on the imperatives of China and Russia joining hands to consolidate the transition of the world order toward democratisation and multipolarity.

It was an appropriate finale to a state visit that began the previous evening with Xi expressing confidence that Russians will support Putin at the presidential elections next year. At one stroke, Xi "cancelled" the West's demonising of Putin, mindful of the absurdity of even arranging an arrest warrant against the Kremlin leader to detract from his talks in Moscow.

China has a scrupulous policy of refraining from commenting on the internal politics of other countries. However, in the case of the situation surrounding Russia, Xi has made a notable exception by signalling his keenness for Putin's proactive leadership in such tumultuous times. The majority of world opinion, especially in the Global South, will agree.

Won't the erudite Russian public opinion take cognisance too — with a roar of approval? Yes, Putin's consistent 80 percent rating is a signpost. Xi may have poured cold water on the last desperate western ploys of instigating a bunch of Russian oligarchs to spearhead a regime change in the Kremlin.

To be sure, the timing of Xi's state visit in the middle of the war in Ukraine messaged the highest importance that China attaches to the relations with Russia. There is great deliberation in doing so, as both China and Russia are locked in spiralling tensions vis-a-vis the United States.

There has been a dramatic change of mood in Beijing. The nadir was reached with the boorish behaviour by President Biden in his State of the Union address on February 7 when he went off-script and hysterically shouted, "Name me a world leader who'd change places with Xi Jinping."

In the Eastern culture, such boorishness is taken as unforgivably scandalous behaviour. In the weeks since the US shot down the Chinese weather balloon and maligned China internationally, Beijing has rebuffed several attempts by the White House seeking telephone conversation for Biden with President Xi.

Beijing has had enough of Biden's hollow promises to mend ties while on the sly strengthening alliances across the Asia-Pacific region, inserting the NATO into the Asia-Pacific power dynamic and sending additional forces and fire-



Russia's Limits

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

power to places like Guam and the Philippines, apart from single-mindedly striving to weakening China's economy.

Xi's Moscow visit became a great occasion for Russia and China to reaffirm their "no limit" partnership and scatter the western attempts since the war broke out in Ukraine to create rift in the Sino-Russian relationship.

To quote Professor Graham Allison at Harvard University, "Along every dimension—personal, economic, military and diplomatic—the undeclared alliance that Xi has built with Russian President Vladimir Putin has become much more consequential than most of the United States' official alliances today."

However, alliance or not, the fact remains that this "new model of major-country relations featuring mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation" — to quote Xi Jinping — is anything but a hierarchical order.

America's pundits have a problem comprehending equal relationships between two sovereign and independent nations. And in this case, neither Russia nor China is inclined to declare a formal alliance because, simply put, an alliance inevitably requires assuming obligations and limiting the optimal pursuit of interests in deference to a collective agenda.

What emerges, therefore, is that Putin's strategic calculus in Ukraine will be shaped much more heavily by events on the battlefield than on any Chinese input. Russia's reaction to the Chinese "peace plan" regarding Ukraine testifies to that reality.

No sooner than Xi departed from Moscow, Putin in an interview with Russia 1 TV, set the record straight that Russia is outproducing the West's ammunition supplies to Kiev. He said, "Russia's output level and its military-industrial complex are developing at a very fast pace, which

China has a scrupulous policy of refraining from commenting on the internal politics of other countries. However, in the case of the situation surrounding Russia, Xi has made a notable exception by signalling his keenness for Putin's proactive leadership in such tumultuous times. The majority of world opinion, especially in the Global South, will agree

was unexpected by many."

While multiple Western countries will provide Ukraine with munitions, "the Russian production sector on its own will produce three times more ammunition for the same period of time," Putin added.

He repeated that the West's arms shipments to Ukraine are of concern to Russia only because they constitute "an attempt to prolong the conflict" and will "only lead to a bigger tragedy and nothing more."

However, this is not to belittle the great significance of the partnership for both countries in the political, diplomatic and economic spheres. The salience lies in the two countries' growing interdependency in multiple directions that cannot be quantified yet and keeps "evolving" (Xi) and appears seamless.

The Ukraine war, paradoxically, is turning

out to be a wake-up call — a war that can prevent another world war rather than engender one. China understands that Russia has single-handedly taken on the "collective West" and shown it is more than a match.

This assessment in Beijing cannot escape the West's attention and will impact the western thinking too for the medium and long term — not only for Eurasia but also the Asia-Pacific.

A recent article in the Global Times some weeks ago by Hu Xijin, the former editor-in-chief of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee daily highlighted the 'big picture.'

Hu wrote that the war in Ukraine "has evolved into a war of attrition between Russia and the West... While NATO is supposed to be much stronger than Russia, the situation on the ground doesn't appear so, which is causing anxiety in the West."

Hu drew some stunning conclusions: "The US and the West have found it much more difficult than expected to defeat Russia. They know that China has not provided military aid to Russia, and the question that haunts them is: if Russia alone is already so difficult to deal with, what if China really starts to provide military aid to Russia, using its massive industrial capabilities for the Russian military? Would the situation on the Ukrainian battlefield fundamentally change? Furthermore, Russia alone can already confront the entire West in Ukraine. If they really force China and Russia to join hands, what changes will there be in the world's military situation?"

Isn't the notion prevalent in the US and Europe that the Russia-China alliance is an alliance of unequals is itself a self-serving western fallacy? Hu is spot on: Although China's comprehensive strength is still short of that of the US, in combination with Russia, there is a paradigm shift in the balance and the US is no longer entitled to act as it pleases.

It is the common concern of Russia and China that the world order must return to an international system with the UN at its core and a world order based on international law. There is no question that the two countries' strategy is to overturn the "rules-based order" dominated by the US and return to an international order centred on the UN.

In fact, Article 5 is the very soul of the joint statement issued in Moscow: "The two sides reaffirm their commitment to firmly upholding the international system with the United Nations at its core, the international order based on international law and the basic norms governing international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and oppose all forms of hegemonism, unilateralism and power politics, the Cold War mentality, confrontation between camps and the establishment of cliques targeting specific countries."

Make no mistake that this is not about removing the US as the boss and replacing it with China, but about effectively checking the US from bullying smaller, weaker states, and thereby ushering in a new international order with primacy on peaceful development and political correctness that overrides all ideological differences.

The article was originally published by India Punchline

Understanding Right to Dignity in Islam

Umer Riyaz

Human dignity is recognition that human beings possess a special value intrinsic to their humanity and as such are worthy of respect. It unfolds that a person is inherently and by nature venerable and honorable. None has the right to humiliate, insult and diminish the respect of any human being irrespective of the reasons and circumstances. Human dignity is a fundamental value that elevates a person's feeling of being revered. Everything that diminishes human dignity contradicts the principle of honor and respect such as torture, insult and humiliation. But unfortunately, the world is witnessing a visible violation of human rights in contemporary times. The status of human life as well as its dignity is largely depreciated. However, the Quran says: "And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on land and sea and provided them with good things and preferred them over many of those whom We have created" (Al-Isra:70). Human dignity is a basic principle upon which not only the principles of human rights are based but also all the principles of the divine religions endorse the same. This dignity is equal for every human being irrespective of his cast, creed and gender.

However, Islam came with the message of equality without affecting differences in livelihoods, ages, colors and races centuries before the formulation of modern human dignity theories. It was a manifestation of the greatness of the Creator and His wisdom in the construction of the universe within a framework of coexistence, cooperation and integration. The Quran explicitly defines this concept in the following verse: "O people, indeed We created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes so that you may know one another. Indeed, the most honorable of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you" (Al-Hujrat:13). In other verse it is mentioned: "And among His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and colors. Indeed, in that are signs for those of knowledge" (Al-Rome:22). The quality of life of the corporeal being is depended on food and nourishment while as the souls or ethereal being is depended on honor which diminishes by humiliation, oppression and disrespect. Therefore, the Prophet ﷺ forbade striking on anybody's face because it is a subject of one's dignity. Similarly, Almighty forbade any action which degrades or lowers human dignity by say-



ing: "O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule another people, perhaps they may be better than them, nor let women ridicule other women, perhaps they may be better than them, and do not insult one another and do not call each other by offensive titles. Wretched is the name of disobedience after one's faith. And whoever does not repent then it is those who are the wrongdoers" (Al-Hujrat:11). The aforementioned verses depict that almighty Allah forbade the believers from making fun of others by mocking them and looking with contempt. Moreover, He forbade cursing anyone with unpleasant words because that becomes a catalyst of hatred and lead people to ignorance. Thus, sarcasm and mockery does not emanate except from a soul polluted with arrogance and it is a tool for destroying human relations. The Almighty states: "And speak kindly to people". (Al-Baqarah:83)



THUS, SARCASM AND MOCKERY DOES NOT EMANATE EXCEPT FROM A SOUL POLLUTED WITH ARROGANCE and it is a tool for destroying human relations. The Almighty states: "And speak kindly to people"

Allah commanded mankind not to be suspicious of any human being including slaves and not to spy on their private lives and follow their shortcomings. Furthermore, He also commanded not to talk ill about them or make backbiting in order to corrupt their image. Allah terms these social evils equivalent to eating

the flesh of one's own dead brother. On the contrary, He commanded us to protect ourselves from these reprehensible things and to stamp out the root of these evils. On the authority of Al-Ma'rur bin Suwaid, he said, "I met Abu Dhar who was wearing a cloak and his slave too was wearing a same so I asked him about

the reason. He replied: I insulted a man by cursing his mother so the Prophet ﷺ said to me: O Abu Dhar, you still have some characteristics of ignorance. Your slaves are your brothers..." (Bukhari).

Human dignity is a one of the basic spirits of Islam, it obligated Muslims to observe the human dignity that Al-

mighty Allah bestowed to man with His bounty and mercy in which He did not differentiate between Muslims and non-Muslims. The Prophet ﷺ resoundingly and reverberatory said on farewell pilgrimage: "O people, your Lord is one, your father is one, and there is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab, nor for a non-Arab over an Arab, nor for a white over a black, nor for a black over a white except with piety." (Bukhari)

Islam commanded its followers to preserve the dignity of non-Muslims and respect their feelings and sentiments. The Almighty Allah says: "And do not argue with the People of the Book except in a way that is best, except with those who do wrong among them" (Al-Ankabut:46). In Islamic perspective man is honored being regardless of his ethnicity, culture, origin, religious belief and his position and value in the society. Almighty said: "And do not insult those who invoke other than Allah, lest they insult Allah as an enemy without knowledge" (Al-An'am:108). There is an explicit prohibition against harming the gods of the other faiths in order to preserve human dignity, freedom, and to respect their religious sentiments and emotions. While interpreting this verse Imam Al-Qurtubi says, it is not permissible for a Muslim to insult their students, their religion, or their churches and not expose anything that leads to that as it is the way that leads person to sin.

Preserving human dignity is evident to us in the Prophet's ﷺ dealings with non-Muslims even with the dead among them. On the authority of Jabir bin Abdullah, he said: "A funeral passed by us, so the Prophet ﷺ stood up for it, and we also did the same, so we said: O Messenger of God, it is the funeral of a Jew! He said: "If you see the funeral, stand up." (Bukhari). This depicts that Islam is a religion of peace, mercy and justice that seeks to guide people and bring them out of darkness into light.

In numerous hadiths, Prophet ﷺ urged Muslims to uphold the divine morals and to deal others with mercy as Allah is merciful to his servants. In other traditions Messenger ﷺ of Allah says: "Those who are merciful will be shown mercy by the Most Merciful, and have mercy on those on earth and He who is in heaven will have mercy on you" (Tirmidhi). He also says: "He who does not have mercy will not be shown mercy" (Muslim). Thus, Islamic law preserve human dignity and considers all those acts against the spirit of Islam that undermine human dignity.

Research Scholar, Department of Arabic BGSB University, Rajouri

Kashmiri Pandit Woman Helps Muslim Child's Education, Breaks Barriers

Farooq Shah

I had been worried about how to fund my son's further education for weeks, with no extra source of income to rely on. The fees for coaching centres are exorbitant, and I already have another son studying at the elite IIT Kharagpur in West Bengal, so the financial burden was weighing heavily on me. I knew I needed to borrow some money, but I was hesitant to ask my friends for help.

It was at this point that Anjali Om Raina, a Kashmiri Pandit lady whom I barely knew, came to my rescue. Without any hesitation, she transferred Rs 50,000 to my account, providing me with the financial support I so desperately needed. I promised to pay her back as soon as I received my next salary.

As I received the unexpected transfer, I was taken aback by her warm and affectionate gesture. It was truly remarkable, especially given the current hostility between Muslims and Pandits in the region. The recent events in which members of her community lost their lives in a terrible way made her act of kindness all the more significant.

Her act of kindness made me realize that there are still people who refuse to be swayed by the bitterness and hatred that surrounds them. Instead, they choose to reach out to those who are different from them, to offer a helping hand, and to build bridges of understanding and compassion.

The violence and animosity between the two communities has



ANJALI'S ACT OF KINDNESS MADE ME SLIP INTO REVERIES OF THE TIME WHEN Muslims and Pandits lived peacefully in Kashmir, and the memory of that time still holds a special place in my heart

been on the rise for some time, fuelled by political tensions and religious differences. The tragic killings of Pandit community members in Kashmir only served to deepen the mistrust and hostility between the two communities. In

such a polarized environment, Anjali's outreach is not only rare but also extraordinary.

Anjali's act of kindness made me slip into reveries of the time when Muslims and Pandits lived peacefully in Kashmir, and the memory of

that time still holds a special place in my heart. For many years, Muslims and Pandits in Kashmir shared not only a common language, but also a culture that earned them an identity distinct from those living in other parts of India.

It's essential to resist the schemes and manipulations of those who aim to create division among humans, especially on the basis of religion. Instead, we should take action to ease suffering and set a positive example, educating our children on the benefits of living in a harmonious environment.

Irresponsible filmmaking and media have the potential to exacerbate existing tensions and sow fresh seeds of discord between communities divided on the basis of religion. For example, portraying one religious group in a negative light or perpetuating stereotypes can reinforce prejudices and fuel animosity. This can ultimately lead to a breakdown of trust and understanding between different communities, making it even harder to build bridges and promote peace.

Cinema and media also have the potential to play a positive role in promoting unity and understanding among communities. By portraying different religions and cultures in a respectful and accurate manner, media can help break down stereotypes and increase empathy and understanding between people of different backgrounds.

It's important for filmmakers and media professionals to be mindful of the impact their work can have on society. They should take care not to perpetuate harmful stereotypes or perpetuate division between different communities. By being responsible and thoughtful in their approach, media professionals can play an important role in promoting unity and

understanding among people of different religions and cultures.

Division and hatred based on religion, race, or any other pretext only leads to conflict and suffering. As individuals, it's our responsibility to promote unity, compassion, and understanding among people of different backgrounds.

One way to achieve this is by leading by example and practicing kindness and empathy towards others. We should strive to understand and respect the beliefs and values of those around us, even if they differ from our own. It's also important to speak out against discrimination and prejudice whenever we see it, and to actively work towards building bridges and fostering a sense of community.

By promoting these values and setting a positive example, we can create a better world for ourselves and for future generations. We must work together to create a peaceful and inclusive society where all individuals are valued and respected, regardless of their religion or any other factor.

Anjali's act of kindness is a reminder of the power of individuals to make a positive difference in their communities. It shows that even in the face of division and hatred, one person can make a significant impact by promoting understanding, empathy, and unity. It's important to replicate such acts in other communities and spread the message of peace and harmony. We need more people like Anjali to lead by example and inspire others to come together for the greater good.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Jumat-ul-Vida Observed

and Makhama-Beerwah. Devotees could be seen offering congregational prayers on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramazan on the streets adjacent to several mosques and shrines in Srinagar and elsewhere in Kashmir.

Authorities had organized medical camps for the devotees while a route plan devised for the day by the Traffic Police department also helped smooth movement of traffic on all routes leading to Hazratbal shrine.

Roads and streets leading to the shrine were decorated with buntings and markets in Hazratbal wore a festive look with vendors doing brisk business.

Hundreds of private and SRTC vehicles ferried the devotees. Besides transport, arrangements for power, drinking water, medical aid camps and sanitation were also made for the convenience of devotees.

Jamia Masjid Locked

questioned. Last month, the authorities disallowed the 'Shab-e-Barat' congregational prayers at the mosque.

Abdullah also pooh-poohed administration for continued house detention of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. "The time has come, when they say the situation is right, that he (Mirwaiz) should be released so that he offers Namaz and preaches to the people," he said.

Abdullah said it is important as the situation is such that today we have forgotten God, and have left the right path.

"So, it is important that he (Mirwaiz) comes and preaches to the people and prays for all of us so that we tread the right path," the former Union minister, said.

Reacting sharply to the development, former chief minister Omar Abdullah said the administration was betraying its own claims of normalcy in the Valley by locking the gates of the grand mosque.

"We are constantly treated to claims of normalcy in J&K and yet the administration betrays its own claims when it resorts to locking up one of our holiest mosques thus denying people the chance to offer prayers on the last Friday of Ramzan," Abdullah, the National Conference vice president, wrote on Twitter.

Meanwhile Mirwaiz Umer Farooq led amalgam also said the closure of the mosque "belied" the government's claim of normalcy in J&K.

"The prolonged house arrest of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq since August 2019, even in the holy month of Ramzan despite appeals from all quarters for his release, barring him from his religious obligations as the Mirwaiz is greatly regrettable. It defies the authorities' claim that 'all is well now' in Naya Kashmir," the Hurriyat said in a statement here. (PTI)

Thousands Rally

Smaller processions were taken out from Abi Guzar, Zadibal, Bagwanpora in Srinagar, Balhama, Khanda and scores of other places.

Addressing a gathering at Chattabal Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari reiterated his support for the Palestinian cause and denounced the mute response of the International community to the brazen violation of the rights of Palestinian people.

In central Kashmir's Budgam district, a massive procession led by Anjuman-e-Sharie Shiyayan Chief Agha Syed Hassan was carried out from Imambargah Budgam. Thousands of people participated in the procession.

Similar procession was led by Agha Syed Hadi al Musawi al Safavi from Bemina Imambargah. Agha Hadi also highlighted the plight of Palestine and the need for liberation of the first Qibla from the Zionist clutches.

Reports of demonstrations were also received from different parts of north and south Kashmir including Pattan, Mirgund, in North Kashmir and several areas of South Kashmir.

Similarly, thousands of people marked the day in Kargil with processions held after Friday prayers.

However, the authorities did not allow Friday prayers in the historic Jamia Masjid. All gates leading to the historic Jamia Masjid were closed down by the authorities in order to stop worshippers from entering the mosque.

Baisakhi Celebrated

the outskirts of Srinagar. General officer commanding of the Army's Srinagar-based 15 Corps, or Chinar Corps, Lt Gen A D S Aujla and senior officers of the police and the Army were present on the occasion.

"Army personnel from all religions celebrate Baisakhi together. This also sends a strong message to the country that we should celebrate the festivals together, live together, and take the country forward on the path to prosperity," Hawaldar Ajay Kumar told reporters.

He said Kashmiri locals also celebrate the festivals with the Army.

"We do not feel that we are far away from our families, because this is a family for us," he added.

Another Army personnel Hawaldar Sarabjit Singh said Baisakhi was a very important day for them and "we all brothers together celebrate this festival".

The festival also marks the opening of the famous Mughal gardens in Srinagar.

The tourists were enthralled to see the spring bloom in these gardens.

"I feel very good and lucky to be here on this day as officially Mughal gardens are thrown open for tourists and today I am here...I am very excited and enjoying this trip," a tourist, Deepti, from Mumbai said.

"I am feeling very nice to be here and today these Mughal gardens are open on occasion of Baisakhi. We are enjoying," another tourist, Ravinder Kumar from Meerut, said.

A foreign tourist from Bangladesh Nasser-udin was impressed by the beauty of the garden.

"I am very much happy to visit this garden, I am very happy to know that on first day of Baisakhi, Mughal gardens are open for tourists. I am very much impressed," he said.

"It is a very very beautiful, colourful and a historical place also. We all are enjoying very much," Ethal Mukhadopayi from Bangladesh said.

Baisakhi Mela "Basoa" was organised across the Jammu division and encompassed all components of the traditional Dogra ethos like Dogra cuisines, costumes, art, craft, as well as narration of local folklores, among others.

Hundreds of people joined a mega walk en route Dogra Chowk, Vivekanand Chowk, Rajinder Bazaar, Kanak Mandi, Purani Mandi, Jain Bazaar Pacca Danga towards the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex in Jammu.

The participants including officers of the Tourism Department, prominent citizens, folk dancers as well as beautifully decorated elephants, horses, camels, and chariots were given a warm welcome by locals of the old city and showered with petals.

People from all sections of society participated in the procession in their traditional attires depicting the varied culture of Jammu.

Folk dances like Bhangra, Haran, Jattar, Kud' and as well as martial arts were the main attractions of the procession.

At Mubarak Mandi, a Dogra village and a Dogra exhibit "Mere Desae Da Shalapea" was set up where live painting and live poetry sessions were held. Besides, items symbolising the Dogra art and culture were put on display. The exhibition will go on for three days.

Similarly, special events were held at Gulabgarh-Paddar in Kishtwar, Dera Baba Banda Bahadur in Reasi, Gurudwara Nangali Sahib in Poonch, Jia Pota Ghat in Akhnoor to celebrate Baisakhi.

Girl Dead, 61 Injured

Bain village of Chenani block during Baisakhi celebrations, they said.

Udhampur Deputy Commissioner Krittika Jyotsna, who visited the hospital to meet the injured, told reporters that the accident took place late in the afternoon when the people were celebrating Baisakhi.

"Sixty-two people were injured. Out of them, 35 were admitted to district hospital. The critically injured were taken to GMC Hospital in Jammu," she said.

The other injured have been admitted to Chenani hospital, the officials said.

"One girl has died in the hospital," Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar told PTI.

According to sources, the deceased has been identified as Anu Kumari.

People in large numbers were on the bridge when it collapsed, the officials said.

The bridge collapsed due to overloading as large number of people were on it at the time of the accident, Kumar said.

He said the probe into the collapse will be led by the Udhampur Deputy Commissioner.

Police and relief teams rushed to the spot and began rescue operations, the officials said.

Videos and pictures purporting to show the extent of damage in the far-flung Chenani block were widely circulated on social media.

LG Announces

from both the routes – the Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district.

The LG also directed the officials to ensure high levels of cleanliness and to take necessary intervention for sanitation and waste management.

Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) will also enable live telecast of morning and evening Aarti (Prayers) for devotees across the globe. Shri Amarnathji Yatra's App has been made available on the Google play store to get real time information about the Yatra, weather and for availing several services online.

During the 44th meeting of SASB chaired by the LG, the members and officials had reviewed various aspects of Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2023, including registration, provision of helicopter services, service providers, camps, langars and insurance cover for Yatris.

Multi-Tier Security

China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, Mexico, United Kingdom, United States and the European Union, India's special invitee guest countries this time include Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and UAE.

Notably, this will be the first international event in the valley post abrogation of Article 370.

Meanwhile, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), the city's civic body has invited tenders for face lifting and renovation of existing bunkers/pickets in Srinagar city.

According to a circular, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the Chief Engineer Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) has invited the e-Tenders on behalf of Lt. Governor Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, from Class AYY/BEE Contractors registered with J&K State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the work.

Earlier, the district administration removed a series of bunkers from various parts of Srinagar city in view of the G20 meeting.

The Security bunkers manned by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) from Dalgate, Barzulla and Jehangir-Chowk flyover were removed and it was decided to introduce "smart bunkers".

An SMC official told Kashmir Observer that the tendering process will be completed soon and the work on bunkers will be started in coming weeks.

"Everything has been finalized. The work on smart bunkers will be started soon," he said.

Over 200 meetings are expected to be held across the country after assuming the Presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023.

Srinagar city—the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir is also going to host one of the G20 events in May this year for which the administration is making advance arrangements by repairing major roads, drainage systems and beautification of the roads and walls.

28 Tourists Caught

about this illegal activity."

It added it was made sure by our officers that the passengers do not suffer because of the ill plans of tour company. "A written complaint was obtained from the passengers who had been cheated by tour company namely Veene World Mumbai. The case along with all the details, Proofs, witnesses and the culprit were handed over to SHO Gulmarg by Incharge Gulmarg Gondola Project Showkat Ahmad Bhat for taking further necessary action in the matter."

As per the statement the management of JKCCG in general and local management of Gulmarg Gondola in particular are putting up extreme efforts to make the ticketing system user friendly and more transparent.

"All these efforts are being made to ensure that the passengers do not suffer and do not feel inconvenience and leave as ambassadors of tourism department of J&K all over the country."

Bombay HC Refuses

Kashmir in India and, therefore, one has to tread cautiously in such a field, lest the emotions may reach up to such a level as to bring about consequences or reasonable possibility of consequences visiting as envisaged in Section 153-A of IPC," the order stated.

It concluded that it was a matter of trial to examine whether that message really attracted an offence under Section 153A of IPC.

"As of now, prima-facie it does seem to be having such impact on the mind of different

groups of people, for the reasons stated just now, and hence prima-facie constitutes the offence under Section 153-A of IPC," the Court held while refusing to quash the FIR.

151 New Cases,

Anantnag, nine from Ganderbal, eight each from Baramulla, Kulgam and Kishtwar, five from Kishtwar, four each Udhampur, Doda and Kulgam, three from Bandipora, besides one each from Rajouri, Kathua and Ramban.

There was one death from Jammu division during the time. So far 4789 people have succumbed to the virus and among them include 2356 from Jammu division and 2433 from the Valley.

Besides, they said, 92 Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—36 from Jammu division and 56 from Kashmir Valley. There are now 686 active cases—301 in Jammu and 386 in Kashmir.

'Super Thief' Facing

Delhi alone, they said.

Singh gained fame after he participated in the popular reality show 'Big Boss' in 2010 but was evicted after he misbehaved with host Salman Khan. He also inspired Bollywood movie 'Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!', police said.

The arrest was made after a case was registered based on the complaint of a GK-II resident regarding theft of three expensive mobile phones, purse, two laptops, branded shoes, wrist watch and Baleno car on the intervening night of April 12-13, police said.

On the same day, a second theft was reported by another resident of GK-II, they added.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Chandhan Choudhary said CCTV camera footage of the area and the place of incident revealed that a middle aged suspect wearing a cap was involved in both the incidents.

"The team started looked at the CCTV footage of the suspect and followed the route of the stolen car which revealed that it was going towards Noida via Alaknanda in CR Park," the official said.

The registration number of the car was also ascertained through the footage, police said.

"During the course of investigation, police teams of CR Park followed the footage and tracked the car till Kalindi Kunj. Meanwhile, the team checked the locations of stolen mobile phones and found one of them switched on following which its location was traced near Agra. The team instantly moved towards the location which was about 150 KM away from them," she said.

The fastag of the stolen mobile phone was kept on surveillance. Fastag deductions at different toll booths were monitored, police said.

The team spotted the stolen car on the highway near Etawah in UP. The team later managed to intercept the car at a toll booth in the UP's Kanpur Dehat but the accused tried to escape. However, the glass window of the car was broken and the accused was apprehended, she added.

Stolen items, including three mobile phones, two laptops, five LED TVs with set top boxes, iron, printer and other ID Cards and purse of the complainants were also recovered from the car, police said.

The accused was arrested and the case property was seized, the DCP said.

Two Gamblers

"They have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody," the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said, a case FIR No. 27/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Khrew and investigation has been taken up.

Wet Spell Predicted

he said, the weather is likely to be generally cloudy with intermittent light to moderate rain (light snow over higher reaches)/thunderstorm/lightning at fairly widespread places of Kashmir division and few places of Jammu division.

From April 20-21st, he said, generally cloudy weather with intermittent light rain, thunderstorms and lightning was expected at a few places. "From April 22-26, the weather is likely to be mainly dry weather."

Meanwhile, the night temperature recorded a rise in J&K on Friday, the official said.

He said that Srinagar recorded a low of 9.0°C against 7.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C above normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 6.0°C, the same as on the previous night while the tourist resort of Pahalgam in South Kashmir

recorded a low of 3.6°C against 3.2°C on the previous night.

Kokernag recorded a low of 9.4°C against 9.1°C on the previous night and it was 3.3°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 5.4°C against 4.4°C on the previous night and it was 3.9°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 5.6°C against 6.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 20.3°C against 18.8°C on the previous night. It was 1.1°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 8.4°C (above normal by 0.2°C), Batote 13.2°C (above normal by 2.7°C), Katra 18.6°C (2.1°C above normal) and Bhardarwah 9.6°C (2.6°C below normal). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 0.2°C and 3.3°C respectively, he said. (GNS)

6 Drug Peddlers

During search, 50 grams of contraband charas and cash amount of Rs 27300 (believed to be proceeds of narcotic crime) was recovered from his possession. He has been shifted to police station where he remains in custody, police said.

Meanwhile, a Police party led by Incharge Police Post Palhallan under the supervision of SDPO Pattan Mohd Nawaz at a checkpoint established at Hamrey Pattan arrested a drug peddler namely Mohd Yaqoob Dar son of Ghulam Rasool Dar resident of Renji Pattan. During search, 96 Tablets of SpasmoProxvovon Plus & 10 Syrups of Codeine Phosphate was recovered from his possession. He has been shifted to police station where he remains in custody, police said.

Similarly, a police party under the supervision of SDPO Uri Shokat Ali assisted by DySP Prob. Kubra Nazir, SHO Police Station Boniyar at a checkpoint established near Ijara Crossing Bridge Boniyar intercepted a suspicious person who tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully.

During the search, 90grams of Charas, 800grams of dry cannabis leaves and cash amount of Rs 41355 (believed to be proceeds of narcotic crime) were recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Mohd Amin Sheikh son of Ghulam Mohd Sheikh resident of Ijara Boniyar. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody, police said.

Moreover, a police party led by Incharge Police Post Delina under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Baramulla Sajjad Bukhari at a checkpoint established at Rawathpora Delina intercepted a vehicle (Swift) bearing registration number HP40D-3856. During search, 10grams of Brown Sugar was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Zahid Hussain Wani son of Ghulam Hassan Wani resident of Hardushiva Sopore. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized, police said.

In Kulgam, a special police team led by Incharge Police Post Mirbazar under the supervision of SSP Kulgam at a checkpoint established near Zadoora Crossing on NHW-44 intercepted a suspicious person carrying a bag. During search, 6 sticks of charas like substance weighing around 100 grams was recovered from the said bag from his possession. He has been identified as Safer Ahmad Dar son of Khalil Mohammad Dar resident of Nowpora. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody, police said.

In Awantipora, a Police Party of Police Station Pampore headed by SHO PS Pampore under the supervision of SDPO Pampore Intiyaz Ahmad arrested one drug peddler at Tulbagh Pampore. During search, 1Kg 100 grams of cannabis powder (charas Powder) was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Basir Manzoor Akhooon son of Manzoor Ahmad Akhooon resident of Tulbagh Pampore. He has been shifted to police station where he remains in custody, police said.

Accordingly, police said that cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police station and further investigation has been initiated.

People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law, police added.

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

KASHMIR
OBSERVER



KO PODCAST

Over 85,000 People Trained As 'First Respondents' On Fire Safety

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: More than 85,000 people have been trained as 'first respondents' about the fire safety, prevention and precautionary measures by the fire and emergency services department in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday.

Total 640 schools, 300 hospitals and medical institutes were covered by the department under the department's awareness programme, they said.

"We are spreading awareness among masses to prevent fire incidents and are focusing on first fire responders," Alok Kumar, director at the fire and emergency service department, told PTI.

A first responder is a person with specialised training who is among the first to arrive and provide assistance during emergency situations.

"More than 300 hospitals and medical institutions were covered under the awareness programme and more than 15,000 of their employees were trained," he said, adding that in total 70,000 people were trained during the awareness drive.

There are 176 fire stations in the union territory, the official informed.

"As many as 5,813 fire inci-

dents took place in 2022. This year, over 1,000 such incidents have taken place. The department is aiming to decrease the number of fire incidents through this programme", the director said.

The administration is also strengthening the fire service department by upgrading its equipment and machines, he said.

"Recently we have inducted a turn table ladder (TTL). It had been brought from Finland and can access 14-storey buildings," Kumar said.

The department has also got cutters and machines for boring and drilling to deal with emergencies, he said.

Observing the fire safety day, the department on Friday remembered firemen who laid their lives while safeguarding the lives and property of the masses during rescue and fire-fighting missions.

According to officials, the department will launch various programs in the fire service week ending April 20 to spread awareness about fire prevention and precautionary measures.

These programs will also be organised at district levels, covering villages along with industrial organisations, educational institutes and hospitals among other establishments, Kumar added.

Chairman DDC Budgam Distributes Solar Lights In Beerwah

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) in Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan, has distributed solar lights to residents of the Beerwah segment in Budgam.

The distribution program concluded in the first week of April and was aimed at providing affordable and sustainable lighting solutions to the people of the area.

Khan stated that the distribution of solar lights is a part of district development council's efforts to promote renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions. The solar lights are equipped with the latest technology and are designed to provide bright and reliable lighting even in remote areas without access to electricity.

The distribution program was well-received by the residents of the Beerwah segment, who ex-

pressed their gratitude towards Khan and the district administration for providing them with a sustainable lighting solution. The solar lights will not only improve the quality of life of the residents but will also help in reducing their energy bills.

Khan also urged the residents of the area to use the solar lights responsibly and take care of them to ensure their longevity. He emphasized the need to conserve energy and protect the environment for the benefit of future generations.

The distribution of solar lights in the Beerwah segment is just one of the many initiatives undertaken by the Chairman DDC Budgam to promote sustainable development in the region. The district administration is committed to providing basic amenities and infrastructure to all residents of the area and will continue to work towards their welfare.

Div Com Jammu Reviews Machail Mata Yatra Arrangements

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Friday reviewed the arrangements for Shree Machail Mata Yatra and also held a public grievances redressal camp at Padder.

Divisional Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav also participated in the door opening ceremony of Shree Machail Mata ji Temple, Padder on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi Festival.

The ceremony also marked the shifting of the Murti of Goddess Machail Mata (Durga) from the house of local devotees Pehalwan Singh to the temple amid necessary rituals and a grand fair.

Div Com and Deputy Commissioner, along with other attendees including SSP Kishtwar Khalil Ahmed Poswal; ADC Inderjeet Singh Parihar; ASP Rajinder Singh; SDM Padder Rishi Kumar Sharma, officials of Shree Machail Mata ji Yatra Cell, civil administration and police besides the priests and locals paid obeisance and offering at the shrine on the occasion.

Shri Machail Mata Yatra begins on July 25 every year but owing to the significant rush of devotees, the Yatra may begin earlier this year.

During the visit, the Div Com Jammu and Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar assessed the infrastructure gaps at Machail Bhawan and issued necessary directions to concerned departments/authorities, includ-

ing PHE, JPDC, R&B, and PMG-SY, to address the same before the upcoming Yatra.

Meanwhile, the Div Com also listened to the demands of locals who among others demanded repair of Kundhail Bridge and upgradation of infrastructure.

The Div Com said that work on Kundail bridge has already been tendered out and will be completed in a month's time. He also assured the public that the will be completed in a stipulated time.

Pertinent to mention that earlier the other day, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, along with other district & sectoral officers, concerned executing officers, and Machail Mata Yatra Cell officials trekked about 26 Kms from Kundhail by foot to reach Shree Machail Mata Bhawan to personally assess all developmental projects and infrastructure needs that would ensure the convenience and safety of pilgrims enroute during the Yatra time.

Apart from this, Div Com Jammu attended Baisakhi Festival celebration organized by the District Administration Kishtwar in collaboration with JK Tourism, Indian Army, and BRO here at Gosi riverside of Atholi Padder.

Div Com along with DC, SSPADDC and local PRIs inspected the stalls exhibiting local products and cuisines and other recreational activities like river rafting, beach volleyball, rapling, zip-line, traditional wrestling (Dangal), Tug of War, and day-night cricket matches which were organised as part of the Utsav.



THE AUTHORITIES ON FRIDAY allegedly disallowed the congregational prayer on 'Jumatul-Vida' (last Friday of Ramadan) at the Jamia Masjid in the Old City of Srinagar.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

In Kashmir's Largest Seminary, 600 Muslims Perform Itikaaf

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a display of spiritual devotion, at least 600 Muslims from both inside and outside the Kashmir Valley have gathered for 10 days at Itikaaf at Darul Uloom Raheemiya, the biggest Islamic seminary of Kashmir located in Bandipora district.

Notably, the Itikaaf takes place during the last 10 days of Ramadan when worshippers seclude themselves and devote their time to prayer, supplication, and reading the Quran. It starts from the sunset of the 20th day of Ramadan and ends when the Eid moon is sighted. During itikaaf, worshippers live and sleep in mosques.

The gathering of individuals from diverse backgrounds at Darul Uloom Raheemiya highlights the importance of this practice in Islam and the desire of Muslims to connect with Allah and seek spiritual enlightenment.

They will spend their days and nights engaged in prayer, reading the Quran, and seeking a deeper understanding of their faith.



The atmosphere at the mosque is serene and filled with the sound of supplications and recitation of the holy book. "We are grateful to Allah for providing us with the opportunity to host it, and we hope that it will be a source of spiritual upliftment for all those who participate in it," said one of the participants.

He said that the Itikaaf is a highly respected and long-standing tradition in the Islamic faith, dating back to the time of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

"It is observed by Muslims all over the world, who use the final 10 days of Ramadan to retreat from worldly distractions and focus on prayer and reflection," he said.

To make the stay of 'Muat-akifs' hassle free and provide them a peaceful environment to perform 'Ibadat', dozens of youngsters of Bandipora spend their nights in Darul uloom to serve evening meals, Iftari and Sehri (Pre-dawn meals) to them. "Serving meals to 600 persons in limited hours is a Herculean task but the locals make it easier as they voluntarily serve the guests," said an organiser of the event.

A volunteer Muhammad Umar said: "These people are guests of Bandipora. They worship and we try to make their stay easy so that they work-shop in peace. We will get rewarded also."—(KNO)

Army, Cops Reach Out To Chenab Valley Youths To Prevent Militant Recruitment

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: As part of its counter-strategy, Army and police have launched a massive youth outreach programme in the Chenab valley amid continuous attempts by Pakistan-based militant leaders to look for new recruits and revive militancy in the Jammu region, security officials said on Friday.

The outreach programme was chalked out after security agencies pointed towards a new strategy being adopted by militant handlers to radicalise youths in Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban, the three districts that form the Chenab valley, the officials said.

Over the past couple of

months, they said, there has been a spurt in cross-border phone calls with militant commanders -- mostly locals who fled across the border sometime back -- making desperate attempts to rope in gullible youths.

"More than 80 youths have been put under surveillance in the three districts, 60 questioned and 11 booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act as part of the counter-strategy," an officer told PTI.

He said questioning the youths revealed that most of them have relatives across the border.

"The calls are made to radicalise and motivate the youths to join terror ranks. We are keeping a close watch to en-

sure that no youth is misled by the propaganda as Pakistan-based terror groups are trying to overcome dwindling support," the officer said.

Over the past year, security forces have busted several modules in the Jammu region and most of the arrested persons were acting at the behest of their handlers from across the border, mostly the local militants who have been operating from there.

As many as 118 militants from Jammu and Kashmir's Doda are based in Pakistan and PoK, of whom 10 are most active and are attempting to spread militancy in the region by recruiting the youth, the officer said.

Reconsider Decision To Blacklist Contractors: Mehbooba To LG

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said the Jammu and Kashmir administration's decision to blacklist contractors for their alleged links to militants was "arbitrary" and appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to reconsider it.

In a letter to Sinha, she said the previous governments in J and K had created a rehabilitation policy for such people with the purpose to ensure their acceptance amongst society with dignity and remove the stigma of "association".

"I'd like to draw your attention to the tragic consequences of the administration's recent decision to blacklist contractors. It is being carried out in an arbitrary manner on the erroneous assumption of direct or indirect links with militants," Mehbooba wrote in the letter.

She said a cursory glance at

the list reveals that most of the contractors were not even militants to begin with.

"The fifty-odd, who were, have shunned militancy a long time ago whereas the majority of those disqualified are related through ties of blood but are not involved in any form of violent activity," she said.

The former chief minister said the previous elected governments in J and K successfully created a rehabilitation policy for such persons.

"The purpose it served was to ensure their acceptance amongst society with dignity and remove the stigma of 'association'. It also had a larger contribution in strengthening the reconciliation process despite the fact that their decision to do so was fraught with dangerous consequences.

Many were gunned down for making a choice that was viewed as a betrayal," she said.

Mehbooba said it was during former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure when her father and PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed as chief minister had advocated and implemented a package to provide financial aid to the victims of militancy.

"This also extended to orphans of insurgents who bore the brunt of a situation that was beyond their control," she said.

"Today after toiling for a life of dignity for decades, these people have been reduced to mute bystanders as their lives are being uprooted. Therefore, I urge you to reconsider your decision on humanitarian grounds," she added.

J&K Bank Sanctions 3 Bank Branches, 3 USBs; 2 ATMs For Kupwara

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: Giving a major relief to the people of different far-flung areas of frontier Kupwara district, J&K Bank authorities have sanctioned 3 new bank branches, 3 USBs, 2 ATMs and 4 Cash Recyclers in different areas of Kupwara district.

These J&K Bank branch expansions were requested by the general public in different block Divas and Gramsabhas of Back to village programmes.

JK Bank Branches sanctioned include JK Bank Branch War-now Lolab, JK Bank Branch Fruit Mandi Bumhama, and JK Bank branch Qasba Hyhama.

JK Bank authorities have also sanctioned 3 USBs (Ultra small business units) at Thayan Kalaroos, USB for Gabra, and USB for Tangdhar market.

These USBs will have Cash deposit, cash withdrawal, transactions, cheque accept, cheque deposit other than loan and advances facilities.

Besides 2 ATMs (Automated Teller Machine) for Khurhama and Sub District Hospital Sogam have been sanctioned.

In addition to this bank authorities have sanctioned 4 Cash Recyclers (CRs) which include Cash Recycler for SDH

Sogam, SDH Kupwara, Kralpora Market and Cash Recycler for Handwara market.

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray congratulated the people of Kupwara district on sanctioning JK bank's new branches and other facilities.

The DC Kupwara while highlighting the importance of bank facilities for hassle free transactions and extending benefits of social security and self employment schemes to the youth in far-off areas of Kupwara district said that the people would easily avail benefits of various beneficiary-oriented schemes of the Government through these bank branches.

Lead District Manager Kupwara, Mehboob Ellahi Khan reiterated the Bank's commitment towards the economic development of people living in far-flung areas of Kupwara district. He said, "J&K Bank authorities have sanctioned these branches for the economic well-being of the people of Kupwara district."

J&K Bank authorities further said that these newly sanctioned branches will start functioning during the financial year 2023-24.

Deeraj Gupta Inspects Development Works In Jambu Zoo



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, Deeraj Gupta, on Friday inspected development works being executed in Jambu Zoo which is expected to be dedicated to the general public soon.

Suresh Kumar Gupta, Chief Wildlife Warden, briefed about various ongoing works in the Zoo.

e apprised the Principal Secretary of the status of critical Zoo infrastructures such as animal enclosures, power supply, amphitheatre, animal kitchen, animal hospital, staff quarters, main entrance gate, orientation centre, ticketing counters, Souvenir shop, kiosk, cafeteria, view points, Jammu Di Dhakki, toilets and other public amenities.

Deeraj Gupta, while noticing significant progress achieved, directed the department to expedite balance work on parking area, roads, Sulabh shauchalaya, Nature Interpretation Centre, shelter sheds, herbivore pathway and related works by deploying additional

manpower and machineries. He instructed the officers to carryout site cleaning, plantation, greening, enrichment and beautification activities simultaneously, in and around whole zoo infrastructure.

Principal Secretary asked the officers to detail the "in-house" animal shifting plan of Manda Mini Zoo animals to the New Jambu Zoo based on the evaluation carried out by Central Zoo Authority (CZA) experts. He asked for expediting clearances from CZA and Ministry of Defense respectively for water supply right of way passing through defense area.

Deeraj Gupta asked the department's officials, engineers, contractors and service providers to put in their best effort to make zoo operationally ready by last week of April for trial run.

Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu, Wildlife Warden, Jambu Zoo and other senior officers of department of wildlife protection and representatives of executing agencies were present on the occasion.

98.3 Mirchi Organises Iftaar, Naat Khwani Session At Budgam Orphanage

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: 98.3 Mirchi organised an Iftaar function-cum-Naat Khwani session at Banat-i-Gulshan hostel for orphan girls by J&K Yateem Trust, Wathora, Gopalpora to culminate their month-long special Mission e Noor-e-Ramazan campaign.

At the event, girls from the orphanage performed naats and graced the occasion with their beautiful voices.

All these well-deserving kids were presented with gifts and left with smiles on their faces. Apart from the gifts, there was a special free eye check-up camp held by Kashmir Eye Hospitals, a Mirchi associate for the Noor-e-Ramazan campaign. In addition, a free mental-health check-up as well as a general check-up was provided to ensure the well-being of hostel residents.

The entire Mirchi team was present at the event which in-

cluded Station Head Deeba Khan, Programming Head Yasir Majid, Group Manager Nadeem Shafi, RJ Mehak, RJ Vijdan, RJ Rafia and producer Sameem Khan. Apart from the Mirchi team, the team of sponsors attended the event too, and expressed their love for the cause, with special gestures including free admissions by title sponsors, Mission e.

Speaking at the event, Deeba Khan said, "Ramzan is all about righteousness and kindness, and every Ramzan, Mirchi 98.3 Kashmir organises special events to promote acts of kindness to set good examples for others to follow. Our month-long campaign Noor-e-Ramazan was entirely aimed at spreading a message of harmony and peace, with this event being a fitting end towards the same cause. We're extremely grateful for the opportunity provided by Yateem Trust to have allowed us the opportunity of organising this event with these wonderful children."

Gill Will Dominate World Cricket For Next Decade: Hayden

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: With a penchant for making big scores, the supremely gifted Shubman Gill is set to dominate world cricket for the next decade, feels legendary Australian opener Matthew Hayden.

The 23-year-old Gill, who has already scored two hundreds in Tests, four in ODIs and one in T20 Internationals, once again showed his class en route to a sublime 67 off 49 balls in Gujarat Titans' six-wicket win over Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

Hayden is one of the many to have been impressed by Gill's ability to control the proceedings. Speaking to Star Sports, Hayden said, "Gujarat Titans needed someone to take responsibility and bat deep in this run chase against a quality Punjab Kings bowling attack, and Shubman Gill did just that."

"Some of the shots that he played were pleasing to the eyes. He's such a class player and he's



going to dominate world cricket for the next decade or so." From GT's point of view, it was extremely important that Gill stayed on till the end, especially after the dismissal of captain Hardik Pandya with the team still 48 runs away from victory in 34 balls.

Gill's innings contained seven fours and a six. In what looked like an easy run chase for a star-studded Gujarat Titans batting line-up, the defending champions faced a late scare in Mohali. However, the 'ice cool' Rahul Tewatia and seasoned campaigner David Miller finished the game for their team with a ball to spare.

IPL 2023: LSG Eye Top Spot, Take On PBKS



Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: Let down by below-par batting in their recent twin defeats, Punjab Kings will want their batters to improve their dot-ball count when they take on a rampaging Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL here on Saturday.

After a flying start to the new season with two wins, Punjab endured two back-to-back losses following their failure to post good totals on the board.

If skipper Shikhar Dhawan was left to carry the team on his shoulders against Sunrisers Hyderabad, the day he failed the other batters could only manage 153 for 8 against Gujarat Titans, mainly because of Shahrukh Khan's nine-ball 22.

The main reason behind PBKS's underwhelming total

was their failure to push the scoring in the middle overs between 10 and 15. They ended up playing 56 dot balls, an area where the team will have to get better.

With scores of 40, 86 not out and 99 not out in his first three innings, Dhawan remains undoubtedly Punjab's most impactful player but it is the inconsistency of the other batters that is a reason for worry.

The Super Giants, on the other hand, have won their last two games, and another win on Saturday will take them to the top spot in the IPL standing.

While skipper KL Rahul has struggled with his strike-rate so far, the Super Giants have found new heroes to take the team home.

If Krunal Pandya produced an all-round show against

Sunrisers, West Indian Nicholas Pooran's breath-taking 19-ball 62 helped them to chase down a difficult 212 against Royal Challengers Bangalore in their last match.

LSG has a balanced batting line-up with opener Kyle Mayers producing the goods in the first two matches, while the lower middle order comprising Marcus Stoinis, Pooran and Ayush Badoni has shown the other day they can win crunch games.

However, Deepak Hooda has failed so far.

Among bowlers, they have a good mix of pace and spin. While Mark Wood and Avesh Khan have looked good, leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi, veteran leggie Amit Mishra and Krunal Pandya have also shone in their respective roles.

Match starts at 7:30 PM IST.

PL Clubs To Withdraw From Gambling Shirt Sponsorships

Agencies

LONDON: Gambling sponsorship on the front of Premier League shirts will be withdrawn by the end of the 2025/26 season after a collective agreement by the clubs, the league announced on Thursday.

Eight of the 20 top-flight clubs currently have shirts sponsored by gambling companies.

The three-year transition period will allow for existing deals to be completed without clubs facing penalties for cutting contracts short.

"Premier League clubs have today collectively agreed to withdraw gambling sponsorship from the front of clubs' matchday shirts, becoming the first sports league in the UK to take such a measure voluntarily in order to reduce gambling advertising," the Premier League said in a statement.

"The announcement follows an extensive consultation involving the League, its clubs and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport as part of the Government's ongoing review of current gambling legislation."

Gambling sponsors on the front

of football shirts have already been outlawed in Italy and Spain.

The UK government review of gambling legislation will reportedly fall short of a blanket ban on front of shirt sponsorship due to the financial hardship it would cause clubs further down the pyramid.

However, the Premier League, which boasts the highest television rights revenues of any football league in the world, had been under pressure to enter into a voluntary agreement.

Bournemouth, Brentford, Everton, Fulham, Leeds, Newcastle, Southampton and West Ham are the eight sides that currently have gambling sponsors on the front of their shirts.

Aston Villa have also signed a deal with gambling firm BK8 for the next three seasons.

"The Premier League is also working with other sports on the development of a new code for responsible gambling sponsorship," the Premier League statement added.

"To assist clubs with their transition away from shirt-front gambling sponsorship, the collective agreement will begin at the end of the 2025/26 season."



England Coach McCullum Under Scrutiny Over Betting Adverts

Agencies

LONDON: England test head coach Brendon McCullum's association with a betting company is under scrutiny, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Friday. The former New Zealand captain appears in advertisements for 22Bet India, a Cyprus-registered online bookmaking company.

The ECB's anti-corruption codes prohibit players, coaches and officials from participating in or encouraging betting on matches.

"We are currently exploring the matter and in discussions with Brendon around his relationship with the Cypriot-based betting company, 22Bet," an ECB spokesperson said in a statement.



"We have rules in place around gambling and will always seek to ensure these are followed." McCullum's association with the company began before he took over the England job last year but he has been seen in the betting company's recent YouTube adverts around this year's Indian Premier League.

Bayern's Tuchel Says He Still Backs Mané After Suspension

Agencies

MUNICH: Bayern Munich coach Thomas Tuchel said Friday he still supports Sadio Mané after the forward apologized for a confrontation with teammate Leroy Sané.

Bayern suspended Mané from its squad for Saturday's game against Hoffenheim for "misconduct." It followed reports in German media that he struck Sané in the face while they were in the locker room after Tuesday's Champions League loss to Manchester City. Neither the

players nor the club have clarified exactly what happened. Tuchel said he did not see the incident personally but spoke with Mané, Sané and other players and staff who saw it, and said Mané had apologized "to everyone involved."

"I am his first lawyer and his first defender. I've known him for so long and I know his entourage," Tuchel said of Mané.

"He has my full support. He had that before and he still has it after this mistake that he has made. Everyone has the right to make a mistake."

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