

1 Crore In 24 Hours: Kashmiris Come Together To Help Young Cancer Patient

Augib Javed

Srinagar: The family of a young cancer patient from South Kashmir's Pulwama district had to issue an appeal asking people not to donate further as their request for Rs eighty lakh had already been credited in their account in less than 24 hours. By the time of filing of this report on Friday night the amount was touching a whopping one crore rupees.

It all began when a social media post detailing the plight of 25-year-old Sadaf Ayoub

suffering from blood cancer went viral.

Sadaf from a poor family in Lassipora, Pulwama was diagnosed with blood cancer by the doctors at the SKIMS, Srinagar last year, months after she had secured admissions for Masters in the University of Kashmir.

The distraught family moved the young girl to Fortis Hospital Gurugram, Haryana for better treatment. However, the cost of treatment, as the family says, "broke their back"

"I sold my 4 kanal agricultural land to meet the cost of



treatment. However, it turned out to be a very small amount to heal my daughter," Sadaf's

father, Mohammad Ayoub Bhat, a small-time farmer, told Kashmir Observer.

He said when all his finances were exhausted; his sisters and other relatives also came forward and extended their help. However, that too, Bhat said, didn't suffice.

All I had was Rs 1.35 lakh that I exhausted in the first year of treatment. At Fortis doctors told me that his daughter has to undergo bone marrow transplant and would cost around Rs 80 lakh.

Shell shocked and distraught, I was not able to figure out what to do. "That's when some well wishers decided to seek

help from people. We posted her picture and bank details on social media. Within 24 hours, we received around Rs 1 crore into her account," Bhat said, tears rolling down his cheeks.

"It's like a miracle to all of us. When we were shattered and worrying about the fate of our daughter, people gave us immense love and helped us financially. I've no words to express my gratitude to the people who prayed for my daughter, who helped her with donations," he added.

Expressing his [More on P10](#)

Militant Killed In Encounter In Rajouri

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A militant was killed in a gunbattle with government forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Friday morning, officials said.

The body of the slain militant has been retrieved from a gorge, where he had taken position during the exchange of fire.

This is the third such incident reported from the Jammu region in the last three days.

All schools in the area have been closed by the administration as a precautionary measure, the officials said.

During a cordon-and-search operation carried out by the Army in coordination with police, suspicious movements were noticed in a forest area of Dassal Gujran near Rajouri, a defence PRO said.

The search operation turned into a gunbattle when the troops were fired upon, which was retaliated, the public relations officer (PRO) said, adding that sporadic firing continued throughout the night.

A search operation was launched in the morning, he said. Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh said one militant was killed.

The body of the militant, who had taken position in a gorge during the gunbattle, has been retrieved and sent to a hospital in Rajouri, the official sources said.

The militant is reportedly of Pakistani origin. [More on P10](#)

Will Make J&K Hub Of Medical, Wellness Tourism: LG

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said he was committed to making Jammu and Kashmir a hub of medical and wellness tourism, noting the setting up of several AYUSH hospitals and wellness centres in the Union Territory.

Speaking at an event organised by the Ministry of Ayush at the University of Kashmir, the LG said J&K has been a major centre of the Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM) since "ancient times".

According to Kalhana's Rajatarangini, a well-developed Ayurveda hospital was functional in "those days", Sinha told the gathering of health professionals and practitioners of ISM. Kalhana wrote that J&K had flourishing Ayurvedic drug manufacturing units and Ayurvedic pharmacies, he said.

Sinha made the remarks while addressing a consultative meeting on 'Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission - Heal in India, Heal by India', organised by National Commission for Indian System of Medicine, Ministry of AYUSH.

J&K is bestowed with nature's bounty and rich medicinal plants giving it tremendous potential for startups, LG Sinha said.

"We are committed for investment and innovation in AYUSH and to strengthen the traditional system of medicines," he said.



J&K is fully prepared to become an important centre of AYUSH and 'Heal in India' campaign, which will not only promote medical tourism in the Union Territory, but also create immense business and employment opportunities in the health care sector, he said.

The LG also highlighted several milestones achieved in J&K in the AYUSH sector.

Sinha said Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital at Akhnoor

and Unani Medical College and Hospital at Ganderbal have been set up, besides upgrading 442 AYUSH dispensaries.

Five more 50-bedded integrated AYUSH hospitals in Kulgam, Kathua, Kupwara, Kishtwar and Samba have been approved, he said.

Six specialised AYUSH wellness centres have been approved for popular tourist destinations, including Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg. Three of these are

already operational, he added.

Sinha expressed satisfaction over the recently concluded third tourism working group meet of G20 countries, the Y20 event conducted here as well as an event linked to World Milk Day conducted on Thursday.

"Such type of international events were held after a long time, even first time in J&K," the LG said.

"I believe that when we conduct such kind of successful events, it results [More on P10](#)

BOGUS REFUND CASES

IT Dept Files FIR Against 404 Employees, CA

Agencies

Srinagar: The Income Tax Department has filed two FIRs against 404 people, mostly government employees, besides a chartered accountant for allegedly making bogus refunds claims during the past few years in Jammu and Kashmir.

The FIRs have been filed by Akash Kumar Meena, Income Tax Officer (Technical), Srinagar with the Crime Branch of Jammu & Kashmir Police on the directions of the Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh, and M.P.Singh based on the investigation carried out by the Income Tax Officer (TDS), Srinagar.

It has been alleged in the FIRs that 405 persons including a Chartered Accountant who runs a firm from Rajbagh Srinagar have entered into a conspiracy and defrauded the Central Government exchequer for a sum of Rs.16.72 crores between financial years 2017-18 to 2019-20.

In the FIRs addressed to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch,

Srinagar, the Income Tax Department has described the modus operandi of the accused in minute details and has shared their complete details with the crime branch like names, addresses, PAN, bank accounts and the amounts fraudulently claimed as refunds by filing incorrect Income Tax Returns in a clandestine manner.

It has been alleged that all the culprits have taken over Rs.4 lakh as refunds by filing incorrect Income Tax Returns for various years. All 405 persons have been booked under sections 420/468/471 and 120B of the IPC & RPC read with section 66-D of the I.T. Act.

It is learnt from reliable sources that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Imtiyaz Ahmed, Dy. Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch, Srinagar has been constituted at the direction of Special Director General of Police (Crime), Jammu & Kashmir for further investigation in the matter.

It is also learnt that the Crime Branch sleuths have seized all bank accounts of the accused persons [More on P10](#)



Govt Constitutes District-Level Panels On Disabilities

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant move, the Union Territory administration has constituted district-level committees on disability to advise the district authorities on matters relating to rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disabilities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, M. Iqbal Line on Friday announced that J&K government has set-up district-level committees in all 20 districts of the UT.

Lone said that the Section 72 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and Rule 39 of the Jammu and Kashmir Rights for Persons with Disabilities Rules, provides for the constitution of these committees.

Headed by concerned DM, the committees shall comprise of chief medical officer, psychiatrist of the concerned district hospital, public prosecutor of the district, assistant labour commissioner, one representative from each local body ICDS project and public works department of J&K government, representative of a registered organization having at least five years' experience of working in the field of disability to be nominated by district social Welfare officer concerned, person with disabilities as defined in clause(s) of section 2 of the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act-2016, any member to be invited by the chairperson and district social welfare officer of the concerned district.

Lone said [More on P10](#)

Animals Won't Harm You, If You Don't Harm Them: Maneka

Says Sterilization Will Help Reduce Canine Attacks

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Renowned environmentalist, animal rights activist and member parliament, Maneka Gandhi while stressing on preserving forests, asserted that human-animal conflicts will continue until and unless people cease hurting animals and destroying their shelter.

Gandhi said movement of animals from forest areas to human settlements could be avoided, if forests are preserved and cleanliness is maintained.

"Preservation of forests and cleanliness is the only way to prevent growing human-animal conflicts. After all they are animals, they will certainly retort when they are chased, harmed



and their shelters are destroyed, where they will go," Gandhi said replying to a media query regarding growing human-animal conflicts in Kashmir.

On the growing dog population in Srinagar, she said sterilization

was the better option to prevent canine attacks than to relocate them from one place to another.

She said dogs become aggressive when they are relocated from their original place and that the sterilization will help reduce canine attacks in the city in a substantial way.

"Dogs bite when they are taken away from their original place, if we stop relocating them from one place to another and use sterilization methods, their population can be contained and they won't bite," she added.

She said the aim of her visit to Kashmir was to chip in dog sterilization programs and more importantly to make animal welfare associations stronger.

"We want to [More on P10](#)

Waqf Board Re-Designates Posts Of 323 Employees

Agencies

Srinagar: The Waqf Board on Friday ordered re-designation of the posts of 323 employees, who have failed to submit a genuine 10th pass academic qualification certificate till date.

According to an order issued by Executive Magistrate Tehsildar, Ishtiyaz Mohi-uddin, the J&K Waqf Board has recruited, engaged several categories of employees over the years without prescribing well-defined criteria.

"Such employees have been randomly given designations like, Chowkidars, Sweepers, Peons, Orderlies, Tehveeldars, Bus Conductors, Malies, etc., and their services have only been utilized as per their designations," reads the order.

It reads that no fresh

recruitments have been made after the constitution of the J&K Waqf Board in 2022, and a comprehensive exercise for rationalisation of postings is underway for proper utilization of Waqf resources.

"Simultaneously, a large-scale exercise for mass transfers of employees after decades of Stay Period is also being carried out. The verification of Educational Qualification Certificates of all employees has been conducted by this office through the respective Recognised Issuing Authorities, and a number of certificates have proved not to be genuine, and necessary action has been initiated in this regard", it reads.

It added as a result, there is severe deficiency of staff at the lower levels in [More on P10](#)

S H O R T T A K E S

LG Celebrates Telangana Statehood Day

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday greeted the people of Telangana on the Statehood Day. "I pay my homage to the great revolutionaries, freedom fighters, litterateurs and social reformers who continue to inspire our great nation," Sinha said on Friday. He made these remarks during the celebration of Telangana Statehood Day at Raj Bhawan here in which students; eminent personalities originally from Telangana were special invitees to [More on P10](#)

Jammu Schools To Close For Summer Break

Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) on Friday announced vacations (summer) for Jammu Summer zone Government and Private Schools from June 8 to July 22. It is hereby ordered that all the Government/recognized Private Schools falling in summer zone of Jammu division shall observe summer vacation w.e.f. 08-06-2023 to 22-07-2023, an order issued by DSEJ stated. It further ordered that all teachers shall remain available for any on-line [More on P10](#)

4 Gamblers Held In Ganderbal

Four gamblers were arrested in an input driven raid in Haripora area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, police said Friday. Acting on specific information, cops of Police Station Ganderbal raided a specific spot in Haripora and arrested 4 gamblers, a police spokesperson said. Besides playing cards, he said, an amount of Rs 6000 was also recovered from the accused. The police identified them as Hilal Ahmad Rather, [More on P10](#)

Pak Repatriates Three Indians


Three Indians, who had illegally crossed into Pakistan and arrested by the Rangers, were repatriated on Friday, an official said. Those released are Uttar Pradesh-resident Bablu Ram and Punjab residents Balwinder Singh and Harjinder Singh, an official posted at the India-Pakistan Attari-Wagah border said. While Balwinder Singh hails from Ajnala village in Amritsar district, Harjinder Singh is from village Kalanor village of [More on P10](#)

Two Killed After Vehicle Skids Off Road

A driver and a helper of Jal Shakti department died after a tanker fell into a gorge in Rain Chowkund village of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that a water tanker of Jal Shakti department skidded off the road near Rain Chowkund area of Verinag and fell into a gorge. He said that in the incident the driver and helper of the vehicle died on the spot. The deceased have been identified as Gowhar Hussain [More on P10](#)

Female Bear, Cub Caught In Kupwara

A female bear was captured alive, alongside a cub, in Sogam in north Kashmir's Kupwara district this afternoon. Reports said that a female bear was roaming in the area for the last many days now, creating fear among the local populace. The Wildlife department employees reached the area this afternoon and launched an operation to catch the bear. After hours of persistent efforts, the bear was tranquillised and caught alongside its cub. A Wildlife [More on P10](#)



J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Deptt.
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Bakshiabad, Anantnag J&K-192101
email: amld.zoksou@jkbmail.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES MORTGAGED TO THE BANK UNDER SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002(NO. 54 OF 2002) SARFAESI ACT.

Whereas, Mr.Mohammad Shafi Bhat(Assistant General Manager), being one of the Authorized Officer of The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd (hereinafter referred to as the Bank), in exercise of powers conferred under **Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (the Act)** Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the Rules), issued a Demand Notice dated 08-03-2022 therefor interalia calling upon (i) **Mr. Abdul Majeed Wani S/O Abdul Ahad Wani R/O Kharpeth Larnoo, Kokernag** for payment of its dues aggregating to **Rs.75,56,734.56 (Rupees Seventy Five Lacs Fifty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Four and paise Fifty Six Only)** outstanding as on 28-02-2022 together with future interest and other cost and charges within a period of 60 days.

Whereas, Consequent upon failure by the borrower to repay the Bank's dues within stipulated time, the undersigned, as Authorized Officer of the Bank in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the Rules took over the physical possession of the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinafter under section 13(4) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 on 16-01-2023.

Whereas the undersigned as Authorized Officer of the Bank and in exercise of the powers conferred under the Act and the Rules, vide E-Auction/ Sale Notice bearing Ref. No.849 dated 17-02-2023, notified the sale of the Secured Asset detailed herein for realization of the dues on "as is where is, as is what is, whatever is there is and without recourse" condition, however said Sale was not successful And the undersigned as Authorized Officer of the Bank and in exercise of the powers conferred under the Act and the Rules hereby again notifies the sale of the Secured Asset detailed herein for realization of the dues on "as is where is, as is what is, whatever is there is and without recourse" condition

<p>Name of the Borrowers/ Mortgageor(s)/ Guarantor(s)</p>	<p>(i) Mr. Abdul Majeed Wani S/O Abdul Ahad Wani R/O Kharpeth Larnoo, Kokernag; (Borrower/Mortgageor) (ii) Mr. Mohammad Younis Bhat S/O Abdul Salam Bhat R/O Khalhar, Sagam, Anantnag (Guarantors) (iii) Mr.Nazir Ahmad Rather S/O Ghulam Rasool Rather R/O Buchoo, Kokernag, Anantnag (Guarantors)</p>
<p>Amount in Demand Notice (excluding interest and other expenses from 28-02-2022)</p>	<p>Rs.75,56,734.56 (Rupees Seventy Five Lacs Fifty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Four and paise Fifty Six Only)</p>
<p>Amount Due on 29-05-2023 (Excluding interest from 01-05-2023)</p>	<p>Rs. 86,37,204.56/- (Rupees Eighty Six Lacs thirty seven Thousand two hundred four and paise Fifty Six only)</p>
<p>Legal and other Charges Due as on 29-05-2023</p>	<p>Rs. 1,91,435/- (Rs. One Lakh ninety one thousand four hundred thirty five Only)</p>
<p>Description of the mortgaged Property/ Secured Asset (Put on sale)</p>	<p>Two storied Residential House with Attic alongwith land underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring Two (02) Kanals Thirteen (13) Marlas (failing under Survey No.691 (01Kanal 02Marla) and Survey No.692 (01Kanal 11Marla) Khewat No.320, Khata No.721 situated at Village Kharpeth, Mouza Larnoo Tehsil Larnoo District Anantnag.</p>
<p>Reserve Price fixed (in lacs)</p>	<p>Rs.32,56,200/- (Rupees Thirty two lacs fifty Six Thousand two hundred Only)</p>
<p>EMD (in lacs) 10%</p>	<p>Rs.3,25,620/- (Rupees Three Lacs Twenty Five Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Only)</p>
<p>Bid Increase Amount</p>	<p>Rs.25000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only)</p>
<p>Name of the Branch / Office</p>	<p>Branch office Saagam</p>
<p>Authorized Officer/ Designation</p>	<p>Juneed Ahmad Wani Designation Chief Manager Authorised officer Contact No.0193222440</p>
<p>Last Date & Time of submission of EMD and Documents</p>	<p>06.07.2023 up to 04.00 P.M</p>
<p>Date and Time of e-Auction</p>	<p>07.07.2023 between 02.00 P.M to 04.00 P.M</p>
<p>Earnest Money Deposit & Other Remittance/s detail/s by RTGS to Account Number</p>	<p>Account No. 0158070700000001 Account Name : Sundry deposits account IFSC CODE: JAKA0DESIRE</p>

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1) The Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATSOEVER IS THERE IS AND NO COMPAIN BASIS" and the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties, except specifically disclosed herein. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. The bidders shall satisfy themselves as to the description, condition or accuracy of the details regarding the property/ies given hereinabove.

2) It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The physical inspection of supra property/ies put on auction will be permitted to interested bidders on Bank's working days between 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM up to 06.07.2023 with prior permission of the Authorized officer. Inspection of the documents relating to the properties will be permitted to the interested bidders or their authorized representatives at Branch Saagam between 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM up to 06.07.2023. The bid price shall be absolute in terms and should not be linked to any reference. Conditional bids shall be rejected.

3) The interested bidders shall submit their offer through website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> (the user ID and password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with "https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net") through their login ID and Password. The EMD 10% of RESERVE PRICE shall be payable through NEFT/RTGS/DD (EMD remittance details given above) on or before 04:00 PM on 06.07.2023. Please note that Cheques shall not be accepted as EMD amount.

4) After Registration by the bidders in the web-site, the intending purchaser/ bidder is required to get the copies of following documents uploaded in the e-auction portal before last date of submission of the bid(s) viz. i) Copy of the NEFT/RTGS/challan, ii) Copy of PAN card/Aadhar Card iii) Proof of identification (KYC) viz. copy of Voter ID Card/Driving License/ Passport etc. iv) Copy of proof of address, v) Duly Filled up & Signed Copy of Annexure II & III attached to the Tender form, without which the bid is liable to be rejected.

5) The Interested bidders who require assistance in creating login ID and password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may avail online training on E-Auction from M/S e-procurement Technologies Ltd. (Auction Tiger), Ahmadabad: Contact Person; Mr. Ram Sharma , Mobile No. 9978591899/ 9265562818/9265562821/9374519754, Contact No. 079-68136837/68136880, E-Mail ID: ramprasad@auctiontiger.net, support@auctiontiger.net during office hours on working days.

6) Only buyers holding valid User ID/Password and confirmed payment of EMD through NEFT/RTGS shall be eligible for participating in the online auction process.

7) The interested bidders who may have submitted their EMD not below the 10% of reserve price through online mode/DD before 04:00 PM on 06.07.2023 shall be eligible for participating in the e-auction. The e-auction of above properties would be conducted exactly on the scheduled date and time as mentioned above by way of inter-se bidding amongst the bidders. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid increase Amount" against the Property. In case a bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes (subject to unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each). The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the reserve price) on closure of online auction shall be declared as successful bidder and a communication to that effect will be issued through electronic mode which shall be subject to approval by the Authorized Officer and Secured Creditor.

8) The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Deposit shall not bear any interest. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price, adjusting the EMD already paid, within next working day of the acceptance of bid price by the Authorized Officer and the balance 75% of the sale price on or before 15th day of the sale or within such extended period as agreed upon in writing by and solely at the discretion of the Authorized Officer which may not exceed 90 days from the date of auction. In case of default in payment by the successful bidder, the amount already deposited by the Bidder shall be liable to be forfeited and the property shall be put to re-auction and the defaulting bidder shall have no claim/right in respect of property/amount.

9) The prospective qualified bidders may avail online training on e-auction from M/S E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. prior to the date of e-auction. Neither the Authorized Officer/Bank nor M/s. e-procurement technologies Ltd shall be liable for any network problem and the interested bidders to ensure that they are technically well equipped for participating in the e-Auction event.

10) The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/additional stamp duty/transfer charges, fees etc. and also all the statutory/non statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessments, charges, fees etc. owing to anybody. The successful bidder shall have to bear any tax on account of the sale over and above the bid amount. The successful bidder shall be solely responsible for transfer of supra Secured Asset in his/her/their/its name.

11) The Authorized Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer and the Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/postpone/cancel the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof. NOC or any requisite document from any concerned authority for registration of Conveyance Deed has to be obtained by the purchaser only.




12) The bidders are advised to go through the detailed terms and conditions of e-auction available on the website of M/S E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> before submitting their bids and taking part in e-auction.

13) The publication is subject to the force majeure clause.

14) The sale certificate shall be issued after receipt of entire sale consideration and confirmation of sale by secured creditor. The sale certificate shall be issued in the name of the successful bidder. No request for change of name in the sale certificate other than the person who submitted the bid / participated in the e-Auction will be entertained.

(15) The bid once submitted by the bidder, cannot be cancelled/ withdrawn and the bidder shall be bound to buy the property at the final bid price. The failure on the part of bidder to comply with any of the terms and conditions of E-Auction, mentioned therein will result in forfeiture of the amount paid by the defaulting bidder.

(16) Decision of the Authorised Officer regarding declaration of successful bidder shall be final and binding on all the bidders. The Authorised Officer shall be at liberty to cancel the e-Auction process / tender at any time, before declaring the successful bidder, without assigning any reason. The conditional bids may be treated as invalid

	<div> <div>KASHMIRI</div> <div>Srinagar Saturday</div> </div>			
	<div> <div>Pahalgam Development Authority</div> <div>Ph / Fax No 01936243125, 243049 email: ceopdapahalgam@gmail.com</div> </div>			
<div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div>				
<div> <div>In order to facilitate the Vatrles during the annual Shrl Amarnath Yatra scheduled w.e.f 1st July. 2023 and other tourists visiting Pahalgam, following control room/helft line In the office of undersigned Is hereby established with Immediate effect.</div> <div>The Control Room would Initially function from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM on all week days till 30th June, 2023 and 24*7 w.e.f 01/07/2023 till conclusion of the Yatra. Any person seeking information or assistance with regard to forthcoming yatra can call on 01936-243049 or email at ceopdapahalgam@a.mall.com.</div> </div>				
<div>S.No</div> <div>01</div> <div>02</div> <div>03</div> <div>04</div> <div>05</div>	<div>Name of the Nodal Officer/official</div> <div>Er. Sirjihan Ahmad (Nodal Officer)</div> <div>Shamshad Ahmad Lone</div> <div>Mohd Maqoob Malik</div> <div>Javalad Ahmad Ganale</div> <div>Ali Mohd Lone</div>	<div>Mobile No</div> <div>7006416482</div> <div>9906813773</div> <div>9797086726</div> <div>9469394466</div> <div>9419774334</div>		
<div> <div>Tariq Hussain (JKAS)</div> <div>Chief Executive Officer Tourism Dev. Authority</div> <div>Pahalgam</div> </div>				
<div> <div>NO:- CEO/PDA/f36/1899-903</div> <div>DIPK-NB-1027/23</div> <div>dated: 01-06-2023</div> </div>				
<div>  </div>	<div> <div>NORTHERN RAILWAY</div> <div>E-TENDER NOTICE</div> </div>	<div>  </div>		
<div> <div>Tender Notice No:- 770-W/169/WA/FZR/52-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR</div> <div>Date: 01.06.2023</div> </div>				
<div> <div>Sr.DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-27.06.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft/Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc, are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in</div> </div>				
<div>Tender Type</div> <div>Open</div> <div>Date of Uploading Tenders</div> <div>01.06.2023 12:58</div>	<div>Tendering Section</div> <div>Works</div> <div>Bid Starting Date</div> <div>13.06.2023</div>	<div>Bidding System</div> <div>Two Packet System</div> <div>Bid Closing Date/Time</div> <div>27.06.2023 / 15:00 Hrs.</div>		
<div>S.N.</div> <div>1</div>	<div>Tender Number</div> <div>52-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR</div>	<div>Details of Tender</div> <div> <div>Provision of covered shed over washing lines and other allied works at BDGM on BAHL-BRML section under ADEN/BDGM.</div> <div> <div>Advertised Value (Rs.)</div> <div>Earnest Money</div> <div>Validity of Offer</div> <div>Period of Completion</div> </div> <div> <div>11,25,14,507.63/-</div> <div>7,12,600/-</div> <div>90 Days</div> <div>12 Months</div> </div> <div>Similar nature of work: "Any work of steel fabrication or fabrication and erection of FOB or PF Shelter or industrial shed or steel/composite girder bridge or Microwave/HT tower of channel sleepers.</div> </div>		
<div> <div>Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.</div> <div>1682/23</div> </div>				
<div>SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE</div>				
<div> <div>Office of the District Soil Conservation</div> <div>Department of Soil and Water Conservation</div> <div>Press Note</div> <div>E-TENDER NOTICE of</div> <div>NIT No: 03 of 2023-24 Dated:- 1-6-2023</div> </div>				
<div> <div>For and on behalf of The Lieutenant Governor, Jammu& Kashmir (UT), e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved a Organizations for the following work:</div> </div>				
S.No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Amount in rupees)		
1	Construction of DRSM Check dams, Laying of Crates and Laying of earthen bag embankments at Dragdun District Kulgam. In Forest Comptt.No.5/N	4.50		
2	Construction of DRSM Check dams, Laying of Crates and Laying earthen bag embankments at Lanzwani District Kulgam In Forest Comptt.No.7/N	4.50		
3	Construction of DRSM Check dams, Laying of Crates and Laying of earthen bags at Kannadi Nallah District Kulgam In Forest Comptt.No.27/N	3.00		
4	Construction of DRSM Check dams, Laying of Crates and Laying of earthen bag embankments at Waltengoo District Kulgam nad in Forest Comptt.No.38/N	4.00		
5	Construction of DRSM Check dams and Laying of Crates at Padgham verloo nad District Kulgam In Forest Comptt.No.39/N	4.00		
6	Laying of Crates at Kanchloo Nagress Nad District Kulgam.	3.00		
7	Fencing using wooden fence posts, Laying Crates & earthen bag embankments at Chutdun District Kulgam In Forest Comptt.No.6/N	2.958		
<div> <div>The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in</div> <div>Position of funds: Partially available</div> <div>Position of AA/TS: Accorded</div> </div>				
<div> <div> <div>Publishing Date</div> <div>Download Start Date</div> <div>Bid Submission Start Date</div> <div>Bid Submission End Date</div> <div>Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)</div> </div> <div> <div>26.6.2023</div> <div>3.6.2023</div> <div>3.6.2023 from 11.00 A.M</div> <div>26.6.2023 upto 2.00 P.M</div> <div>26.6.2023 at 4.30 P.M (in the Office of District Soil and Water Conservation)</div> </div> </div>				
<div> <div>01. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the Departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in</div> <div>02. The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 26.6.2023 at 4.30 P.M in the office of District Soil and Water Conservation</div> <div>03. opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.</div> <div>04. Bids must be uploaded along-with cost of tender document as shown against the work in the shape of Scanned copy of Department of Soil & Water Conservation Anantnag/Kulgam" by crediting the requisite charges to the MH 0406 – FOREST (Revenue) Department of Soil & Water Conservation Anantnag/Kulgam"" shall also need to be uploaded</div> <div>05. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" options as well as from " Bidders Manual"</div> <div>06. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per IT Act, bidders can get it from any authorized agency.</div> <div>07. The Bidders have to submit their financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted without digital signature.</div> <div>08. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.</div> <div>09. Bidders must ensure to positively upload scanned copies of below mentioned documents for Technical Bid.</div> <div>10. Earnest Money for 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR only</div> <div>11. GST Registration Certificate with latest return of GSTR-3B</div> <div>12. Registration Card with latest renewal.</div> <div>13. Verification certificate of Registration Card.</div> <div>14. e-challan / copy of receipt from treasury as cost of Tender Document.</div> <div>15. In case bid of the lowest bidder found un-balanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in the form of bank guarantee for the balance of the bid.</div> </div>				
<div> <div>following breakup:</div> </div>				
S.No.	Percentage of un-balanced cost on account of low rates			
1	Up to and including 15% below			
2	Greater than 15% and up to 20% below			
3	Greater than 20% and up to 25% below			
4	Greater than 25% and up to 30% below			
5	Greater than 30% below			
<div> <div>10. Security Deposit as defective liability period (DLP) @ 10% shall be deducted from all the works bills and deposited in the form of bank guarantee for the balance of the bid.</div> <div>11. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid by any reason (Technical or Financial)</div> <div>12. The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Soil and Water Conservation</div> <div>13. The accepting authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons therefor</div> <div>14. The contractor shall arrange all construction materials for the above said works from genuine source accompanied by a receipt from the concerned Assistant Executive Engineer and Officers of the Department up to their satisfaction before start of work</div> <div>15. The serviceable material retrieved from the site of work if any shall have to be used in the fresh construction by the contractor</div> <div>16. dumping site for which no additional payment shall be made to the contractor.</div> <div>17. All other terms and conditions as per PWD Form 25(double leaf) and as per the detailed document shall be binding on the contractor</div> <div>18. The original documents, when</div></div>				

[illegible]



Administration Committed To Save Young Generation From Drug Abuse: DC Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Friday said the district Administration is committed to create a drug-free environment in Srinagar and will continue to take all necessary steps to achieve this goal.

DC Srinagar said several programs were held with an aim to create a drug-free environment in the District so as to save the younger generation from the ill effects of the drugs.

Pertinently, District Administration, Srinagar in collaboration with the Chief Education Office Srinagar organized a series of awareness programs/rallies in various Educational Institutions of Srinagar District under Nasha Mukht Bharat to create awareness among people about the harmful effects of drug menace and its trafficking.

The participants through skits, nukkad natak and other cultural programs educate the young generation about the harmful and deadly effects of the drugs. The participants dis-

played placards and raised slogans about the harmful effects of the drugs. They also raised awareness about ill effects of tobacco products and mobilized public opinion to set up tobacco free zones at public places in different parts of the Srinagar City.

Similarly, the students registered with ECO clubs in various schools of the District also generated awareness about Environmental protection and cleanliness under Mission Life initiative.

The Locals also appreciated the people-friendly initiatives and efforts of the District Administration Srinagar or raising awareness among Youth about the Drug Menace.

Speaking about the program, Pertinent to mention that the District Administration, Srinagar in collaboration with the Chief Education Office Srinagar has formulated a weeklong calendar during which awareness rallies will be conducted in as many as 106 Educational Institutions of Eight Education Zones across the District.



Kids enjoying peddler boat ride at a children amusement park in Srinagar on Friday evening. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Srinagar City To Come Alive With 'Vitasta' Cultural Festival

Festival Will Help Promote Tourism In Kashmir: Chief Secretary

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Friday took stock of the arrangements for the 'Vitasta' Cultural Festival to be organized in Srinagar by the Ministry of Culture, GoI in the last week of this month.

Those present included ACS, Home; Principal Secretary, Education; ADGP, Security; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Secretary, Tourism; Commissioner, SMC; Director Tourism, Kashmir; Director Colleges; VC, LCMA; Secretary, Academy of Art, Culture & Languages besides others.

Officers from the Ministry of Culture, GoI also participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Dr Mehta maintained that the festival would be one of the events that are going to play a major role in promoting tourism and showcasing our rich cultural values. He made it clear that the festival is not only an opportunity to showcase our culture and crafts but to exhibit our talent and immense diversity before the world.

The Chief Secretary stressed on including crafts and cuisine from every part of J&K. He urged the concerned nodal Department here to ensure that

all the areas should find their representation in this mega cultural event. He also impressed upon them to give opportunities to students of Colleges and Universities to display their skills during the festival.

He also advised them to hold events related to this festival all across the Srinagar City so that more people get the opportunity to participate in it. He stated that the events should be orga-

The Chief Secretary was informed by the Director, North Zone and Cultural Center Patiala that earlier two rounds of the festival had been organized in the cities of Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Pune (Maharashtra) and the final round is going to be held here on a larger scale.

It was further revealed that the festival is scheduled for the last week of this month with participation of some 1850 lo-

Dr Mehta maintained that the festival would be one of the events that are going to play a major role in promoting tourism and showcasing our rich cultural values.

nized in all areas, heritage destinations and enroute the places on River Jhelum (Vitasta). He observed that the theme of the festival deserves to be depicted amid natural settings to enhance their appeal for the audience. He also advised utilizing the breathtaking locales of Dal Lake, Char Chinar, Panch Chinar, Old Museum, Jhelum Riverfront and others for making the festival vibrant and more interesting.

cal folk artists and around 100 experts from the rest of India. It was also given out that the festival has multiple themes based on our rich culture, craft, cuisines and heritage.

It was said that camps on Calligraphy, Painting, Kashmir Buddhism and Exhibition by ASI, Art installation, Vitasta Opera, craft display and cultural quiz shall be some of the highlights of this multi-day festival.

Live Robotic Surgery Keeps Audience Glued To Seats At GMC


Observer News Service

Srinagar: For the very first time in the history of GMC Srinagar, a live robotic surgery was relayed from Chennai on Friday, keeping the entire audience glued to their seats.

Prof Mufti Mahmood Ahmad, Head of Department, General and Minimal Access Surgery GMC Srinagar, said the second day of the UROSURG-2023 started with an excellent demonstration of eight advanced

laparoscopic procedures in urology and surgery by experts from Department of General and Minimal Access Surgery, GMC Srinagar and those from Delhi and Mumbai.

"Various procedures demonstrated were Laparoscopic resection of large gastric gist, eTEP, Laparoscopic Heller's myotomy, Laparoscopic Hydatid cystectomy, Laparoscopic completion cholecystectomy, laparoscopic partial Nephrectomy, and RIRS with laser lithotripsy," he said.



J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Estates Department
Zonal Office Baramulla
W: www.jkbank.com

PREMISES REQUIRED

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank invites offers from Owners of premises for outright purchase/on lease basis for housing its Branch / ATM Langate, Kupwara, preferably on Ground Floor, as per the details given below:

S. No	Name of the Premises	Location	Carpet Area in sq. ft (approx.)	Built up Area/Land Area (approx.), in case of outright purchase basis
01	Langate, Kupwara	Locality: Langate Tehsil: Langate District: Kupwara	2,500- 3,000 sq. ft	17 Marlas

Further details, requirements, terms and conditions, Technical Bids and Financial Bids proforma relating to the same can be obtained in person from Zonal Office Baramulla during working hours and also can be downloaded from Bank's website www.jkbank.com from 03/06/2023 under the link "EOI & Tender / Notification" in the Quick Access Tab. The interested parties/persons owning the premises and having a clear title over the property should submit their offers in format prescribed by Bank by or before 04/07/2023 (05:00 PM IST) at Zonal Office Baramulla. Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

Dated: 03/05/2023

Zonal Head

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK19385GCC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-1040/23 dated: 02-06-2023

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office Of The Seed Pathologist

Agriculture production & Farmer's Welfare Department,

Lal Mandi Srinagar

Crop Health Advisory for Vegetable crops

S. No.	Crop	Disease Problem	Pathological Advisory
1.	Solanaaceous Crops (Potato/Tomato/Chill i/Brinjal/Capsicum	a) Early blight	i) Prune and stake plants properly to improve air circulation. ii) Spray the crop with any of the following fungicides: a) Zineb 75 WP @ 3 gms per litre of water or b) Mancozeb 75 WP @ 3 gms per litre of water or c) Hexaconazole 5EC @ of 5ml per 10 litres of water. Repeat the spray after 10-20 days if need arises.
		b) Late blight	i) Ensure proper Phytosanitary measures. ii) On the appearance of first symptoms of the disease, spray the crop with Metalaxyl MZ 72 WP @ 2.5 gms per litre of water or Mancozeb 75 WP @ 3 gms per litre of water or Copper oxychloride 50 WP @ 3 gms per litre of water at an interval of 12-15 days.
		c) Wilt/Root Rot	iii) Drench the infected plants with Carbendazim 50WP@1gm/litre of water on the appearance of first & early symptoms.
2.	Cucurbitaceous crops* (Bottle gourd, Cucumber, Bitter gourd)	a) Angular leaf spot	i) Avoid cultivating, harvesting, or otherwise handling plants when they are wet. Limit the use of overhead irrigation and excessive levels of nitrogen fertilization. ii) Spray Streptocycline @ 2-4 gms per 10 litres of water. Repeat spraying after an interval of 7-10 days when need arises.
		b) Alternaria leaf spot	i) Ensure proper field sanitation. ii) Spray the crop with Mancozeb 75 WP @ 3 gms per litre of water or Hexaconazole 5 EC @ 5 ml per 10 litres of water and repeat at an interval of 8-10 days if need arises.
		c) Downy Mildew	i) Ensure proper field sanitation. ii) Spray the crop post infection with Metalaxyl MZ 75 WP @ 2.5 gms per litre of water or Mancozeb 75 WP @ 3 gms per litre of Water at an interval of 10-15 days if need arises.
		d) Powdery Mildew	i) Spray the crop with Hexaconazole 5 EC @ 5 ml per 10 litres of water or Flusilazole 40 EC 2 ml per 10 litres of water at an interval of 10-15 days if need arises.
3.	Leguminous Vegetables (French Beans, Garden Pea)	Angular Leaf Spot/Anthracnose/ Root Rot/Ascochyta Blight/Powdery Mildew/Rust/	I. Remove lower old yellow leaves . II. Fungicide spray with Flusilazole 40 EC (0.02%) or Diflencanazole 25 EC 0.03 %.

*Proper field sanitation should be ensured and water removed from the fields .

Sd/-
(Mujtaba Yahya),
Seed Pathologist Kashmir

DIPK-2696/23 dated: 02-06-2023



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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- 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
13 Zil-Qadah
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	3 :38
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	5: 27
Magrib	7:40
ISHA	9: 19

This Day In History

- 1934- Dr Frederick Banting co-discoverer of insulin, is knighted .1935-
- French liner SS Normandie sets Atlantic crossing record of four days, three hours and 14 minutes on her maiden voyage
- 1940- Last British/French troop leave Dunkirk
- 1943- United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation Administration forms
- 1944-Nazis pull out of Rome
- 1946- International Military Tribunal opens in Tokyo against 28 Japanese war criminals
- 1947-British Viceroy of India Lord Mountbatten visits Pakistan
- 1948- 200" (5.08 m) Hale telescope dedicated at Palomar Observatory
- 1950- French expedition reaches top of Himalayan peak of Annapurna in Nepal
- 1959 - Singapore adopts constitution
- 1965 - Gemini 4 launched; 2nd US 2-man flight (McDivitt & White)
- 1966 - Gemini 9 launched; 7th US 2-man flight (Stafford & Cernan)
- Event of Interest
- 1971 - Test Cricket debut of Imran Khan, v Englandl at Edgbaston (5, 0-36, 0-19)
- 1974 - Yitzhak Rabin forms a new Israeli government
- 1977 - Belgium government of Tindemans forms
- 1977 - US & Cuba talk about diplomatic relations
- 1980 - Crew of Soyuz 36 returns to Earth aboard Soyuz 35
- 1986 - Battles in Beirut; 53 killed
- 1989 - Beginning of the Tiananmen Square Massacre as Chinese troops open fire on pro-democracy supporters in Beijing
- 1992 - World's largest environmental summit opens in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2001- Iraq announces that it will halt crude oil exports in response to the UN's resolution that extends the oil-for-food program by only 1 month, instead of the normal 6-month period
- 2006 - The union of Serbia and Montenegro comes to an end with Montenegro's formal declaration of independence

From KO Archives

Charge-Sheet File In Kanna Case Disappears
Accused Gets Nine More Days In Judicial Custody

Observer NEWS SERVICE

S RINAGAR : Known informer, "Rajiv" Kanna, allegedly involved in the killing of a government employee of Safa Kadal, has been remanded to judicial custody for nine more days by the chief judicial magistrate (CJM) in a case which has turned bizarre by the disappearance of the charge-sheet file.

Firdous Ahmad Bhat of Dab, Ganderbal, alias Rajiv Kanna, was produced before the magistrate today, where chief prosecuting officer, Basheer Ahmad, raised objections to the bail application filed by Bhat, saying that he was involved in as serious a case as murder.

Bhat's lawyer argued that since the police had failed to produce the case diary and the charge-sheet against the accused in the court, his client should be set free.

At this point, the prosecution told the magistrate that the charge-sheet file of the case had disappeared, and the matter was under the court's investigation.

It said that the case-diary and the charge-sheet would be produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate after the court's orders. After ascertaining that the relatives of the accused were being al-towed to meet him in jail, the Chief Judicial Magistrate remanded Bhat to nine more days in judicial custody, asking counsel to present their arguments on his bail application on the next hearing.

(Kashmir Observer, 03 June, 2007)

Section 124A Of The IPC Dealing With Seditious Needs To Be Retained: Law Commission

Press Trust of India

The Law Commission has said it is of the considered view that Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code dealing with seditious needs to be retained, though certain amendments could be introduced to bring about greater clarity regarding usage of the provision.

In its report submitted to the government, the panel said cognizant of the views on the misuse of Section 124A, it recommends that model guidelines curbing them be issued by the Centre.

"In this context, it is also alternatively suggested that a provision analogous to Section 196(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC) may be incorporated as a proviso to Section 154 of CrPC, which would provide the requisite procedural safeguard before filing of a FIR with respect to an offence under Section 124A of IPC," chairman of the 22nd Law Commission Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi (ret'd) said in his covering letter to Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal.

While it is imperative to lay down certain procedural guidelines for curbing any misuse of Section 124A of the IPC dealing with seditious by law enforcement authorities, any allegation of misuse of the provision does not by implication warrant a call for its repeal, the report said.

The Commission said seditious being a "colonial legacy" is not a valid ground for its repeal.

In its report submitted to Meghwal, the Law Commission also said the existence of laws such as Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the National Security Act does not by implication cover all elements of the offence envisaged under Section 124A of the IPC.

"Further, in the absence of a provision like Section 124A of IPC, any expression that incites violence against the government would invariably be tried under the special laws and counter-terror legislations, which contain much more stringent provisions to deal with the accused," the report "Usage of the Law of Seditious" said.

It observed that each country's legal system grapples with its own different set of realities.

"Repealing Section 124A of IPC on the mere basis that certain countries have done so is essentially turning a blind eye to the glaring ground realities existing in India," it said. In his covering letter, Justice Awasthi recalled that the constitutionality of Section 124A was challenged before the Supreme Court.

"(The) Union of India assured the Supreme Court that it was re-examining Section 124A and the court may not invest its valuable time in doing the same."

Pursuant to the same, the top court directed the central government and all the state governments to refrain from registering any FIR or taking any coercive measures, while suspending all continuing investigations in relation to Section 124A.

How A Covert Relationship With The Taliban Backfired For US Ally Pakistan

Agencies

About two weeks after the Taliban retook Afghanistan in 2021, the then head of Pakistan's spy agency arrived at one of Kabul's plush hotels, smiling, sipping tea and appearing at ease with the militants' return to power.

Lieutenant-General Faiz Hameed of Inter-Services Intelligence had reason to believe Pakistan was about to reap the rewards of clandestinely supporting the Taliban in their fight against US-led forces. In return, Pakistan expected the group to help rein in an offshoot at home.

Almost two years later, relations between the Taliban and Pakistan have soured, terrorist attacks by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan have jumped and some Taliban leaders are even seeking to establish ties with Pakistan's archival, India.

The increased instability is adding to the turmoil in a Pakistan buffeted by simultaneous economic and political crises, as the country edges closer to a default, inflation rages and the military instigates a sweeping crackdown against former premier Imran Khan's political party.

Pakistan saw the Taliban as deeply connected to the TTP and able to persuade it to stop its attacks, people familiar with the matter said. The



TTP has long said it wants to overthrow the government in Islamabad.

But some Taliban factions strongly oppose helping Pakistan's efforts to fight the TTP, and many are upset the government in Islamabad didn't recognize their regime, according to people familiar with the situation. Hundreds of Taliban fighters also joined the TTP to pursue another holy war, they said.

Pakistan made a "remarkable" miscalculation, said Farid Mamundzay, Afghanistan's ambassador to India, a holdover from the country's previous regime who doesn't represent the Taliban.

The TTP carried out the most militant attacks on Pakistani soil last year since 2018. This January, the group killed at least 100 people in a suicide bombing in the northwestern

city of Peshawar — one of the deadliest attacks in its history. Four people were killed in a suicide car bomb on May 24, which hasn't been claimed by the TTP or other militants.

Some key Taliban members want the group to distance itself from Pakistan and show its independence, people familiar with the matter said. They include Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, Afghanistan's deputy prime minister for economic affairs who spent years in a Pakistani jail after he was captured in 2010 during the war with the US, and Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, the defense minister and son of Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar, the people said.

Yaqoob has publicly been leading efforts to build relations with India, including urging the Indian government to train Taliban forces.

SOME OF THE TALIBAN FIGHTERS HELPING the TTP have brought over weapons that the US left behind, including M-16s and sniper rifles with night-vision thermal goggles, the people said..

Russia Says US Hacked Thousands Of Apple Phones In Spy Plot

Agencies

MOSCOW: Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said on Thursday it had uncovered an American espionage operation that compromised thousands of iPhones using sophisticated surveillance software.

Moscow-based Kaspersky Lab said dozens of its employees' devices were compromised in the operation.

The FSB, the main successor to the Soviet-era KGB, said in a statement that several thousand Apple Inc devices had been infected, including those of domestic Russian subscribers as well as foreign diplomats based in Russia and the former Soviet Union.

"The FSB has uncovered an intelligence action of the American special services using Apple mobile devices," the FSB said in a statement.

The FSB said the plot showed "close cooperation" between Apple and the National Security Agency (NSA), the U.S. agency responsible for cryptographic and communications intelligence and security. The FSB provided no evidence that Ap-

ple cooperated with, or had any awareness of, the spying campaign. In a statement, Apple denied the allegation. "We have never worked with any government to insert a backdoor into any Apple product and never will," the firm said in a statement. The NSA declined to comment.

Kaspersky CEO Eugene Kaspersky said on Twitter that dozens of his employees' phones were compromised in the operation, which his company described as "an extremely complex, professionally targeted cyber-attack" that had targeted workers in "top and middle-management."

Kaspersky researcher Igor Kuznetsov told Reuters that his company had independently discovered anomalous traffic on its corporate Wi-Fi network around the start of the year. He said Kaspersky did not circulate its findings to Russia's Computer Emergency Response Team until earlier on Thursday.

He said he could not comment on Moscow's allegation that Americans were responsible for the hacking or that thousands of others had been targeted.



Arrest Bhushan Or We Take Wrestlers to Jantar Mantar On June 9: Tikait

Press Trust of India

KURUKSHETRA: A "khop mahapanchayat" held here on Friday demanded the arrest of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and said if the demand is not met, farmers will take the protesting wrestlers to Delhi's Jantar Mantar on June 9.

The Delhi Police cleared the site of the wrestlers' over-month-long sit-in at Jantar Mantar on May 28 and detained them after a scuffle with security personnel who tried to stop them from marching to the new Parliament building as it was being inaugurated.

Subsequently, wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia along with other protesters were booked for rioting and obstructing public servant in discharge of duty.

The "khop mahapanchayat" deliberated on the next steps to be taken in the agitation pertaining to the wrestlers'



issue and set the deadline of June 9 for the government to act on its demand.

Talking to reporters after the "mahapanchayat", Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait said WFI chief Singh, who has been accused of sexually harassing some women wrestlers, should be arrested and the cases against the wrestlers registered recently should be withdrawn.

He said if the government does not act on the demands, the agitation will be intensified by holding panchayats across the country.

"Arrest (of WFI chief) and withdrawal of cases (against the wrestlers) will be first

priority," he said.

"They (govt) should resolve this matter by way of talks. He (WFI chief) must be arrested, otherwise we shall take these children (wrestlers) to Jantar Mantar on June 9. That is the decision that we have taken (in the mahapanchayat)... Otherwise, we shall hold panchayats across the country," he said.

Tikait said they shall also meet the home minister and the government and added all khaps are united on this.

Representatives of various khaps and farmers' outfits reached the Jat Dharamshala here from different places, including Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

US Averts First-Ever Default As Congress Passes Debt Deal

Agencies

WASHINGTON: US senators voted to suspend the federal debt limit Thursday, capping weeks of fraught negotiations to eliminate the threat of a disastrous credit default just four days ahead of the deadline set by the Treasury.

Economists had warned the country could run out of money to pay its bills by Monday — leaving almost no room for delays in enacting the Fiscal Responsibility Act, which extends the government's borrowing authority through 2024 while trimming federal spending.

Hammered out between Democratic President Joe Biden and the Republicans, the bipartisan measure passed the Senate with a comfortable major-

took to get here, it is so good for this country that both parties have come together at last to avoid default."

The bill — which now heads to Biden's desk to be signed into law — ended a day of intense back-and-forth between party leaders and rank-and-file members who had threatened the bill's quick passage with last-minute gripes about the detail.

Democratic leaders had spent months underlining the havoc that a first default in history would have wrought, including the loss of millions of jobs and \$15 trillion in household wealth, as well as increased costs for mortgages and other borrowing.

"Behind the eight ball" The late evening drama came



ity of 63 votes to 36 a day after it had sailed through the House of Representatives.

"America can breathe a sigh of relief because in this process we are avoiding default. From the start, avoiding default has been our North Star," Democratic Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said.

"The consequences of defaulting would be catastrophic... But, for all the ups and downs and twists and turns it

after a series of failed ballots on amendments sought mainly by Republicans who were threatening at one point to hold up the process, dragging it deep into the weekend.

Senators elected to offer 11 tweaks to the 99-page text, many objecting to funding levels for their pet projects — from border control and Chinese trade to taxation and the environment — and each requiring a vote.

Japan Population Crisis Deepens As Birth Rate Hits Record Low

Agencies

TOKYO: Japan's birth rate declined for the seventh consecutive year in 2022 to a record low, the health ministry said on Friday, underscoring the sense of crisis gripping the country as the population shrinks and ages rapidly.

The fertility rate, or the average number of children born to a woman in her lifetime, was 1.2565. That compares with the previous low of 1.2601 posted in 2005 and is far below the rate of 2.07 considered necessary to maintain a stable population.



Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has made arresting the country's sliding birth rate a top priority and his government, despite high levels of debt, plans to earmark spending of 3.5 trillion yen (\$25 bil-

lion) a year on child care and other measures to support parents.

"The youth population will start decreasing drastically in the 2030s. The period of time until then is our last chance to reverse the trend of dwindling births," he said this week while visiting a daycare facility.

The pandemic has exacerbated Japan's demographic challenges, with fewer marriages in recent years contributing to fewer births and COVID-19 partly responsible for more deaths.

The number of newborns in Japan slid 5% to 770,747

last year, a new low, while the number of deaths shot 9% higher to a record 1.57 million, the data showed. More than 47,000 deaths in Japan last year were caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

NEWS MAKERS

90-Year-Old UP Man Sentenced To Life For Killing 10 Dalits In 1981

Agencies

FIROZABAD: Firozabad District Court on Thursday convicted a 90-year-old man of murdering 10 Dalits and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The convict, Ganga Dayal, was also asked to furnish a fine ₹55,000.

The killings, which happened 42 years ago, had sent shockwaves across the country. "In the event of default on the payment of the fine, the accused will have to undergo additional imprisonment of 13 months," the court said.

Government advocate Rajeev Upadhyay said, "In 1981 there was violence in Sadupur village in which 10 people were mercilessly killed and 2 people were injured. A case was registered in connection with the incident. 10 people were identified as accused during the investigation. The case was registered under sections 302 and 307 of the IPC."

Advocate Upadhyay further said that initially, the case went to trial in Mainpuri and later, after the carving out of Firozabad as a separate

district, the case was transferred to a court in Firozabad.

"Following the High Court order, after the formation of Firozabad district, the case was transferred to Firozabad. Ganga Sahay, who was the only accused alive was sentenced to life imprisonment and awarded a fine of ₹55,000 by the district court and sentenced to life imprisonment. This decision will send a message to the entire country," the lawyer said.

A relative of one of the victims, Maharaj Singh, said he wasn't born at the time of the incident but his elders told him that 4 of his family members were killed and 6 others in his uncle's neighbourhood were also butchered.

"The conviction and sentencing of the only surviving accused came after 42 years. It would have been better if it had come when the elders in my family were alive and 9 other accused persons were also punished," he added.

The case dates back to 1981 when 10 people from the Dalit community were murdered and two more were injured. A case was registered against the 10 accused persons.

Jordan Crown Prince Weds Saudi Architect In Lavish Ceremony



Agencies

Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah married Saudi architect Rajwa Al Saif on Thursday in a wedding attended by royals from across the globe. The ceremony took place in the mid-century Zahran Palace in the capital Amman - the scene of other key Hashemite kingdom weddings including that of King Abdullah II to Queen Rania and also that of his father, the late King Hussein bin Talal.

The King's eldest son and Al Saif, both aged 28, tied the knot at a ceremony attended by their families and 140 guests, including US First Lady Jill Biden and Britain's Prince and Princess of Wales.

King Abdullah II, aged 61 and on the throne since 1999, has long groomed his

eldest son to succeed him, bringing him on important visits and to meetings, former information minister Samih Maaytah previously told AFP. Prince Hussein became heir to the throne in 2009 after his father removed the title from his half-brother Hamzah in 2004. Hamzah would later be placed under house arrest after being accused of attempting to stage a royal coup in 2021 that sent shockwaves through the royal establishment.

In April 2022, Hamzah renounced his royal title, saying that his own values no longer aligned with those of "our institutions". The newly titled Princess Rajwa was born in Riyadh. She descends from the Al Sudayri family of Najd in what became modern-day Saudi Arabia, known to be closely linked to the Saudi royal family.

Rajasthan Man, Believed Dead By Family, Returns Home After 33 Years

Agencies

ALWAR, RAJASTHAN: In a strange incident a man who had gone missing some 33 years ago returned to his home in Rajasthan's Alwar much to the astonishment of his family who had stopped believing that he could be alive and had even got a death certificate made for him.

75-year-old Hanuman Saini who used to work in Delhi's Khari Baoli from where he suddenly went missing in 1989. He was given a hero's welcome back home Bansoor village of Alwar district on May 30 after a gap of over three decades. People crowded his home as he reunited with his family. All of Saini's five children—three daughters and two sons—are now married.

The septuagenarian claimed that he had spent the last 33 years at the 'Kangra Mata' temple in Himachal Pradesh doing meditation in devotion to the goddess.

Last year his family lost all hope of finding him and believing him to be dead had conducted last rites for him and obtained a death certificate

issued in his name.

Mr Saini claims that he got a call from 'Kangra Mata' and after a long meditation of 33 years, Saini claimed that the goddess asked him to return to his family.

"When I boarded the train the TT asked for a ticket but I had only ₹20 with me and he was kind enough to give me a ticket till Pathankot from where I reached Kangra Mata temple in Himachal and spent 33 years in the service and worship of Mataji (goddess)," Saini told ANI.

Mr Saini added, "In between, I went to Gangasagar and Kali Maiya temple in Kolkata. Finally, after completing my meditation and worship, the goddess directed me to return home and I came back to my family".

On May 29, Saini reached Khairthal in Rajasthan by train and spent the rest of the journey on foot arriving at the Tatarpur crossing at night.

On the morning of May 30 while he was seeking help from some locals in finding his way back home, one person recognised him and took him back to his house in Alwar.

Rahul Sounds Like Leader Of Some Enemy Power Of India, Not A Political Leader: Raina

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir's BJP president Ravinder Raina on Thursday hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi saying his remarks in the US resemble



that of India's "enemies", and that he will have to "bear the cost" for the "drama" unfolding there.

The BJP has slammed Gandhi for his remarks in the US targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling government at the Centre during his six-day trip to the country.

"The way Rahul Gandhi speaks, it does not appear that

he is the leader of any political party. It looks like he is the leader of some enemy power of India," Raina told reporters on the sidelines of a programme in the Vijaypur area of Samba district.

Raina said only enemies of the country make such remarks on foreign soil. "He is doing treason and enmity with the country. Country is watching this drama. He will (have to) bear its cost," he said, replying to a series of questions on Rahul Gandhi's remarks in the US.

During his three-city US tour, Gandhi took a swipe at the ruling BJP government, saying it is "threatening" the people and "misusing" the country's agencies.

Gandhi also said the BJP and the RSS are controlling all the instruments of politics in India. He said that the normal tools that have historically been used in politics were not working anymore.

Amarnath Yatra

Maintenance Works On Track To Be Completed By June 15

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Border Road Organisation (BRO) will complete the maintenance works on the Amarnath Yatra track by June 15, officials said on Friday.

The annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath, located at a height of 3,880 metres in the south Kashmir Himalayas, will begin on July 1 and continue till August 31.

The scope of BRO's work includes snow clearance, widening of the track, restoration of all footbridges, fixing of hand-rails and construction of break walls, among others, they said.

The Yatra track from Baltal to the Holy Cave was earlier maintained by the Public Works Department, Jammu and Kashmir, and the one from Chandanwari to the Holy Cave was maintained by Pahalgam Development Authority, the defence wing of the Press Information Bureau said in a statement.

Both these tracks were handed over to the BRO in September last year for maintenance and upgradation, it said.

The BRO will complete the restoration works on the Amarnath Yatra track by June 15, well before the Yatra commences on July 1, the statement said.

Sopore Law College Organizes Screening Of 'Article 15'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Sopore Law College organized a special screening of the thought-provoking film 'Article 15' under the esteemed chairmanship of Madam Maryam, a distinguished personality in the legal fraternity.

The event, organized on Thursday, was aimed to promote awareness about social justice issues prevalent in our society and foster meaningful discussions among the law students and faculty members.

'Article 15' is a hard-hitting Indian crime drama, directed by Anubhav Sinha, starring Ayushmann Khurrana in the lead role.

The film delves into the stark realities of caste discrimination and social inequality that persist in contemporary India.

With its powerful narrative and compelling performances,

the movie has garnered widespread acclaim and initiated important conversations about the pressing need for societal change.

The screening event took place in the seminar Hall of the Sopore Law College, and it commenced with a brief introduction by the administrative officer Ms. Ulfat of the college followed by a brief introduction about the film by Maroof and Ms. Sauliha.

The film was then screened to captivated viewers, who were deeply moved by its portrayal of the harsh realities faced by marginalized communities.

Following the screening, a panel discussion was held, featuring faculty members, and students covering wide range of topics, including the legal framework for combating discrimination, the role of law students in promoting social justice, and the potential impact of cinema on societal change.

Tourist Injured In Awantipora Accident Succumbs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A tourist, who was injured in an accident on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway near Awantipora area of Anantnag district on May 25, on Friday succumbed to his injuries.

Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that the

man was injured along with four others after a vehicle turned turtle near Barsoo Awantipora on May 25

He said that he was admitted to SMHS Srinagar where he succumbed to his injuries today.

He has been identified as Pradeep Kumar of Kolkata.

Justice Vinod Chatterjee Koul Visits District Court Complex Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Justice Vinod Chatterjee Koul, Judge High court of J&K and Ladakh and Administrative Judge for District Anantnag on Friday conducted an inspection of District Court Complex Anantnag.

During the visit, the Administrative Judge, District Court Anantnag was received by the Principal District and Sessions Judge Anantnag in presence of other judicial officers.

At the outset, Justice Vinod held a meeting with judicial officers in presence of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Syed Fakhruddin Hamid and SSP Anantnag Ashish Mishra. He was apprised about the lack of infrastructure and space, and security issues regarding functioning of

NIA Court.

Administrative Judge after giving patient hearing to the judicial Officers issued necessary directions to the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag.

Later, Justice Vinod interacted with the Bar members of Anantnag wherein they placed their demands viz. seeking expeditious construction work on new court complex at Sarnal Anantnag and requested that the concerned agency may be directed to complete the construction in a time bound manner, BAR room for lawyers at DC Office Complex, upgradation of amenities at Court Complex Anantnag and creation of Additional District Judge and Additional Munsiff at Anantnag.



A GIRL HOLDS AN UMBRELLA while her father rows his boat to reach their home inside Srinagar's Dal Lake on a rainy Friday evening.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

More Rains Lash J&K, Night Temp Stays Below Normal

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As intermittent rains continued unabated and the weatherman forecast more wet weather till weekend, night temperature continued to hover below normal in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday.

A meteorological department official here said that intermittent light to moderate rain and thunder and lightning was expected at many places during the next 24 hours. "There is a possibility of hail-storm and gusty winds at a few places." On June 3, he said, rain and thunderstorms were expected at isolated to scattered places towards late afternoon and evening.

From June 4-10, he said, mainly dry weather was expected but a brief spell of shower and thunderstorm can't be ruled out.

Overall, he said, there was no forecast of any major rainfall till June 10 and that the farmers can carry out all farm operations from June 4.

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 9.8°C against 11.4°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.7°C for the summer capital.



ABID BHAT/KO

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 10.0°C against 11.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 1.1°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 3.2°C against 7.6°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 9.2°C against 10.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.8°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 9.9°C against 9.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C below normal for the place,

the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 3.0°C against 4.6°C on previous night and it was below normal by 4.5°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 19.6°C against 18.5°C on the previous night and it was 5.9°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 9.3°C (below normal by 3.4°C), Batote 10.7°C (4.3°C below normal), Katra 16.6°C (5.2°C below normal) and Baderwah 9.2°C (below normal by 2.4°C).

Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of 2.2°C, he said. (GNS)

Demolition Drive Against 'Illegal' Complex Triggers Protests In Kathua

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Authorities attempted to carry out a demolition drive and partially damaged an "illegal" commercial complex in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Friday, prompting traders to stage a protest against the administration.

The owners of the building alleged that the demolition drive was carried out without issuing any notice to them. They added that they have filed a plea in the high court and the hearing is scheduled for Friday.

Amid a heavy deployment of police personnel, men and machines of the Kathua Municipal Council, led by its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Santosh Kotwal, attempted to carry out the demolition drive

at the complex located on the Shaheedi chowk road, sources said.

The owner of the building, Mohinder Mahajan, reached the spot and raised objections to the government action. He asked the CEO to show the demolition notice. The CEO failed to produce it, resulting in anger among the traders' community and triggering protests, the sources said.

Authorities alleged that the owners of the building had bribed officials to raise the structure illegally, resulting in heated arguments between the owners and officials. Police had to intervene to avert a clash between the two sides.

The Beopar Mandal Kathua has voiced concern over the development. Members of the organisation staged a protest

against Kathua Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas and raised anti-BJP slogans.

The administration's move came only a few days after the owners of the building converted the residential complex into a commercial one. The municipal council had served a notice to the building owners.

The matter was under the deputy commissioner's consideration.

"We have filed an application in the high court. The hearing is scheduled for Friday itself. It is unfortunate that they damaged the structure without issuing any notice," one of the owners told reporters.

The protesters have sat on a dharna, blocking a highway in the district. Police are requesting them to disperse to ensure a smooth flow of traffic.

JKAEA Delegation Meets Chief Secretary, Raises Issues

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A delegation of J&K Accounts Employees Association (JKAEA), Secretariat Unit Friday met Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta at Civil Secretariat here during which they raised a number of issues being confronted by them. The JKAEA delegation presented a copy of issues to the Chief Secretary detailing issues confronted by the Accounts Cadre at present.

The delegation invited the attention of the Chief Secretary towards their promotion quota, disparity in career progression, filling up of all vacancies so that adequate manpower of audit/accounts staff is made available in all the departments/offices having huge financial transactions for ensuring cent percent financial discipline.

LG Releases Brochure Of Central University Of Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday released the brochure of Central University of Kashmir - Target 100 Days for launching of Academic and Administrative Reforms with Specific Focus on Infrastructure Development, today.

The Central University of Kashmir will adopt best practices from other leading institutions in the world and country keeping in view the emerging trends and present needs, and launch innovative

reforms for improving quality and excellence of higher education at the University. Further, the primary emphasis will be on infrastructure creation through a well-designed master plan using green technologies with a provision for future expansion of academic and research activities. They also proposed three iconic buildings consisting of Skill Development Centre, Knowledge Resources Centre and Student Activities Centre and opening access to these facilities for students of other institutions, besides



reforms within the framework as envisaged under National Education Policy-2020.

The action plan to be prepared by various engagement groups outlines the main goals for implementation of academic and administrative

students of Central University of Kashmir.

Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor, senior officials and students were present.

3-Week Yoga Camp Begins At CUK

GANDERBAL: Director DIQA, Prof. Wali Mohammad Shah along with the Dean School of Education, Prof. Syed Zahoor Geelani Thursday inaugurated a 3-week yoga camp at Tulmulla campus here.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shahid Rasool and Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar gave their best wishes for the camp. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Wali Mohammad Shah, highlighted the importance of yoga, and Prof. Syed Zahoor Geelani, explained how yoga could benefit modern society in relieving stress and other negativities.

Coordinator, Deptt of Physical Education, Dr. Mohammad Muzamil Shah briefed the

participants about the camp's itinerary and described the list of yoga-related activities that will be executed throughout the camp.

The camp is being conducted to increase awareness about yoga and train yoga trainers for the 9th international yoga day, to be celebrated on 21st June 2023.

Asst Prof. Dr. Mohammad Muqarram displayed some sitting and standing Asanas on the inauguration day and will be the yoga trainer throughout the camp. Head DCJ, Dr. Arif Nazir, Dy DSW, Dr. Asif Khan, Dr. Somanpreet Singh, Dr. Abdul Roof Rather, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physical Education, were also present.

CS Stresses On Offering Online Appointments In J&K Hospitals



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday stressed on extending the facility of online appointments with doctors in the health institutions of J&K. He impressed on the health officers to work for making this service available to public within a month's time.

Dr Mehta was speaking in the 12th Governing Body meeting of National Health Mission (NHM) attended by Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti; Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Secretary, Health; MD, NHM; Principal, GMC Srinagar/Jammu; Director, MCH&I; Director Health, Kashmir/Jammu; Director, Ayush besides others.

Dr Mehta maintained that the prior online appointments to patients are given in many premier hospitals in the country and the Department needs to bring their own system in sync with that to make the process of visiting a Hospital easier. He told them to adopt the simplest and efficient system available.

Chief Secretary also enjoined upon the officers to digitize the patient history and other legacy data so that the same is accessible round the clock. He said that the convergence of data from Health Care Institutions, Anganwadi centres and Educational Institutions could make a database inclusive of all health details from birth till date for each person. He urged them to make it an objective to ensure 100% digitization of

health records of all the individuals here in the UT.

On the occasion both the Secretary Health, Bhupinder Kumar and MD, NHM, Ayushi Sudan gave a detailed overview of the functioning of the Department especially the National Health Mission (NHM), J&K. It was given out that sufficient number of Critical Care Ambulances have been deployed across the health facilities of J&K and integrated with 108 call centre for providing 24x7 hassle-free services to people.

Moreover it was given out that the utilization of funds from the last 5 years from 2018-19 has seen progressive growth with each passing year. It was revealed that out of Rs 671.75 Cr amount of funds available in the year 2018-19, the percentage of utilization was 72%. The same increased to Rs 900.64 Cr in 2022-23 with percentage of utilization taking a quantum leap to reach 98.68% for the previous financial year.

The Governing Body discussed the proposals of the NHM to ratify State Programme Implementation Programme (SPIP) to the tune of Rs 1441.60 Cr for FY 2023-24, procurement of Covid essential Diagnostic & Drugs, Implementation of IT interventions like HMIS (e-SAHJ) from District Hospitals and CHCs to Tertiary Care Hospitals. It also discussed maternity leave in favour of contractual female employees as per the existing labour laws and other HR related issues for making the functioning of the mission smooth and efficient.

There's a pervasive but damaging tendency characterising human behaviour universally; those who should have inspired the realms of thought and action are oftentimes placed too close to divinity. In so doing, they are removed so farther away from the human realm – the realm they essentially belong to, that they cease to be the sources of inspiration and guidance for our lives and are instead transformed into quasi-divine characters befitting only unlimited awe and unqualified reverence. It has been said, not in a jest, that to kill an idea or individual, it is enough to sacralise it, for sacralisation creates a psychological chasm whereby mortal humans, with all their contingencies, find it difficult to imitate the idea or individual under discussion. This is one – an important one, but not the sole reason that Sheikh Ul Aalam Sheikh Noor UD DIN Wali is not only escaping our discourse and the ideological horizon, but has somehow ceased to play the catalytic role in our cultural construction and the definition of our mores it earlier used to play and the role it successfully played for centuries of our history. Lal'e Vak (The Vaks of Lalleshwari) and Sheikh Shruki (The sayings of Sheikh Ul Aalam) were emblematic of our socio-cultural identity and were the warp and woof from which was derived the fabric of our existence as people and nation. This happened long before the compilation and codification of their wisdom poetry at the hands of experts and scholars. The rich and nuanced oral tradition had made them to float in the air, to permeate the very pores of our being and shape our collective consciousness. There are a number of reasons that have lately separated us from the world and wisdom of Sheikh and there are equally more reasons to reclaim his legacy and to rediscover his wisdom for contemporary times and this is what shall concern us here.

Sheikh is not a poet in the ordinary sense of the word, whose sole ministry is to juggle words or to speak of abstractions and imaginary worlds removed from mundane human existence. He is rather the poet of life, of the various facets accompanying our terrestrial sojourn, of the different social, psychological and spiritual vexations that accompany each of us and that posit us like twigs against the tornados of time. In each of these affairs of human life, his insights are neither superficial nor abstract, they are rather firmly rooted in reality and accompanied with wisdom and insight that is characteristic of life lived to its full and the sagely character which inspires to face the worldly tribulations in high spirit and looking for light even in the darkest recess of life. While we are witnessing our shelves and minds flooded with “self-help” books and the market filled with “life-coaches”, who more than often turn out to be failures in their personal lives, it is unfortunate to ignore and forget and look past somebody like Sheikh, who not only bestowed us with his doctrinal nuggets, but demonstrated to us a praxis of inspiring order. What has



Sheikh-ul-Aalam In Contemporary times

Amir Suhail Wani

“It has been said, not in a jest, that to kill an idea or individual, it is enough to sacralise it, for sacralisation creates a psychological chasm whereby mortal humans, with all their contingencies, find it difficult to imitate the idea or individual under discussion

just been said might appear trivial or unworthy of mention, but that only reflects our poor sense of reflection and reveals to us the ease with which we approach the most pressing concerns of our life or let them glossed over by ignorance, indifference and artificiality. Sheikh and his poetry arbitrates our socio-religious realm and he, in the long history of our cultural evolution, stands tall as master definer and the grand designer of our religious sensitivities, cultural aspirations and social propensities. It is true that society or culture is neither the creation of a single individual nor do they sustain at the behest of individual characters, but the rationalisation of social mores, the theoretic preservation of cultural norms and awakening of people to their socio-cultural consciousness is often the task of individuals and poets and artists play a role in this process of promulgation more than anybody else. It is thus no wonder that the English world immediately reminds us of Shakespeare, the Persian world of Rumi and Sa'adi, the world of Urdu flashing before our eyes Iqbal and Ghalib and for other cultures and languages alike. It is thus indispensable and inevitable that any attempt at our cultural rediscovery, so-

cial reconstruction and historical recollection has to recount Sheikh among its pioneers. In this era – the era that sociologists and philosophers define as the era of identities, no better understanding of Kashmiri identity is possible in absence of the proper understanding and reevaluation of Sheikh. In fact, the readers might have already witnessed the fact that when people today associate an idea or ideology with Kashmir, they take care to trace it back to Sheikh or his likes. Any cultural or ideological construct is tried, to the best of options available; to be supplemented and attested by the couplets of Sheikh and the practice itself bears witness to his pivotal character in almost all the aspects surrounding Kashmir – from Politics to Spirituality. This statement is no antithesis to what we have said above that Sheikh has ceased to be a defining factor of our discourse for the difference lies in prospective application and retrospective appropriation.

The local reasons calling for the revival of Sheikh and his poetry can be stretched beyond what has been said above, but there are global and universal elements to his poetry adding to his contemporaneity and justifying his recast. If the Nichomachean Eth-

ics by Aristotle, The Republic by Plato or the Gulistan of Sa'adi qualify reading, reevaluation, discussion and scholarly engagement, so do Sheikh and his works. His poetry, in a single sweep, covers the metaphysical loftiness, the religious sympathy, the ethical injunctions, the environmental consciousness, theological discussions and call to truth, universal justice and the beauty that permeates the whole of existence. Seers, sages and poets like him aren't a regional or national possession, but they instead belong to the whole of mankind and deserve to be read and evaluated trans-nationally. But there are a number of factors hampering the access of local and global readership to the message of Sheikh – linguistic, historical, scholarly and political too. One doesn't know of any coherent and comprehensive English rendering of Sheikh's kalam except the earlier “Alchemy of Light” by G.N. Adfar and the latest “Nund” by Shafi Shauq. The lack of thorough English translation for decades and centuries tells upon the culture of indifference perpetuated throughout the ages towards these towers of light and wisdom. A thoroughgoing biography, situating Sheikh in his historical and social context and sifting the veil of hagiography from the kernel of history is still waiting.

Television and radio could have played a catalytic role in bringing Sheikh and his importance back to our discourse but that obviously seems not to be a part of their mandate and mission. University could have not only produced quality literature but should have produced some quality documentaries in sync with the ideas and idioms of modern times, but that too seems to be too big a dream. Documentaries are gaining so much popularity and have proven useful as a means of disseminating information and generating interest in a particular subject. Same is true of podcasts and other digital audio visual means of depiction, but as a matter of misfortune, these avenues haven't been tried in expanding the understanding and expanding the reception of Sheikh. The young, affluent in technology and means of modern day communication can always harness the wisdom and information available with our elderly scholars and Sheikh Ul Aalam experts to create an archive of information and stir the stagnant airs of discussion and discourse. Translations have to be made easy, accessible and multi-lingual in any attempt to globalise the life and teachings of Sheikh and this task is something which is both incumbent upon the Kashmiri folks men and scholars and this is the task that is in continuum with the preservation of Kashmiri language, literature and culture.

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

Impressive Growth, But Will It Sustain?

The growth in FY24 will very likely be lower than FY23's level as the opportunities from the opening of the economy have been more or less exhausted

Madan Sabnavis

The discomfort stems not merely from the sector's low value-addition growth but also the underperforming private-sector investment here.

The GDP growth estimate for FY23, at 7.2%, is much better than earlier projections and hence there is credit due for the same. In a difficult year, the country has done well, which gets reflected across almost all the sectors. The dark spot remains manufacturing, which is estimated to grow by just 1.3%—the lowest among the eight-sector-classification. This is worrisome.

Manufacturing was supposed to take on the role of the engine for growth and account for 25% of the GDP. This remains a distant dream, and the unfortunate part is that this sector has been lagging for a long time now. The discomfort stems not merely from the sector's low value-addition growth but also the underperforming private-sector investment here.

The problem is circular in nature. For an economy to takeoff, spending on both consumption and investment is needed. Consumption depends on income generation, which becomes sustainable only when more jobs are created. Today, the situation is that while jobs are being created, it is more in the services areas of retail, e-commerce, delivery, construction, etc, that fall in the realm of blue-collar labour. Such jobs, though good for the purpose of subsistence, do not help one to break the barrier from where one can migrate to consumption of higher-value goods and services. This is where manufacturing matters and can create skilled jobs,

which, in turn, sets in motion a virtuous cycle.

Investment from the private sector has been limited because of this reason. As consumption at the household level is still limited, the capacity utilisation rates are low and there is no compulsion to invest more. Investment is more in areas where infrastructure is involved, where the Centre and states are also pushing capex. As the governments spend on roads, railways, ports, air-

“The financial sector and real estate segment have clocked growths of 7.1%, which is higher than that in FY22. This is based on higher growth in bank deposits and credit and the performance of the real estate sector. With growth in credit to slow down this year as higher interest rates become effective, there would be moderation in growth in this space.

ports, irrigation, etc, there is a push for steel, cement, and the likes, which leads to higher capacity utilisation and hence investment. This skewed matrix has to change.

The government has been pushing industry through incentives, with the latest being the PLI. It is a performance-based scheme, and while it sounds good, the results have not been too positive. It has worked for mobile phones, where exports have gone up. But electronics imports have also risen sharply and the substitution that one hoped has not yet materialised. This is where the SMEs matter and have potential to push output and exports. But their story remains the same as before, and while credit incentives have been given, these have not resulted in a higher growth trajectory.

Given their size and scale, they continue to be ancillary to the larger companies.

Service-sector segments have witnessed good growth in FY23. Construction has grown by 10%, which can be linked to the boost in housing as well as roads. Will this be sustained in FY24? To an extent, yes, as the government capex spending is aggressive. But, the housing component can be a bit wobbly, given the cost of borrowing has risen with

the rate hikes.

Trade, transport, hotels, etc, had grown by 14%, which is equivalent to the growth in FY22. This is impressive, but has been pushed up by the pent up demand witnessed all through the year after the services sector was fully opened up post April 2022. This has been a bonanza year for the sector as people went out and spent on these services. But inflation in segments like recreation, travel, restaurants, hotels, etc, has been upwards of 6% for three successive years. This will bite at some point of time, and it will be interesting to see if the tempo can be maintained going ahead.

The financial sector and real estate segment have clocked growths of 7.1%, which is higher than that in FY22. This is based on higher growth

in bank deposits and credit and the performance of the real estate sector. With growth in credit to slow down this year as higher interest rates become effective, there would be moderation in growth in this space.

The last is agriculture. Here, the sector has been rather buoyant despite the apprehension which about the rabi crop prospects, given the extreme heat conditions this time round as well as the unseasonal rains. With the spectre of El Niño, an adverse impact cannot be ruled out; this will affect not just GDP value addition but also rural income. Most companies in the consumer space have pointed at weak rural demand in FY23 that has affected auto as well as FMCG firms. Therefore, there will still be some concern here.

While the growth of 7.2% in FY23, over 9.1% in FY22, is quite impressive, the growth level in FY24 will be lower as the opportunities from the opening of the economy have been more or less exhausted. This being the case, demand would get tempered down. Capital formation in FY23 has increased marginally from 28.9% to 29.2%, which can be attributed more to the government intervention and housing boom. There will be limits to the repetition of these scenarios next year. Growth of 6-6.5% looks likely, with the lower end being possible in case of monsoon being less than normal; 6.5% would be the best possible outcome at a time when exports will, once again, not be contributing much to the growth process.

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

Lessons on the Pitfalls of Modernity in ‘The Road to Mecca’

JASMIN WEINERT

Muhammad Asad's autobiographical account *The Road to Mecca* (1954) is a fine work that moves between various genres, including historical narration, adventure tale and conversion story, presenting numerous entertaining anecdotes. More intriguing, however, is the unique and fascinatingly nuanced insight that Asad (formerly Leopold Weiss), gives into a soulless and lost Europe of the early twentieth century juxtaposed by his discovery of a strikingly different world. This was a world which had preserved a connection to the Divine throughout a multitude of spheres in human life, predominantly infused by Islam, i.e. the lands which are now widely known as the MENA region.

Asad's criticism of modernity may not read with the sophistication of our contemporary academics. Still, it is his very ability to condense his highly perceptive findings in personal, simple, and beautiful terms that makes his work an adequate station to return to for reorientation amidst the spiritual challenges of our postmodern era. Not only does he describe the unhealthy splitting of the soul and the body in the Western man, but he also exemplifies in his writing how beneficial it is for the heart to be involved in any creative process. It must be for this reason that so many people throughout time have chosen Islam as their path after having delved into Asad's personal story of discovery.

The 'Lost Europe' of the Early 20th Century

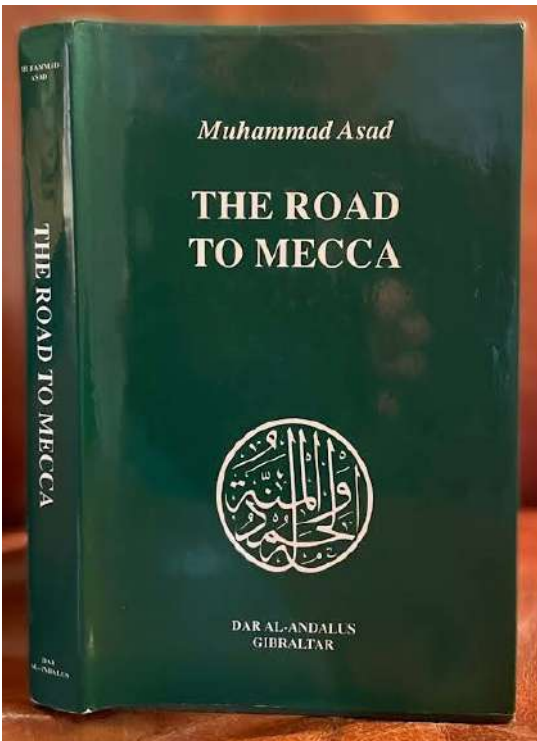
Muhammad Asad, born in 1900, spent his formative years in Austria-Hungary as the son of a privileged Jewish family.¹ The beginning of his quest searching for the meaning of his life began shortly after World War I when old Europe had collapsed under the tyranny of technically evolved mass violence. Asad, who was in his late teens at the time, characterized the post-war era as void of ethical codes, certainty and meaning. Nothing much was left that would indicate to a new generation where the future was headed and what its place in it should be. Traditions of century-old cultural and moral guidelines had been hollowed out and overthrown, leaving the young generation of the 1920s feeling lost and confused. Yet, rather than attempting to rebuild the previous concepts of values or develop their own, a new trend emerged propagating human "progress" above everything else. Soon, the initial confusion turned into active opposition against anything that resembled unquestioned and restrictive societal standards, resulting in the new norm: to question everything.

This period of upheaval marks the beginning of a time in which society did not have much to agree upon other than a new philosophy of "anything goes." Amidst the chaos and cynicism, Asad searched for anything indicative of how to distinguish good from evil and began his study at the University of Vienna in 1918. Science said: Knowledge attained through ever-evolving research is everything. Political powers said: What needs improving are the external social, economic and hence, material conditions. Religious followers said: God is not what the church told us He was, and we must leave this outdated idea behind. So Asad abandoned those fields. He reckoned that the only way to find meaning and order was to search for their sources in other disciplines. However, art history said: We only want to know "how," we don't ask "why." Psychology declared the nihilism of the soul since it traced all mysteries of the human self back to a series of neurogenetic responses. Philosophy said: There is no good or bad, to begin with.

This trend of favoring uncertainty over rigid standards, for most people, came with a sense of freedom. A vague energy of hope floated in the air, bringing life into most cultural fields and leading to wild experiments amidst a "liberation" of the body and sexual relations. Having grown disappointed with his own attempts to adapt to this lifestyle, Asad perceived therein no more than an endless interplay between constant short-lived outward distraction and concluded that in the long run one's inner world was suffering significant discomfort. Chasing material well-being, technological improvements and outward success seemed useless to him as a means to tackle the roots of the "Western suffering,"² which Asad later diagnosed as resulting from the separation of body and mind, or "the corroding lack of inner integration."³

Inherent and Inherited Animosities

Sensing



that this new utilitarianism left people more lonely and disconnected rather than fulfilled, Asad continued his search elsewhere. Still in his late teens, he came across some advice in an ancient, non-Western guide, when he stumbled upon some of Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu's aphorisms. Yet, he soon realized it took more than wise words to bring about real change in an individual's, let alone society's life. True courage, he came to understand, was to question the ethical roots of one's own adopted framework. But even he did not accomplish imagining what alternative modalities of life outside of the cultural realm of Europe would look like. Asad was only able to broaden his horizon once he ventured into the unfamiliar lands of "Arabia" a few years later.

In this vein, Asad emphatically criticized the superiority complex of the West. No matter what foreign influence he stumbled upon, the European would soon end up re-integrating any such element back into his "well-defined orbit of associations."⁴ The resulting "laziness of the heart"⁵ made him miss out on the opportunity to be enriched by "the creative value of the unfamiliar,"⁶ wasting the potential to rediscover his own lost reality; a reality that lies beyond the material realm and can only be accessed if one possesses the courage to face the "danger" of the unknown.

When it came to Islam, this Eurocentrism also crept into the understanding of Europe's formation history. When Europe, after the fall of the Roman Empire, was in the process of forming a new civilization and had not yet settled on a framework for a unified culture or identity, it was Christianity that came in handy for the reigning powers. And so for the populace to gain pride in Christian identity, the basis became hate for the "other," who defied everything one believed in and existed as a threat. Asad poignantly describes the false justification of this chosen enemy (the Muslims) and the fight against them (the Crusades) as follows:

[T]he Prophet of the Muslims had, of necessity, to be stamped as the Anti-Christ and his religion depicted in the most lurid terms as a fount of immorality and perversion. It was at the time of the Crusades that the ludicrous notion that Islam was a religion of crude sensualism and brutal violence, of an observance of ritual instead of a purification of the heart, entered the Western mind and remained there...⁷

And despite Christianity no longer playing a defining role in Europe's identity, this anti-Islam/Muslim sentiment remained, having been successfully established in the Western mind and even now has never truly reversed. This is also one of the reasons why *The Road to Mecca* is an important source for many who have been taught otherwise in school, the media and throughout their lives.

What Was Preserved of Islam

Asad was a restless soul. Unlike his peers, he did not content himself with the status quo and instead, gave in to his yearning for meaning and belonging by way of traveling outside of European borders, a rarity in his time. In 1920, he had begun seeking a career in jour-

nalism in Berlin with rather minor success. Following a personal invitation in 1922, he visited Egypt and Palestine where he finally felt he was on the right track. It was an encounter with a bedouin man on a train, who in an absolutely selfless and natural gesture shared his bread with him, that awoke, for the first time, something in Asad, a recognition of the true meaning of freedom and what it really meant to be human. Many other such encounters and observations would follow:

When I now think of this little occurrence, it seems to me that all my later love for the Arab character must have been influenced by it. For in [that] gesture ... I must already have felt the breath and the step of a humanity free of burden.⁸

I had come face to face with a life-sense that was entirely new to me. A warm, human breath seemed to flow out of these people's blood into their thoughts and gestures, with none of those painful cleavages of the spirit, those phantoms of fear, greed and inhibition that made European life so ugly and of so little promise. In the Arabs I began to find something I had always unwittingly been looking for: an emotional lightness of approach to all questions of life – a supreme common sense of feeling, if one might call it so.⁹

Despite his later discovery of the ways in which Islam had deteriorated at the hands of the ones who represented it, it was individual encounters like these that would intrigue Asad into wanting to understand where these gestures of a "free humanity" originated from. Inevitably, this led him to the discovery of the teachings and essence of Islam, that deconstructed entirely the European biases he had previously been exposed to.

Thanks to his first-hand observations and the discovery of his journalistic talents, Asad earned a professional opportunity to return to Egypt in 1924 and began visiting other countries in the region. What stood out to him the most during his travels – in contrast to his own origins – was a brotherhood of people across borders who, via the religion, were unified under the definitions of right and wrong, whereby race and financial means as nominal factors of belonging receded into the background. Thus, even absolute strangers could establish an immediate connection to each other and tend to each other's needs. According to Asad's observations in Syria, daily chores and religious obligations were not separated from each other but integral to one another. The individuals he met did not worship at the expense of work, rather, work was part and parcel of worship, as were the other fields of human life. Especially in Palestine, Asad was impressed by how the Arabs who witnessed the first Zionists establishing illegitimate communities, still felt secure in their own souls despite such adverse circumstances. Egyptians easily burst into laughter despite their economic suffering, leading him to conclude that all these people, it seemed to him, possessed an emotional security independent of outward circumstances. All in all, what he discovered, and what appeared strikingly new to him as a European, was that the souls of the Muslims were not divorced from their bodies, allowing them to easily access the abundant energy springing forth therefrom, a wholeness of being.

The Quest's End

Following his transformative travels, Asad's short return to Europe before leaving for good in 1927, was painful and irritating. He was convinced that Westerners were entirely deluded. Only an outsider could see that their being was split into two, that their gestures were clumsy and detached from their inner world, and that despite the improvement of their economic well-being, misery and emptiness continued to linger in their hearts. The achievement-based ideology of Europeans had become irrelevant and despicable to him.

His only goal now was to achieve a harmonious balance between the material and the spiritual. No longer a passive onlooker, Asad had started actively studying Arabic and Islam during his second trip to Cairo and grew bewildered by the immense beauty in the message of the Qur'an and the love Muslims held for Muhammad, God's final Messenger. The emphasis on knowledge and rationality in the religion was highly praised by Asad. Nevertheless, he did not feel entirely convinced, and spent many more years exploring the various ways in which Islam culturally and socially found expression during his travels through Syria, Iraq, Kurdistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia.

One of Asad's last hindrance before fully embracing Islam was his holding onto the belief of the human mind's superiority, resulting in the distrust that the Qur'an was of true divine origin. An acquaintance in the Islamic

world put it for him quite convincingly: If everyone were to follow their own inner voice there would be nothing but discord in society, and chaos – the very thing Asad sought to escape, and the very thing postmodern societies still suffer from 100 years later – and all the more so.

On the subway back in Berlin, Asad closely observed the faces of people whose economic situation had drastically improved over the relatively short span of time that had passed after the devastating destruction of World War I. Yet, he saw nothing but discontentment in their expressions. How could this be? Upon returning home he saw that he had left the Qur'an open and read the verses,

You are obsessed by greed for more and more until you go down to your graves [...]. (Surah 102, 1-2)¹⁰

This was the moment when he, with his entire being, felt truly convinced that the Qur'an must be "a God-inspired book"¹¹ as he realized that it warns even against modern-day ailments, and because it had truly spoken to him. His search had finally come to an end. After accepting Islam in Berlin in 1927, Asad found it an immaculate instruction for the human being to fulfill its soul's potential without having to shun the body and its senses allowing one to truly live life to the fullest. As such, he claimed, Islam aims not only to transform the individual but also to transform societies based on a common ideology rather than race or geography. For Asad, becoming Muslim meant the irreversible crossing of a bridge. That is to say, he had reached a point of no return at which he knew he had to leave behind anything that contradicted Islam. Together with his German wife, an artist who accepted Islam shortly after him, he left for Mecca in order to perform his first hajj ritual. Sadly, Elsa would die only a few days later, and Asad's many desert adventures would continue throughout the years to come, before he went on to become a central figure in contributing to Islamic policies in Pakistan during its formative years in the 1940s.

Reconciling Adverse World Views

Notwithstanding these ideals and all the inspiration he had received from his travels across Muslim lands, Asad was well aware of the defects that had crept into the outward manifestation of the creed. It did not escape him that even at his time, Muslims were no longer successful because they failed to apply these noble virtues in their lives.

They know ... that they have fallen short of what was expected of them, and that in the flight of centuries their hearts have grown small; and yet, the promise of fulfillment has not been taken from them ... from us ...¹²

And indeed, all is not lost. Asad's suggestions for a way out of the malaise that Muslims have created as they have become caught up by the influences of modernity and its materialist temptations are relatively simple. Yes, learn from the West – but do not blindly copy it. Take only that which is of spiritual advantage to you. Stay away from adapting to Western culture itself, especially from the false dogma of "progress." If, however, Muslims use its means as a tool and not as a goal in and of itself, their freedom may be regained, and Islam can be made appealing even to those whose tradition it has been to reject it fiercely.¹³

The conclusions Asad drew from his observations of a world in upheaval (fitna) remain inspirational for Muslims and non-Muslims alike until this very day. Journeying through the manifold places and stages described in the book, one cannot help but be astounded by how, in principle, not much has changed since the radical uprooting of moral norms in the West during the late 1910s. The times may have changed as the ailments of modernity have both advanced further and spread out more widely throughout our globalized world, eradicating century-old cultural and moral modes of life day by day. Even so, Asad's rationality-based approach in choosing Islam as the ultimate solution to regain the essence of a shared humanity appears as adequate as ever. The invitation to join him on "the road to Mecca" is still open for everyone who dares to face "the unknown" as it continues to slowly evaporate into the past – unless, as Asad suggested, we strive to revive it within ourselves.

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

New Protein Structure Discovery Could Lead To Obesity Treatments

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have for the first time revealed the molecular structure of a protein that allows "good fat" to burn off calories, an advance that could lead to treatments for obesity and diabetes.

The protein called "Uncoupling protein 1" (UCP1) allows brown fat tissue, or "good fat," to burn off calories as heat, in contrast to conventional white fat that stores calories.

An international team, including researchers from the University of Cambridge, UK, provides crucial molecular details that will help develop therapeutics which activate UCP1 artificially to burn off excess calories from fat and sugar.

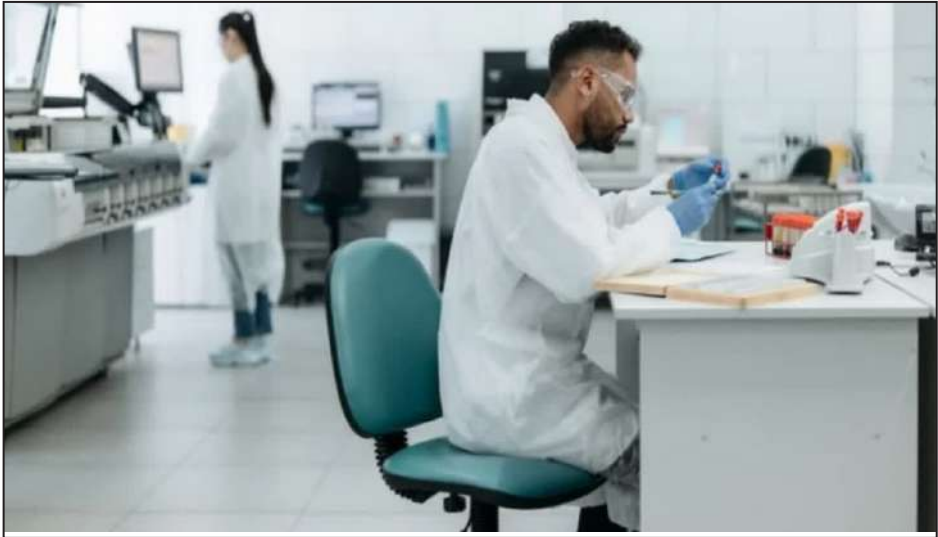
The finding, published in the journal Science Advances, could one day

combat obesity and related diseases, such as diabetes, they said.

Brown fat is the good fat -- it breaks down blood sugar and fat molecules to create heat and help maintain body temperature. Most of our fat, however, is white fat, which stores energy, and too much white fat leads to obesity.

"UCP1 is the key protein that allows the specialised brown fat to burn off calories as heat," said Paul Crichton from the the University of East Anglia (UEA), UK.

"But even with more brown fat—UCP1 must still be 'switched on' to gain full benefit. And research has been hampered by a lack of details on the molecular make up of UCP1. Despite more than 40 years of research, we did not know what UCP1 looks like to understand how it works—until now," Crichton said.



The new study shows, for the first time, the structure of UCP1 in atomic detail, and how its activity in brown fat

cells is inhibited by a key regulatory molecule, the researchers said. Using the Krios G3i, a cryogenic

electron microscope at the Singh Center for Nanotechnology at the University of Pennsylvania, US, the team was able to view UCP1 in atomic detail.

"This is an exciting development that follows more than four decades of research into what UCP1 looks like and how it works," said Vera Moiseenkova-Bell, an associate professor at the Beckman Center for Cryo-Electron Microscopy, US.

"Our work shows how a regulator binds to prevent UCP1 activity, but more importantly the structure will allow scientists to rationalise how activating molecules bind to switch the protein on, leading to the burning of fat," said lead researcher Edmund Kunji, from the University of Cambridge.

"The activated tissue can also remove glucose from the blood, which can help control diabetes," he added.

Instagram Testing New 'Interested' Option For Recommended Posts

IANS

Social networking platform Instagram is testing a new 'Interested' option for recommended posts which will allow users to indicate what they are interested in.

The new option will help the platform to show users more of what they like, the company said in a blogpost on Wednesday.

In the blogpost, the company also explained how ranking works across the platform to help users maximise their experience and also to help creators understand how

their content might be shown. "We use a variety of algorithms, classifiers, and pro-



cesses, each with its own purpose. We want to make the most of people's time, and we believe that using technology to personalise everyone's ex-

perience is the best way to do that," it added.

Each part of the application, including Feed, Stories, Explore, Reels, Search and more, uses a unique algorithm designed to maximise user experience. "We want people and creators to be in control of their Instagram experience, and we're always exploring ways to add even more transparency and control to the app," the company said.

Meanwhile, Instagram is set to take on Elon Musk-run Twitter with a similar micro-blogging text platform that is likely to be launched by the end of this month.



WHY TO USE CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE

Early Intervention

- Critical care ambulances are equipped with advanced medical equipment and trained medical professionals who can provide early intervention to patients during transit. This early intervention can help to stabilize patients and prevent their condition from deteriorating, thereby reducing the risk of mortality and morbidity.

Timely Transportation

- Critical care ambulances can transport patients to hospitals more quickly and safely than private transport, reducing the time between the onset of the medical emergency and the start of treatment. This can be critical in cases of heart attacks, strokes, or traumatic injuries, where every minute counts.

Reduced Complications

- Patients who receive critical care ambulance services are less likely to experience complications during transit or upon arrival at the hospital. This can result in shorter hospital stays, reduced healthcare costs, and improved patient outcomes.

Better Coordination

- Critical care ambulance services often work closely with local hospitals and emergency medical services (EMS) to ensure that patients receive the appropriate care and treatment. This coordination can help to reduce the risk of medical errors and ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

Improved Accessibility:

Critical care ambulance services can help to improve the accessibility of healthcare services in remote or underserved areas. This can help to reduce health disparities and improve the overall health of the population.



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Office Of The District Soil Conservation Officer, Division Baramulla.

e- NIT No.: 04 of 2023-24,dated: 02-06-2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders on items are invited from Approved Contractors registered with J&K UT & Central Government for LAYING OF CRATE WIRE STRUCTURE DRSM CHECK DAMS AT Gugerpati check-Mohalla, BANDIPORA UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET Dist. BANDIPORA

S.No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost	Class of contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Tender Receiving/Opening Committee
	Name of work:LAYING OF CRATE WIRE STRUCTURE DRSM CHECK DAMS AT Gugerpati check-Mohalla, BANDIPORA UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET Dist. BANDIPORA Location of work:Gugerpati check-Mohalla, Zone:SWC Bandipora Division:Soil & Water Conservation Division Bandipora						
1.	LAYING OF CRATE WIRE STRUCTURE DRSM CHECK DAMS AT Gugerpati check-Mohalla, BANDIPORA UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET Dist. BANDIPORA Complete job as per BOQ.	Rs 467000.00	"C"& "DEE" Class PWD Contractors	Rs.200.00	Rs.9340.00	Sevendcalendar-monthsafter Award of Contract	Tender Opening Committee
	Name of work:LAYING OF CRATE WIRE STRUCTURE DRSM CHECK DAMS AT Halwadi Nalla, BANDIPORA UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET Dist:BANDIPORA Location of work: Halwadi Nalla Zone:SWC Bandipora Division:Soil & Water Conservation Division Bandipora						
2.	LAYING OF CRATE WIRE STRUCTURE DRSM CHECK DAMS AT Halwadi Nalla, BANDIPORA UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET Dist BANDIPORA Complete job as per BOQ.	Rs 432600.00	"C"& "DEE" Class PWD Contractors	Rs.200.00	Rs.8652.00	Seven calendar months after Award of Contract	Tender Opening Committee
	Name of work:LAYING OF CRATE WIRE STRUCTURE DRSM CHECK DAMS AT Kathsan/chacchinar , BANDIPORA UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET Dist. BANDIPORA Location of work: Kathsan/chacchinar Zone:SWC ZONE GUREZ Division:Soil & Water Conservation Division Bandipora						
3.	LAYING OF CRATE WIRE STRUCTURE DRSM CHECK DAMS AT Kathsan/chacchinar , BANDIPORA UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET Dist. BANDIPORA Complete job as per BOQ.	Rs 538500.00	"C"& "DEE" Class PWD Contractors	Rs.200.00	Rs.10770.00	Seven calendar months after Award of Contract	Tender Opening Committee
	Name of work:LAYING OF CRATE WIRE STRUCTURE DRSM CHECK DAMS AT Malangam gugernar , BANDIPORA UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET Dist. BANDIPORA Location of work: Malangam gugernar Zone: :SWC ZONE GUREZ Division:Soil & Water Conservation Division Bandipora						
4.	LAYING OF CRATE WIRE STRUCTURE DRSM CHECK DAMS AT Malangam gugernar , BANDIPORA UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET Dist. BANDIPORA complete job as per BOQ	Rs 452800.00	"C"& "DEE" Class PWD Contractors	Rs.200.00	Rs.9056.00	Seven calendar months after Award of Contract	Tender Opening Committee
	Name of work:LAYING OF CRATE WIRE STRUCTURE DRSM CHECK DAMS AT Boynar Nalla, BANDIPORA UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET Dist.BANDIPORA Location of work:Boynar Nalla Zone: :SWC ZONE GUREZ Division:Soil & Water Conservation Division Bandipora						
5.	LAYING OF CRATE WIRE STRUCTURE DRSM CHECK DAMS AT Boynar Nalla , BANDIPORA UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET Dist.BANDIPORA complete job as per BOQ	Rs 264600.00	"C"& "DEE" Class PWD Contractors	Rs.200.00	Rs.5292.00	Seven calendar months after Award of Contract	Tender Opening Committee
	Name of work:LAYING OF CRATE WIRE STRUCTURE DRSM CHECK DAMS AT Waven Nalla Athwatoo(Bankoot), BANDIPORA UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET Dist. BANDIPORA Location of work:Waven Nalla Athwatoo(Bankoot) Zone: :SWC ZONE GUREZ Division:Soil & Water Conservation Division Bandipora						
6.	LAYING OF CRATE WIRE STRUCTURE DRSM CHECK DAMS AT Waven Nalla Athwatoo(Bankoot) , BANDIPORA UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET Dist. BANDIPORA complete job as per BOQ	Rs 697900.00	"C"& "DEE" Class PWD Contractors	Rs.200.00	Rs.13958.00	Seven calendar months after Award of Contract	Tender Opening Committee
	Name of work:BARBED WIRE FENCING OVER WOODEN POSTS UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET AT CHEWA SAFAPORA (CO/112 Kursho) Dist. BANDIPORA Location of work: Halwadi Nalla Zone:SWC Bandipora Division:Soil & Water Conservation Division Bandipora						
7.	BARBED WIRE FENCING OVER WOODEN POSTS UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET AT CHEWA SAFAPORA (CO/112 Kursho) Dist.BANDIPORA complete job as per BOQ	Rs 116800	"C"& "DEE" Class PWD Contractors	Rs.200.00	Rs.2336.00	Seven calendar months after Award of Contract	Tender Opening Committee
	Name of work:BARBED WIRE FENCING OVER WOODEN POSTS UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET AT RAMPORA-RAJPORA (CO/38K) Dist. BANDIPORA Location of work:RAMPORA-RAJPORA Zone:SWC Bandipora Division: Soil & Water Conservation Division Bandipora						
8.	BARBED WIRE FENCING OVER WOODEN POSTS UNDER UT CAPEX BUDGET AT RAMPORA-RAJPORA (CO/38K) Dist. BANDIPORA Complete job as per BOQ	Rs 106500	"C"& "DEE" Class PWD Contractors	Rs.200.00	Rs.2130.00	Seven calendar months after Award of Contract	Tender Opening Committee

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Websitehttps://jktenders.gov.in

Position of AA:	Position of T/S:	Position of Funds:
Publishing Date:-	02-06-2023 (11:00 am)	
Download Start Date:-	02-06-2023 from 11:00 am	
Bid submission Start Date:-	02-06-2023 from 11:00 am	
Bid submission End Date:-	22-06-2023 Up to 06:00 PM	
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online:-	23-06-2023, 12:00 noon in the District Office Soil & Water Conservation Department Baramulla	
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:-	To be opened (Online) at any convenient date & time after complete Evaluation of Technical Bids Received.	
1)	The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website https://jktenders.gov.in	
2)	The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.	
3)	Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Earnest Money Deposit @ 2% of the advertised cost both pledged to District Soil Conservation Officer Division Baramulla. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 60 days from the date of opening of bids.	
4)	As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 20% of the value of contract if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of five percent may also be demanded.	
5)	Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in	
6)	To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.	
7)	The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.	
8)	Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e Valid Registration Card issued by the concerned department duly renewed for the current financial year	
9)	The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.	
10)	The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).	
11)	The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.	
12)	The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.	
13)	All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.	
14)		

No: DSCOB/e-Tenders/CAMPA/2023-24/118-22
DIPK-2708/23
Dated: 02-06-2023

Sd/-
District Officer
Soil & Water Conservation Deptt.
Baramulla/Bandipora



Go First Plans To Restart Operations With 26 Planes, 152 Daily Flights; Submits Plan To DGCA

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Cash-strapped Go First, which is undergoing voluntary insolvency resolution process, plans to restart operations with 26 planes and 152 daily flights, and has submitted the revival plan to aviation regulator DGCA, according to a source.

Besides, the airline is in discussions with lenders for funds to meet the working capital requirements.

The airline stopped flying from May 3 and is yet to pay some senior level executives and pilots.

On the condition of anonymity, the source said the carrier's salary outgo is around Rs 30 crore per month and currently, the workforce is around 4,700 as many have put in their papers in one month.

The source said the airline management is awaiting the nod from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for the revival plan and operations will resume soon after the regulator's approval.

The Mumbai-based airline's senior executives have held

discussions with senior DGCA officials on the revival plan.

"As per the plan provided to the DGCA this week, Go First is looking to recommence operations with a fleet of 26 aircraft, of which 22 will be engaged in active operations and 4 will be kept as spares," the source told PTI.

With this fleet, the airline will be operating 152 flights per day, the source added. Prior to grounding on May 3, the airline was operating around 200 flights daily.

According to the source, the regulator had raised certain queries and sought clarifications on the revival plan, and those have been addressed.

Prior to pausing operations a month ago, Go First was operating over 200 flights daily.

Go First, which had 5,000 employees just about a month ago, now has around 4,700 staff on its roll.

The budget carrier, which had been flying for more than 17 years, filed for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on May 2 and the plea was admitted on May 10.

Away From Skies For One Month: Go First Crisis Pushes Airfares Higher, Staff Face Uncertain Times

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: From a surge in airfares to rattled aircraft lessors to thousands of employees staring at uncertainty, it has been a month of continued turbulence since cash-strapped Go First suspended flights from May 3.

As the government and other stakeholders hope that Go First restarts operations at the earliest, plans are being worked out for the budget airline's revival.

A section of Go First staff are optimistic about restarting of operations, another section are pessimistic about the airline's future course considering what had happened to erstwhile Kingfisher Airlines and Jet Airways, according to employees who spoke to PTI.

Earlier this week, senior executives of Go First discussed the revival plans with senior officials of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Apart from the uncertainty staring at more than 7,000 Go First staff, a significant fallout is the spike in air ticket prices on certain routes that used to be serviced by the airline, which was operating around 170-180 flights daily.

The crisis at Go First, having its roots in non-availability of Pratt & Whitney engines resulting in grounding of more

than half of its operational A320 neo fleet, reached a flash point as the promoters of the carrier decided to suspend flights and sought voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings on May 2.

The airline has not flown since May 3 and its petition for the insolvency proceedings was admitted by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on May 10.

Also, many lessors who have leased planes to the no-frills carrier have challenged the insolvency proceedings as they seek to exercise their rights to take back the aircraft despite the moratorium on the carrier's financial obligations and transfer of assets.

Travel portal Cleartrip's Vice President - Air Category - Gaurav Patwari said the significant capacity reduction due to Go First being non-operational has contributed to the spike in airfares.

"There is a sharp spike in fares especially for travel within D15 which can be attributed to the ongoing Go First issue. The fares within D15 travel have increased by 22 per cent and at the aggregate level up by more than 20 per cent over April for domestic travel," he said.

Generally, D15 refers to booking 15 days before travel.

Indian Ambassador To Saudi Meets Kashmir's Industrial Associations, Discuss Biz Opportunities

Terms The Interaction As Significant Milestone In Promotion Of Trade, Exports



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: India's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, Friday had an extensive interactive session with industry and trade associations of Kashmir to discuss and plan strategies towards exploring business opportunities between the regions.

The session, organized by Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), was aimed at providing a platform to foster stronger economic ties and explore mutually beneficial trade opportunities.

Managing Director, JKTPO, Khalid Jahangir, expressed gratitude to the ambassador for reaching out to the Trade and Industry partners of Jammu and Kashmir. He gave an overview about the prevailing trade scenario in the region with special reference to products having competitive advantage for export to Saudi Arabia.

The event brought together esteemed business leaders,

entrepreneurs and representatives from various industry and trade associations of Kashmir, offering a unique opportunity to discuss and address the challenges being faced by the local business community.

Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, while speaking on the occasion, emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral trade between UT of J&K and Saudi Arabia. He acknowledged the rich cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit of Kashmir and expressed his admiration for region's contribution towards nation's economy. He observed that unique and niche products of J&K have lot of potential as far as the markets of Saudi Arabia are concerned.

Responding to issues and concerns raised by the participants, Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan praised the efforts of JKTPO in promoting trade and investment opportunities in Kashmir. He conveyed Embassy's

commitment towards supporting such initiatives.

He assured the participants that the Indian government is continuously working hard towards creating a conducive business environment for all to flourish their businesses. He added that necessary support is being extended for trade and investment activities especially for export of GI tagged products of Jammu & Kashmir. He assured to create business linkages for the exporters of J&K, adding that efforts would be made to organize delegation visits, B2B meets, exhibitions, road shows and related events in Saudi Arabia.

"This interaction marks a significant milestone in strengthening economic ties between the two regions. It reflects the shared commitment towards exploring new avenues of cooperation and leveraging the vast potential for trade and investment", maintained the ambassador.

FCIK Urges For Diversification Of India-KSA Trade Ties Beyond Oil

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has underscored the need for diversification of bilateral trade ties between India and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia beyond the conventional field of oil in order to explore opportunities in other areas such as handicrafts, textiles, food processing, horticulture produce, sports goods, trout fish, organic vegetables and tourism.

The issue was raised by a delegation of FCIK during its interactive session with Indian Ambassador to KSA Dr. Suhail Aijaz Khan at Sanat Ghar, Srinagar. The delegation of FCIK was led by Shahid Kamili and included M.D Qureshi and Afaz Qadiri.

The delegation told the Ambassador that given the fact that India and KSA were currently in the process of reinventing their economic strategy, Jammu and Kashmir offered varied products and services to help in balancing the trade between the two countries. India was currently at a disadvantageous position in the bilateral trade of 42.8 billion US dollars with exports of 8.76 billion dollars against imports of 34.1 billion dollars during the year 2021-22.

FCIK informed the Ambassador about the goods manufactured by local industrialists that had all the potential of exports to KSA. Besides the handicrafts which included Shawls, Carpets, Wood carved furniture, paper mashie etc, FCIK showcased the machine made textiles which included Saudi headdress popularly known as ghutra or kuffiya made from pure cotton and pashmina. The locally manufactured cricket bats and other sports goods had the potential to attract buyers for their high quality and reasonable price.

"The Indian Embassy could facilitate promotion of Kashmiri wazwan and other packaged food processed items in Saudi Arabia besides vegetables and fruits grown both organically and un-organically" informed the delegation, adding that the cold water trout fish farmed in Kashmir was con-

sidered a novelty in whole of the world including Middle East.

The Ambassador was informed that Kashmir had scores of industrial units processing fresh mineral water and juices which could be exported to international markets including KSA.

The delegation told the Ambassador that FCIK had been on the forefront for quite some time to seek promotion of Kashmir-goods with support from Ministry of Commerce and had also initiated a show in UAE showcasing GI tagged Kashmiri Saffron and organic vegetables. Besides, FCIK had successfully pumped 3500 MTs of apples in Dubai stores from our cold stores. The organisation had successfully convinced the ministry of Commerce for approving 50% Air freight subsidy on horticulture and trout fish.

FCIK hoped that the Indian Embassy would help FCIK in organizing exhibitions for exhibiting our products besides organizing B2B meetings with traders and Saudi Chambers.

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Govt Asks Industry To Cut Edible Oils MRP By Rs 8-12 Per Litre As Global Prices Drop

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Friday directed edible oil associations to further reduce the maximum retail price (MRP) of major edible oils by Rs 8-12 per litre with immediate effect, in line with the global market.

"Some companies which have not reduced their prices and their MRP is higher than other brands have also been advised to reduce their prices," the food ministry said after a meeting, chaired by food secretary Sanjeev Chopra, with the industry representatives.

Price to distributors by the manufacturers and refiners also needs to be reduced with immediate effect so that the price drop is not diluted in any way, it said.

It was also impressed upon that whenever a reduction in price to distributors is made by the manufacturers/refiners, the benefit should be passed on to the consumers by the industry and the ministry may be kept informed on a regular basis, it added.

With the edible oil prices continuing to show a downward trend and set to witness further reduction by the edible oil industry, the ministry said, "the Indian consumers can expect to pay less for their edible oils. The falling edible oil prices will help in further cooling inflation fears if any."

Industry representatives including Solvent Extraction Association of India and Indian



Vegetable Oil Producers' Association were present in the second meeting convened within a month to discuss further reduction in retail prices of edible oils amidst a continued fall in the global prices.

In the meeting, the ministry said the international prices of imported edible oils are continuing on a downward trend and therefore, the edible oil industry needs to ensure that the prices in the domestic market also drop commensurately.

The industry was told to ensure the price drop in the global market is passed on expeditiously to the end consumers and not in a delayed manner as is observed now.

"The leading edible oil associations were advised to take up the issue with their members immediately and ensure that the maximum retail price (MRP) of major edible oils to be reduced further by Rs 8-12 per litre with immediate effect," the ministry said in a statement released after the meeting.

Average Time Taken For Issuing I-T Refunds Reduced Significantly: CBDT Chairman

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Average time taken for issuing refunds by the income tax department has been brought down "significantly" and 80 per cent of refunds were issued in the first 30 days of filing of returns during the 2022-23 fiscal, CBDT Chairman Nitin Gupta has said.

The chief of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said the work of processing Income Tax Returns (ITRs) has been "expedited" as the tax department is leveraging technology in a big way and was working to ensure 'ease of doing business' for the taxpayers by promoting voluntary compliance.

"We have expedited the processing of returns and quicker issue of refunds. The average time taken for processing of returns has been reduced to only 16 days in the financial year 2022-23 as against 26 days in the previous 2021-22 fiscal," Gupta said.

"We have seen a hundred per cent increase in the total percentage of ITRs processed within one day of their filing. This percentage has increased from 21 per cent for assessment year (AY) 2021-22 to 42 per cent for AY 2022-23," Gupta said on Thursday while speaking at the online 'Samvaad' session hosted by the I-T department.

The CBDT, headed by a chairman, is the administrative body



for the tax department.

Talking about technology advancement undertaken by the department, Gupta said it achieved a "peak processing capacity of nearly 22.94 lakh returns in a single day on July 28, 2022".

"Rectification requests have also been reduced to 0.1 per cent of the total returns processed and average time of rectification disposal is only nine days. The average time (taken) in issuance of refunds has been significantly brought down. This year 80 per cent of refunds were issued in the first 30 days of filing of returns as against 60 per cent in the preceding year," Gupta said.

In order to enhance the ease of voluntary compliance and to reduce litigation, the CBDT chief said an updated return (ITR-U) functionality has been enabled (on the e-filing portal) so that taxpayers can update their returns (ITRs) anytime within two years from the end of the relevant assessment year.

Sensex, Nifty Rise On Gains In Metal, Auto Stocks

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher on Friday after two days of fall, helped by buying in metal, telecom and auto stocks amid a firm trend in global markets.

Automakers led by Maruti Suzuki India, Hyundai, Mahindra & Mahindra reporting robust wholesales of passenger vehicles and GST collections crossing Rs 1.50 lakh crore for the third straight month in May also added to the optimism.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 118.57 points or 0.19 per cent to settle at 62,547.11. During the day, it jumped 291.3 points or 0.46 per cent to 62,719.84.

The NSE Nifty advanced 46.35 points or 0.25 per cent to finish at 18,534.10.

On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark gained 45.42 points or 0.07 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 34.75 points or 0.18 per cent.

"This week, the Indian market was volatile. However, it was able to regain momentum led by a positive domestic outlook accompanied by global cues.

Auto stocks garnered attention as sales numbers for May came in strong, with a sequential recovery boosting sentiment across the sector.

"The hope that the Fed will refrain from a rate hike has provided comfort to the global equity market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Tata Steel was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising nearly 2 per cent, followed by Maruti, Mahindra & Mahindra, Sun Pharma, Larsen & Toubro, Titan, Bharti Airtel, Power Grid, ITC, State Bank of India and Nestle.

In contrast, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards.

"Auto stocks were in focus after reporting better-than-expected sales numbers for May. Also, with the monsoon arrival expected early next week, the rural and agri-related stock would also be in focus," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

'Efforts To Increase Availability Of Better Veterinary Health Services'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Parshottam Rupala chaired the Inter-Session Meeting of the Consultative Committee attached to his Ministry in Srinagar on Friday.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, the Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Dr. L. Murugan, the Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Members of Parliament and members of the Parliament Consultative Committee were also attended the meeting. The Committee deliberated on various aspects of "Strengthening of Veterinary Services through Mobile Units and Implementation of Vaccination Programme in the country".

While chairing the meeting, the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Parshottam Rupala said that India has vast resource of livestock and poultry, which play a vital role in improving the socio-economic conditions of rural masses. Therefore, the Department has to make deliberate efforts to increase availability and accessibility of better veterinary health services to minimise economic losses due to animal diseases.

The Members of Parliament appreciated the efforts being taken by the Department, especially for the Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) with 100% central assistance and uniform toll free number 1962, and also made various suggestions to improve the present veterinary services for the consideration of the Department. The Minister assured the Committee that the Department will ensure to take appropriate action on the valuable suggestions given by the Members.

IndiGo To Start Flights To Six Destinations In Africa, Central Asia

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The country's largest airline IndiGo will start direct flights to six new destinations in Africa and Central Asia, including to Nairobi, Tbilisi and Tashkent, this year.

Embarking on "massive" international expansion plans, the carrier will connect Nairobi in Kenya and Jakarta in Indonesia, with direct flights from Mumbai in late July or early August.

"Delhi will get connected in August to Tbilisi, Georgia & Baku, Azerbaijan and in September to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and Almaty, Kazakhstan," IndiGo said in a release on Friday.

Once these routes are operational, the budget airline will be connecting a total of 32 international destinations compared to 26 currently.

While noting that it is taking a "massive step in its international expansion strategy," IndiGo said it will be adding an "impressive 174 new weekly international flights between June and September 2023, including new destinations, routes, and frequencies".

IndiGo said it will also be resuming daily

services from Delhi to Hong Kong in August. This flight was suspended three years ago during the coronavirus pandemic.

"The addition of these exciting new destinations, new direct flight routes, enhanced flight frequencies, and strategic codeshare partnerships, will help us expand our footprint across four continents with Africa and Central Asia being penetrated for the first time.

"With this expansion in our network, we will now be directly touching 32 international destinations (up from 26), next to our 78 domestic destinations," IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said.

He also said the airline is executing its strategy 'Towards New Heights and Across New Frontiers' and is poised to establish unparalleled connections between people and places.

The expansion also comes at a time when there is a rising demand for international travel from, to and via India, as well as the government's efforts to develop an international aviation hub in the country. Besides, Air India Group is set for an ambitious expansion of its fleet and services to connect with more international destinations.

India Must Ensure Universal Values Like Democracy, Religious Freedom, Peace Across Globe: Rajnath

New Delhi: With great power comes great responsibility, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday quoting a famous dialogue from Hollywood blockbuster "Spiderman" to emphasise that India's responsibility will increase in sync with its rising global stature.

In an address at an event, Singh said he envisioned a developed India that ensures that universal values like democracy, religious freedom, dignity and world peace are established across the globe.

The defence minister said the government is working to build a developed India by 2047, focusing on almost all sectors of the country.

"India is not an emerging but a resurgent power which is regaining its place on the global economic map under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Singh said, speaking at the Times Network's India Economic Conclave.

The defence minister also underlined the need for building a welfare state with high standard of living, social harmony and equal participation of women in the development process.

"Together, let us dream of an India where people have the same feeling of nation building; where all Indians work together without



any discrimination," he said.

"Let us dream of an India where people are judged not by their caste and religion, but by their knowledge and character; where every Indian has access to human rights and has commitment towards their duties," he said.

"Let us dream of an India which is strong enough to defend itself and be ready to stand against any injustice anywhere in the world," Singh added.

He began his address by stating that until the 17th century, India had a remarkably strong economy, constituting over a quarter of the world's GDP, but it

lost its glory due to a weak military and political slavery.

The defence minister asserted that the government is working on both these fronts to ensure that India regains its old glorious status. He stated that no stone is being left unturned to create a strong, young and tech-savvy armed force on the back of robust defence industry which indigenously manufactures state-of-the-art weapons and equipment, while efforts are also being made to get rid of the colonial mindset.

"A strong military not only secures the borders, but also

protects the culture and economy of a country. The goal is to build a strong, self-reliant and prosperous nation, which caters to its own needs as well as the requirements of friendly countries," he said.

"This is an era of renaissance. It is time to re-establish India as a global superpower," he added, according to the defence ministry.

Talking about the political landscape in the country, Singh said political parties are integral to a democracy and it cannot survive without them. At the same time, he rued that many political parties in India do not operate based on any ideology and their politics revolve around a person or a family or a caste.

"I think such politics should have no place in a developed India. Politics should be based on ideology and values and not on the basis of family, religion and caste," he said, speaking at Times Network's India Economic Conclave.

"If I talk about the political future of India, I wish that as we move ahead, our democracy should be strengthened in the same way. Criminalisation of politics should end, and our country should move forward on the path of credible politics. Politics should be understood as a medium of public service," he said.

The defence minister also

spoke about social development and that he imagines an India where there is no discrimination of any kind in the society.

"If we talk about the social development of India, then I imagine an India where there is no discrimination of any kind in the society. Even today, the Constitution makes this arrangement that there should be no discrimination in the country on the basis of religion, caste and gender etc. But our developed India should be one step ahead of this theory," he said.

Singh also highlighted India's overall progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, including in the economic sphere, and how efforts are underway to take India's cultural identity to a new height.

"We are constantly trying to take India's cultural identity to a new height and I want to see the same India in future also where it has a cultural sovereignty," he said.

"There are some universal values, which are not for any one country but for the entire humanity. As a developed India, our responsibility will be much more than this. You must have heard a dialogue from the Spiderman movie that 'With great power comes great responsibility'," Singh said.

98 Killed, 310 Injured In Manipur Ethnic Violence: Govt

Imphal: At least 98 people lost their lives and 310 others were injured in the ethnic violence in Manipur that broke out a month ago, the government said in a statement on Friday.

A total of 37,450 people are in 272 relief camps at present, said the statement, issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

In all, 4,014 cases of arson have been reported since the violence broke out in the state on May 3, it said.

"The number of deaths is 98 and the number of injured reported is 310," it said.

Over the last one month, the state police has registered 3,734 cases and arrested 65 people for their involvement in the violence, the statement said.

"Sporadic incidents of firing or torching of houses by miscreants are becoming rare now as coordinated effort is made by different security agencies," it said.

The Army, Assam Rifles, CAPFs and local police have been deployed in vulnerable places, it added. Till now, 84 companies of central armed forces have been deployed, the statement said.

"More companies are being

deployed. Flag march and area domination exercises are being carried out widely. Search operations will be conducted from today to recover snatched arms and ammunition," it said.

The government appealed to the people to surrender the snatched arms and ammunition.

"Stringent legal action will be taken against any person if caught with snatched arms and ammunition," it said.

So far, 144 arms with 11 magazines have been recovered by the security agencies, said the statement. Meetings were being held with village heads and civil society organisations to resolve conflict and bring peace, it said, claiming that the situation is normal in most of the districts.

Curfew has been relaxed for 12 hours in Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur and Pherzawl, for 11 hours in Kangpokpi, for 10 hours in Churachandpur and Chandel, for eight hours in Jiribam and Tenuogal, and for seven hours in Thoubal and Kakching districts, it said.

There is no curfew in Tamenglong, Noney, Senapati, Ukhrul and Kamjong, it added.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

1 Crore In 24 Hours

gratitude to the donors, Sadaf's brother Uzair who works as class IV employee in the Finance Department, said that the family now has enough money to continue treatment of her ailing sister. He requested people not to deposit more money into the bank account of her sister.

The family had also sought e-donation on a crowdfunding platform—Milaap which had fetched them over Rs 12 lakh by the time this report was filed.

Meanwhile, the netizens are elated over the unprecedented generosity shown by the people in helping out the needy girl. Social media on Friday remained abuzz with users hailing the spirit of Kashmiris.

"In an astonishing display of solidarity, the target amount of 80 lakh has been completed in Sadaf Ayoub's case within less than 24 hours! This incredible achievement highlights the power of our community coming together for a noble cause," tweeted one Basharat Akhoun.

"This is the real Kashmiriyat. This is what is keeping us together," Mehran Ahmad, a businessman posted on micro-blogging website Facebook.

"This is a great example of generosity. Many times I feel proud to be a Kashmiri and this is one such occasion. This is also the example that Kashmiris are the richest people by heart on earth," read another post by one Wani Aslam on Facebook.

Interestingly, this is not the first time people of Kashmir have lent a helping hand to the needy in times of distress.

Moved by the plight of a driver from Srinagar's Hawal area in May 2020, people deposited Rs 27 lakh in less than 24 hours in his account after he uploaded a video on Facebook claiming he and his family were starving.

In June same year, people donated over Rs 3 crore within seven days to rebuild 11 houses that were damaged in an encounter between government forces and militants in Nawa Kadal locality of Srinagar.

Militant Killed

According to the "sarpanch" (village head) of Dassal Kewal, the encounter broke out around 3 am.

The search operation was still on at the time of filing this report. Unconfirmed reports said two to three militants were hiding in the area when the gunbattle started.

Will Make J&K

in reinforcing the beliefs of people," he

IT Dept Files

and further investigation is in progress.

The Income Tax Department of Jammu & Kashmir has also filed one complaint against the CA Imran Amin Dar of Srinagar to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. In a letter dated 24.05.2023, Akash Meena, Income Tax Officer, Technical has requested the Director Discipline of ICAI to cancel the license of the said CA.

Last November, the IT department had undertaken an analysis of refunds claimed by the taxpayers by claiming bogus deductions. It was found that a large number of salaried employees of Jammu and Kashmir have claimed bogus deductions under various sections of the Income Tax Act with the help of some touts. Such Government employees are from different departments like PDD, health, tourism, education, police, J&K Bank, universities, and even some belt forces.

At the request of the IT department, various U.T. departments issued advisories in the month of March to their employees to update their Income Tax Returns and file ITR-U in case they have claimed bogus refunds.

It is learnt from reliable sources that more than 9000 employees had updated their returns before 31st March and refunded the excess amounts of refunds to Govt. along with additional tax totaling to more than Rs.56 crores. However, it is in the notice of the I.T. Department that many employees have not updated their returns and have not returned the fraudulently earned refunds to the Govt. with additional tax (penalty).

Reliable sources have indicated that such persons will be dealt with strictly as per the law in the coming months. Their cases are also likely to be selected for scrutiny in the near future and more FIRs are likely to be filed against such employees and the touts who are active in the U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir.

A senior officer of the I.T. Department, on the conditions of anonymity, has revealed that more than 20,000 employees of U.T. Govt. and more than 8,000 personnel belonging to various other belt forces are on the radar of the Tax Department for fraudulently claiming income tax refunds for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22 for which return filing dates are over.

The Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, M.P.Singh said that the taxes paid by the citizens are used for development of the

infrastructures like roads, bridges, tunnels, rail lines, schools, colleges, and hospitals. The department respects honest tax payers for their significant role in nation-building but will deal firmly with dishonest tax payers and such elements who misguide the public and help them in tax evasion & bogus refund claims. (KNT)

13 Dead In Militancy

of Yarhol Babapora Kulgam.

Besides four infiltrators, as per Army, were killed in different encounters at Pichand Machil, Kandi forest area of Rajouri, and Balakote Sector of Mendhar Poonch.

The data reveals that five soldiers Ruchin Singh, Sidhart Chettri, Arvind Kumar, Neelam Singh, and Pramod Negi were killed on 5 May after militants triggered a blast during a CASO in Kandi forest area of Rajouri district of Jammu region.

Militants shot dead a man from Udhampur in South Kashmir's Anantnag district while a policeman Muhammad Ramzan was injured after militants attacked a check-post in Bijbehara town of South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In one of the encounters, after an exchange of fire between militants and joint forces in the Andwan Sagam forest area of Anantnag, militants managed to escape from the area, however, joint forces unearthed a militant hideout in the area after the gunfight.

In the ongoing year, 35 casualties have been reported across the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. These include 11 soldiers, 9 civilians, 7 local militants, and 8 infiltrators. (KNT)

Govt Constitutes

the committees will monitor the implementation of the provisions of the Act and the rules.

These committees will assist the district authorities in implementation of schemes and programmes of the Government for empowerment of persons with disabilities, he said.

Lone said these panels will also look into the complaints relating to non-implementation of the provisions of the Act by the district authorities and recommend suitable remedial measures to the concerned authority to redress them. (KNO)

Animals Won't

help as many animals as possible; therefore I will support and encourage animal welfare organizations in J&K to become more powerful. People will do that, but I will guide them," she added.

Waqf Board

the Board, and certain important categories of employees, like, Sweepers and Chowkidars, are not available in the required numbers at Sub-Units.

"With the recent decision of the Board to disengage the over-age employees, and no fresh recruitments being made, this kind of staff deficiency has become more severe."

It further reads that the matter was placed before the competent authorities, and as desired, in order to overcome such deficiencies at the lower levels, sanction is hereby accorded to the re-designation of posts, of the enclosed list of 323 employees, that are functionally illiterate, or have failed to submit a genuine 10th pass academic qualification certificate till date, as Multi-Purpose Staff (MPS).

"The designation shall be used for all such categories of posts that do not require any technical or professional qualification. The services of all such employees shall be henceforth utilised to perform any kind of job that doesn't require any special skills."

It, however, clarified that re-designation shall not absolve any employee from any service related enquiry or irregularities of appointment and promotion.

"Further, all the employees posted at Shrines, from the Administrator to the lowest level, are additionally designated as "Khaadim-e-Ziyarat", it said, adding that the administrators shall accordingly ensure that the entire staff carries a visible identity card all the time bearing this designation.

LG Celebrates Telangana

the cultural programme presided over by the LG.

The cultural programme comprising songs and dance of Telangana was presented by students of NIT Srinagar and artistes from J&K Cultural Academy.

"I pray for good health and well-being of the people of this blessed land, which has a glorious tradition of rich culture, music, literature, handicraft and a progressive spirit. Some of the inspiring chapters in India's freedom struggle were written in Telangana," the LG said.

"Telangana's farmers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, poets, artists have made invaluable contribution in nation building. From the literary creations of Malliya Rechana in the 11th century to the poetic imaginations of Atraya, Gurajada Apparao and Dasaradhi Krishnamacharyulu in the modern era, the Indian literature has been greatly enriched by them. Today, I pay my tributes to towering men, women of ideas and ideals from Telangana,

who illuminated the nation with their wisdom and intellectual brilliance, he added.

The LG further said that the nation will forever be indebted to the bravery, courage and supreme sacrifice of the great personalities and freedom fighters like Ramji Gond, the head of the Gond tribal; Komaram Bheem of brave tribal community and the great freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju.

Jammu Schools

guidance of students during vacation period adding that any default on part of the head of the Schools/Teaching staff in observance of the vacation schedule shall attract action under rules.

4 Gamblers

Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh, Mushtaq Ahmad Mir and Zahoor Ahmad RATHER

Accordingly, the spokesperson said, a case vide FIR No. 147/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Ganderbal and investigation has been initiated.

Pak Repatriates

Gurdaspur district.

On their return to India, Balwinder Singh and Harjinder Singh claimed that they had crossed the India-Pakistan border inadvertently in a drunken state at night in 2020, the official said.

The official said that according to information received from the Pakistan immigration authority, on Friday late night, the Pakistan government would also release around 200 Indian fishermen.

Two Killed After

Lone (driver) and Wazir Ahmad Khan (helper).

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident.

Female Bear, Cub

Department official told a local news agency GNS that they have a huge dearth of manpower and equipment to tackle such situations. "We have intimidated the higher-ups from time to time regarding this, but nothing significant has been done to mitigate the issue as of now", the official said.

"Through this medium, I would like to reach out to the higher ups again and request them to take the things into consideration so that the life and property of people is saved every once such a situation arises anywhere in the district (Kupwara)", the official 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

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Srinagar Premier League From June 5



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: After many disruptions, the Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Friday announced that Srinagar Premier Football League 2023 will begin from Monday, June 5. The association also released a fixture list of the upcoming games. All matches will be played at Synthetic Turf TRC.

According to fixture list re-

leased by the FA, LoneStar Kashmir FC will take on Star Kashmir FC in the opening match at 2:00 PM. Later, JK Bank XI will clash with ARCO FC at 5:00 PM.

JK Bank Academy plays Nov-elty FC on June 6 in the 2:00 PM kick off, while the evening match of the day will see Syed Tajuddin FC take on Ali Jana FC. The tournament is being organised by the District Football Association Srinagar.

U-16 National Trials From Today At TRC



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Sports Council (JKSC) is set to hold open selection trials for Zonal Level Selection for Indian National Football Team Under-16 Boys on 3rd and 4th June 2023 in both Srinagar and Jammu.

In Srinagar, the trials will take place at Synthetic Turf TRC, while the Mini Stadium Parade will be the venue in Jammu. The trials begin at 10:00 AM. The U-16 national team is set to compete in the upcoming SAFF Championship, to be held in Bhutan later this year.

"Arun Malhotra International Player and Member Technical All India Football Federation has pleaded this trial for J&K," the

Jammu & Kashmir Football Association said in a statement.

Secretary JKSC Nuzhat Gull has directed the Sports Officers of both divisions to provide all the logistic support for the selection and put an effective monitoring system in place to ensure that trials are held in fair and transparent manner.

Assuring that the selection of four talented footballers for the national team will be carried purely on merit basis and the list of selected players will be forwarded to Sarthak Mishra, Manager- State Development, AIFF immediately upon the completion of trials, Arun Malhotra said that team of selectors will leave no stone unturned to field the best players from J&K.

YSS Organises Various Sports Events In Pulwama



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Zone Pampore on Friday hosted a Taekwondo competition for Boys of All Age Groups during an Inter-Zonal District Level competition.

The competition witnessed huge participation of players from all eight zones of the district.

The event was inaugurated by the Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) in presence of senior officials of the department.

ZPEO Pampore speaking at the inaugural ceremony impressed upon the officials and players to help each other to create Sports culture in the district. On the occasion, 'World No Tobacco Pledge' was also administered.

1983 WC Winners Lend Support To Wrestlers



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Members of the 1983 World Cup winning cricket team on Friday came out in support of the protesting wrestlers and urged them not to take any hasty decision while hoping that players' issues will be "heard and resolved".

In a joint statement, the 1983 triumphant team said it was distressed and disturbed after seeing the visuals of wrestlers being manhandled but also hoped that law of the land will prevail. Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, who have been demanding the arrest of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Birj Bhushan Sharan Singh for alleged sexual exploitation of women wrestlers, took their protest to

Haridwar on May 30 but did not carry out the threat of immersing their medals into holy river Ganga.

On May 28, the Delhi Police had detained the wrestlers for violation of law and order when they marched towards the new Parliament building without permission.

The Police also cleared the protest site and made it clear that the wrestlers will not be allowed back at Jantar Mantar. The police action against the wrestlers had invited criticism from different quarters.

"We are distressed and disturbed at the unseemly visuals of our champion wrestlers being manhandled. We are also most concerned that they are thinking of dumping their hard earned medals into river

Ganga," a statement released to PTI by the 1983 World Cup winning team read.

"Those medals have involved years of effort, sacrifice, determination, and grit and are not only their own but the nation's pride and joy. We urge them not to take any hasty decision in this matter and also fervently hope that their grievances are heard and resolved quickly. Let the law of the land prevail," the statement read further.

Under legendary skipper Kapil Dev, the Indian cricket team had humbled the mighty Clive Lloyd led-West Indies to win the country's first World Cup trophy.

"I am not going to say anything individually, the whole of 1983 team stands by the statement we have issued," Kapil said.

FIR Says WFI Chief 'Molested' Wrestlers, Demanded 'Sexual Favours'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The two FIRs registered by Delhi Police against outgoing WFI chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh based on complaints of six adult wrestlers and father of a minor narrate several alleged instances of sexual harassment, inappropriate touching, groping, stalking and intimidation by him at different times and places including in foreign countries, over a decade.

The Delhi Police had on April 28 registered the two FIRs at Connaught Place police station, including one by the father of a minor wrestler invoking POCSO Act that entails prison term up to seven years on conviction.

The FIRs registered following a Supreme Court order have charged Singh under various IPC sections including assaulting a woman to outrage her modesty (Section 354), sexual harassment (354 A), stalking (354 D) that are punishable with jail terms of two-three years.

Some of the complainants also alleged that Singh made advances to seek "sexual favours" promising to help them in their professional careers.

Singh has denied all the charges and said he will hang himself even if a single allegation is proved against him. He has also maintained that all wrestlers are like his children



and he will not blame them as his blood and sweat have also gone into their success.

The FIR filed by the six wrestlers also names Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) secretary Vinod Tomar as an accused.

In the FIR filed on the basis of complaints by the adult wrestlers, one of them alleged, "While I was training, the accused called me separately, to which I refused since the accused was touching other girls also inappropriately. However, I was again called by the accused who then pulled up my T-shirt and slid his hand down my stomach and put his hand on my naval on the pretext of checking my breath."

"It was during my stay in hotel that I noticed that all the female athletes used to travel in groups whenever they left their respective rooms in order to avoid meeting the accused alone."

The second wrestler alleged, "While I was stretching/warming up on the ground on a mat, the accused came there and stood on the side watching me."

"While I was lying down on the mat, the accused came near me and suddenly, to my shock and surprise, leaned in on me and in the absence of my coach and without seeking my permission pulled up my T-shirt and placed his hand on my breast and slid it down my stomach on the pretext of examining/checking my breathing and touched me inappropriately."

The wrestler number 5 stated Singh tried to bribe her by offering to buy supplements.

"I won a medal in a championship. While I was resting in my room, a physiotherapist came to my room and told me that the president/accused is calling me in his room. I thought, since I had won the championship, the accused wanted to congratulate me."

"I went to the room where I met the accused. He made me talk to my parents on the phone, since at that time I did not possess a personal mobile phone," she claimed.

"However, after the phone call ended, to my utter shock and surprise, the accused called me towards his bed where he was sitting and then all of a sudden, he hugged me forcefully without my permission."

"He in order to further fulfil his sexual intentions, also tried to bribe me by offering to buy me supplements which I may require as an athlete in exchange for sexual favours," the FIR said.

ECB CEO Backs ICC's Proposed Revenue Model

'India justified in getting 38 per cent of earnings'

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India make immense contribution in driving revenues and fuelling the growth of cricket globally and deserve to earn USD 230 million per year from 2024 to 2027 under ICC's proposed financial model, feels ECB chief executive officer Richard Gould.

According to the new proposed distribution model, the Indian cricket board (BCCI) could earn 38.5 per cent of the USD 600 million earnings over the next four year commercial cycle with the ECB (USD 41.33 million) and Cricket Australia (USD 37.53 million) being the next highest earners.

The PCB is likely to take home USD 34.51 million (5.75 per cent), while the rest will be shared by the remaining eight full members. In total, the 12 full members will get USD 532.84 million (88.81 per cent) with the remaining USD 67.16 million (11.19 per cent) going to the associate members out of the USD 600 million projected pool.

The proposals, which are due to be ratified by the ICC, were criticised as it will only further increase the financial disparity in the game.

However, Gould defended ICC's new allocation model.

"When you see where that value is created, I think it's understandable," Gould said on the latest episode of The Final



Word podcast.

"There may be tweaks in the margins here or there, but the dominant position India is in based on India's ability to drive revenues and drive the sport forward. One point four billion people, one sport, ten (IPL) teams, one international team."

"What I'm also fascinated by is India's determination also to assist the world game. You look at the percentages and go 'Well, that's not fair it should be split equally'. But we've got to look at the size of the market. "India play as many international fixtures as any other team in the world. And they do that because they know when they tour as an international team, they bring interest and revenue to that home side. I think it's important to see things in the round, in that regard," he added.

Gould acknowledged the disparity, but he took a holistic view of the situation.

"I get it (the financial inequality). But I also understand how important India is, because without them we wouldn't have the kind of revenues that are coming into the game," he said.

Afghanistan Win Opening ODI Against Sri Lanka



Agencies

HAMBANTOTA: Sri Lanka has several headaches ahead of its World Cup qualifiers in two weeks' time after suffering a heavy six-wickets defeat against Afghanistan on Friday.

Set a target of 269, Afghanistan got there with 19 deliveries to spare to take the opener of the three-match one-day international series.

Ibrahim Zadran was the hero for the visitors, top scoring with 98 runs. The opening batter took the Sri Lankan quicks to task during the Power Play as he raced to his half-century in just 35 balls.

Zadran, a 21-year-old right-handed batter, settled down after the field restrictions as he added 146 runs with Rahmat Shah for the second wicket as the Afghans proved Sri Lanka's total of 268 was way below par.

Kasun Rajitha broke the stand when he had Zadran caught at deep mid-wicket, just two runs short of his fourth ODI hundred.

Zadran's 98 runs came off 98 balls with 11 hits to the ropes and two over it.

Sri Lanka also dismissed Rahmat Shah for 55 when Matheesha Pathirana claimed his first ODI wicket. But Hashmathullah Shahidi's 38 sealed the game for his side.

The Afghan captain shared 42 runs for the fourth wicket with Mohammad Nabi, who remained 27 not out.

Sri Lanka brought in the experienced Dimuth Karunaratne and Angelo Mathews to the ODI squad to address the team's batting woes. But it was back to square one as they slumped to 84-4 with Mathews (12) and Karunaratne (4) not able to make big contributions.

Charith Asalanka held the Sri Lankan innings together with his seventh half-century and went on to score 91 off 95 balls with 12 fours. He was well backed up by Dhananjaya de Silva (51) as they shared a 99-run partnership for the fifth wicket. But Sri Lanka needed much more than that.

5 Of The Most Memorable Manchester Derbies As City, United Head Into FA Cup Final

Agencies

LONDON: A look at five of the most memorable matches between Manchester City and Manchester United ahead of Saturday's FA Cup final:

MANCHESTER CITY 1, MANCHESTER UNITED 0 (April 1974)

The most famous Manchester derby of them all because of the identity of the goal scorer. Denis Law didn't celebrate after backheeling the ball into the net in the 81st minute to give City the win against a club where he had spent 11 years and was part of the "Holy Trinity" also containing Bobby Charlton and George Best. Indeed, Law was substituted right away, leaving the field at Old Trafford with his head down, and didn't play again for City. United was relegated from the top division that day, though it wasn't purely because of the loss to City — as many wrongly claim — but because of results elsewhere on the final day of the season. Because of field invasions in the 85th minute, the match never actually finished but the result ended up standing.

MANCHESTER CITY 6,

MANCHESTER UNITED 1 (October 2011)

Alex Ferguson called it his worst day in charge of United and it was understandable why, with his team falling to its biggest Premier League loss at the time and the club's worst defeat at Old Trafford since 1955. The best-remembered goal was by Mario Balotelli, who — after scoring the opener in the 22nd minute — lifted up his City jersey to reveal a T-shirt with the message "Why Always Me?" on it. The game was played a day after emergency services were called to his house after a firework reportedly went off in Balotelli's bathroom. A red card for United defender Jonny Evans early in the second half enabled City to run riot late in the game, scoring three times from the 90th minute. City, newly wealthy after being taken over by Abu Dhabi's royal family in 2008, had arrived as a force and would go on to snatch the title from United on goal difference that season after Sergio Aguero's stoppage-time goal in the final league match.

MANCHESTER UNITED 4, MANCHESTER CITY 3 (September 2009)



In terms of excitement, this was perhaps the best derby ever and it had a fitting finish with Michael Owen — coming on as a substitute — poking home the winning goal for United in the sixth minute of stoppage time. Ferguson, chewing gum in his inimitable way, did a jig on the touchline; City manager Mark Hughes — a former United player

— shouted angrily at the officials. A past-his-best Owen had only been signed by United that year following the departure of Cristiano Ronaldo and Carlos Tevez, the latter controversially going to City and making his first return to Old Trafford in this game. United squandered the lead three times, the third occasion in the 90th minute, only to pull

through because of Owen's greatest moment in a United shirt.

MANCHESTER UNITED 1, MANCHESTER CITY 1 (April 2001)

This match gains more modern-day relevance because of the presence of Erling Haaland in City's current treble-chasing team. After all, it was his father, Alf-Inge, who played a central role in the game after he was on the end of a brutal knee-high challenge by Roy Keane that earned the United captain a red card at Old Trafford. Keane then leaned over Haaland — writhing in agony on the ground — and mouthed some obscenities before leaving the field, gaining belated revenge on the Norwegian who had accused Keane of feigning what proved to be a serious injury when they played against each other in 1997 (when Haaland was at Leeds). Haaland already had an issue with the left knee targeted by Keane and only played a few more games before being forced to retire. Would that incident ultimately prevent Erling from ever joining United, given what his father went through? Two decades later, Erling signed for City — a transfer Alf-Inge was heavily in-

volved in — and is already breaking records there.

MANCHESTER CITY 1, MANCHESTER UNITED 0 (April 2011)

Was this the defining match that helped tip the balance of power in Manchester to the blue half of the city? The neighbors met in the FA Cup semifinals at Wembley Stadium, with City emerging victorious thanks to Yaya Toure's second-half strike. City went on to win the cup, beating Stoke in the final to end a 35-year wait for a major trophy, and has dominated English soccer ever since with 15 trophies in the last 12 years. It will go down as one of the most significant goals in the club's history and Toure spoke this week about the belief this victory over United — league champion and a Champions League finalist that season — gave City in the early stage of its Abu Dhabi-fueled growth. "It was a mark of the change that was happening," Toure said. "There was a big celebration. The executives were on the train with us, they came into the dressing room to share our happiness. They were feeling like, 'This is it now, change is coming now at Man City.'" (AP)

Dubai Businessman Kabir Mulchandani Offers ₹11 Lakh Party On His Plane

Agenceis

If Dubai hotels are constantly trying to outdo each other by reaching to stratospheric heights with their over-the-top amenities, one hotelier wants to win the battle once and for all: He's literally taken his brand to the sky.

Starting Thursday, the party-hard Five Hotels & Resorts starts accepting bookings on its very own 16-passenger private jet, promising that the entertainment will begin before you even get to Dubai. Flights aren't limited to hotel guests, though. Anyone can book the plane for a trip of up to 12 hours.

This isn't the stuffy corporate jet seen on Succession, where people whisper about contingency plans and offer talking points. This plane is made for boozy celebrations and out-of-your-seat dancing: Its LED lights can make the entire cabin glow purple or whatever color you'd like. Behind a door toward the back of the main cabin is the bedroom with a king-size bed. Instructions printed next to it remind passengers that its maximum occupancy is two, and a "gust belt" must be worn when in use. (Picture a long seatbelt that goes under the covers in the middle of the mattress.)

"We've started thinking of ourselves as an entertainment company," says Kabir Mulchandani, Five Global Holdings' chairman and founder, who personally owns the plane. The group's first hotel, Five Palm Jumeirah, is already known locally as one

of the biggest party hotels in the city. It regularly hosts star DJs for beach parties, and guests can drive its supercar right into the hotel's nightclub-for a fee of 10,000 dirhams (\$2,723).

A select number of hotels own their own aircraft, but for logistical purposes, not for partying: Luxury African safari operators have fleets of small planes to reach extremely remote destinations, while some in the Maldives operate planes to bring guests to outlying islands. Luxury resort Aurora Anguilla owns a jet to offer quicker passage to guests from South Florida or New York City, and it's also used to import necessary items to its namesake island, where local purchasing is limited. Meanwhile, hotels such as Aman and Four Seasons have offered private-jet trips, but they are excursions of a few weeks at a time, rather than simply a mode of transportation, with logistics arranged by third-party operators.

Trips on the Five plane will cost about \$13,000 to \$14,000 per hour of flight time, not including various relocation costs, which would mean about \$195,000 for a round trip between London and Dubai. At about \$12,000 per person on a full flight, it's roughly equivalent to a first-class ticket on Emirates Airlines.

"For the type of aircraft, considering that it has a VIP arrangement inside, I'd say it's a very good price," said Dominique Bousquet, team manager at private-jet charter firm Welojets.

Mysterious, Loud Underground Sounds Trouble Kerala Village, Experts Called



Agenceis

Kottayam, Kerala: Mysterious underground sounds caused concern among local people residing in a tiny hamlet in Kottayam district of Kerala.

The deafening sounds were heard twice in the early hours of Friday, the people of Chenappady village said. Similar sounds were reported in the area and some neighbouring places earlier this week also, they said.

The villagers said there was no visible change in the surrounding environment and only

a scientific study could ascertain the exact cause of the continuing underground sounds.

Officials of the Kerala Department of Mining and Geology said their expert team would soon inspect the area.

A department source said they had already examined the site when the sounds were first heard earlier this week. "Based on the reports that similar huge sounds were heard today again, our experts will soon examine the place," the source told Press Trust of India.

However, she said only a de-

tailed scientific study carried out by the Centre for Earth Sciences (CES) could ascertain the actual cause of the recurring seismic sounds.

"We have our own limitations in analysing such phenomenon. So, we have already submitted a request to the CES to conduct an examination and study in the area," the source told Press Trust of India.

The geology department experts, however, would inspect the area again and try to analyse the details in this regard, the source added.

Japan Privacy Watchdog Warns ChatGPT Maker Over Sensitive Data Collection



Agenceis

Tokyo: Japan's privacy watchdog said on Friday it has warned OpenAI, the Microsoft-backed startup behind the ChatGPT chatbot, not to collect sensitive data without people's permission. OpenAI should minimise the sensitive data it collects for machine learning, the Personal Information Protection Commission said in a statement, adding it may take further action if it has more concerns.

Regulators around the world are scrambling to draw up rules governing the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI), which can create text and images, the impact of which proponents compare to the arrival of the internet.

While Japan has been on the backfoot with some recent technology trends, it is seen as having greater incentive to keep pace with advances in AI and robotics to maintain productivity as its population shrinks.

The watchdog noted the need to balance privacy concerns with the potential benefits of generative AI including in accelerating

innovation and dealing with problems such as climate change.

Japan is the third-largest source of traffic to OpenAI's website, according to analytics firm Similarweb. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman in April met Prime Minister Fumio Kishida with an eye to expansion in Japan, ahead of the Group of Seven (G7) leaders summit where Kishida led a discussion on regulating AI.

The EU, a global trendsetter on tech regulation, set up a taskforce on ChatGPT and is working on what could be the first set of rules to govern AI.

In the meantime, the rapid spread of such chatbots has meant regulators have had to rely on existing rules to bridge the gap.

Italian regulator Garante had ChatGPT taken offline before the company agreed to install age verification features and let European users block their information from being used to train the system.

Altman last week said OpenAI had no plans to leave Europe after earlier suggesting the startup might do so if EU regulations were too difficult to comply with.

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