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- It is mandatory for all Yatris to wear the RFID cards issued by SASB at all times during the Yatra.
- Yatris should wear comfortable clothes during the Yatra. Yatris are advised to wear trekking shoes.
- Yatris are advised to walk slowly while ascending and take time to acclimatize themselves.
- Yatris should drink adequate quantity of water to keep themselves hydrated.
- In case a Yatri is experiencing shortness of breath/ discomfort, he/ she must contact the nearest medical facility, and try to descend to lower altitude if possible.

Don'ts for the Yatris

- Yatris must avoid exerting themselves beyond their capacities and take frequent breaks and rests en-route.
- No Yatri shall be allowed to enter the Yatra area without RFID card.
- Yatris must avoid polluting the environment by littering waste material along the trekking route and surroundings.
- Yatris are advised not to commence journey empty stomach.
- Yatris must avoid drinking alcohol, caffeinated drinks and smoking.
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For India-Pak World Cup Game, Ahmedabad Hotel Prices As High As Rs 1 Lakh

Press Trust of India

Ahmedabad: Hotel room rates here have skyrocketed, nearly ten-fold in some cases, for October 15 after the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday announced the fixtures for the ODI World Cup, showing that India and Pakistan would face off in Ahmedabad on that day.

Rates on various hotel booking websites suggest that unprecedented demand may have led to the sharp surge in the room tariff for October 15, when the arch-rivals will be playing at the Narendra Modi stadium here.

Room rentals have gone up nearly 10 times, with some hotels charging close to 1 lakh, while many are already sold out for that day.

On normal days, room rent in luxury hotels hovers between 5,000 and 8,000 in the city. It has jumped to 40,000, and 1 lakh in some places, for October 15.

As per the hotel booking portal 'booking.com', the rent for one deluxe room for July 2 is 5,699 at Welcome Hotel by ITC Hotels in the city. But, the same hotel will charge 71,999 if one wants to stay for a day on October 15.

Renaissance Ahmedabad Hotel on SG Highway, which now charges nearly 8,000 for a day, is

showing the per-day room rent at 90,679 on the match day in October.

Similarly, Pride Plaza Hotel on SG Highway has upped its rental to 36,180 for that day. The Cama Hotel on Sabarmati Riverfront, an otherwise budget-friendly hotel that would charge little over 3,000 for the upcoming Sunday, has hiked its rental to 27,233.

Owing to the unprecedented demand, rooms are not available for October 15 at ITC Narmada, Courtyard by Marriott, Hyatt and Taj Skyline Ahmedabad, all five-star hotels in the city.

According to the office-bearers of the Hotels and Restaurants Association (HRA) - Gujarat, the prices were hiked by hotels in accordance with the demand, mostly from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) as well as upper-middle-class cricket fans living in other states.

When inquiries start pouring in for some particular dates, hotels would increase their tariff, said HRA-Gujarat spokesperson Abhijeet Deshmukh.

"If the hoteliers think that the demand is very high for a particular period, they will try to make some revenue because they are assured that rooms will be full despite higher rates. Once the demand drops, the room rentals will also come down," said Mr Deshmukh.

This Indian Hotel Named Third Best In The World. The Number 1 Is...

Agencies

The 94-room Belmont Hotel Cipriani has a storied history. It was opened in the 1950s by the inventor of the Bellini, with a bar that continues to be legendary to this day. It has an Olympic-sized outdoor swimming pool at the edge of the Canale di San Giorgio Maggiore, apparently the result of confusion between feet and meters during construction. And on Thursday it was named the best hotel in the world by a new list that gives properties a composite score based on information that's compiled from a wide array of sources.

The list, called Top 1,000 World's Best Hotels, is by French company La Liste. Its rankings are not a result of a judging panel that conducts in-person visits, but rather a compilation of customer ratings on booking websites, published reviews from travel magazines, global and local media coverage, as well as other travel guides. It's a similar format and methodology as what the company uses to produce the namesake global restaurants list for which it's best known.

Helene Pietrini, managing director of La Liste, said she saw a gap in the market for a resource that pulls together various reviews into one place that travellers

can scroll through to get their imagination going.

"People love to be inspired with hotels ranked from the best to not the worst, but all the great hotels in the world," she said in an interview. "They want to see a longer list of great places to go to, not always the most expensive." Sustainability and uniqueness are more important to some consumers than luxury, she added, which is in part why some specific hotels are pulled out and highlighted.

La Liste joins a crowded field of rankings and guides for travellers-though few have tackled hotels specifically. Other rankings, for instance, offer insight on the world's best destinations, restaurants, bars and airlines. Even Michelin began as a travel guide, scoring eateries for road trippers criss-crossing Europe. But La Liste will soon gain important competition: In September, 50 Best will release its own inaugural hotel ranking to complement its influential lists of the World's Best Restaurants and Bars. (Pietrini used to work at 50 Best.)

The publications usually make money through sponsorships with culinary or beverage brands, credit-card and travel-related companies. The Michelin Guide, 50 Best and others also take money from municipalities, states or publicly funded tourism agencies, who wish to promote and lend credibility to their local dining scenes.

Vehicles Running 100% On Ethanol To Be Launched In August: Gadkari

Agencies

New Delhi: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said that new vehicles running 100 per cent on ethanol will be launched in August.

In an interview with ANI Editor Smita Prakash, Mr Gadkari said, "From August, I will be launching vehicles running 100 per cent on Ethanol. Bajaj, TVS and Hero have manufactured motorcycles running 100 per cent on Ethanol."

He said that just like Toyota company's Camry car, which runs on 60 per cent petrol and 40 per cent on electricity, will now be bringing vehicles that run on 60 per cent ethanol and 40 per cent electricity.

"Like Toyota company's Camry car which runs on 60 per cent petrol and 40 per cent electricity, through Toyota we will also be launching vehicles which run on 60 per cent on ethanol and 40 per cent on electricity," he added.

Mr Gadkari said that this initiative will be a revolution in the country.

"This will be a revolutionary initiative because it will be import-substitute, cost-effective, pollution-free and indigenous. This is prepared by farmers because now ethanol is made from sugarcane juice," the Union Minister said.

Talking about development works in the country, Mr Gadkari asserted that he has always done work beyond politics and BJP has taught him to do justice to all.

"I make sure that everyone's work gets done when it's important. I have always done that even beyond politics. That is what the BJP has taught us: to do justice to all, and that is



"This will be a revolutionary initiative because it will be import-substitute, cost-effective, pollution-free and indigenous. This is prepared by farmers because now ethanol is made from sugarcane juice"

what makes us strong. Politics and development should not be mixed up. I am a Karyakarta of the BJP, but the government belongs to the people of the country. That is why Prime Minister Modi said, Sabka Saath Sabka Viswas Sabka Prayas," Mr Gadkari said.

He said road development has been undertaken in all states beyond politics. Mr Gadkari said that Chief Ministers from South or other states where BJP doesn't have a state government also come to meet him to discuss developmental projects and he has undertaken most of them.

"The works are being undertaken in all states beyond politics. Mamata Ji from Bengal recently came to meet me, and we discussed some projects. Chief Ministers and other officials from southern states also come to meet me and I hold meetings with all of them, and discuss projects to be undertaken there. It doesn't make us look bad. It makes our government look strong," the Union Minister said.

He said, "Roads go through

and that is what our politics is intended for," he said.

Mr Gadkari also slammed the opposition for attacking Veer Savarkar and the syllabus revamp. He said that Savarkar was a revolutionary and we cannot forget the sacrifices and work he has done for the nation. "It is not right to deny all that he has done. The party which brought Emergency and kept many revolutionaries locked up in jail does not deserve to comment," he said.

Mr Gadkari also claimed that the BJP will be sweeping the upcoming legislative elections in states as well as the general elections in 2024.

Mr Gadkari is called the Highwayman of India due to the transformational change he has brought in the country's infrastructure and connectivity in the last nine years as minister of road transport and highways.

Mr Gadkari comes from the city of Nagpur where he started his political career as a Karyakarta of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad.

Mr Gadkari is also credited for being the man behind the first ever expressway (Mumbai-Pune) by bringing new technologies into the country and helping private companies to ensure quality work in creating modern infrastructure.

Mr Gadkari is also a strong advocate of sustainable development and his eco-friendly initiatives in road construction have led to the use of garbage in road construction as a raw material.

Before taking charge as union minister, Mr Gadkari donned several hats in the organisation as well as governance and has served as BJP national president from 2009 to 2013 and PWD Minister from 1995-1999 in Maharashtra.

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- 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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UN Drops India From Children Of Conflict Report Over 'Improvement' In J&K

Press Trust Of India

United Nations: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has removed India from his annual report on the impact of armed conflict on children, citing measures taken by the Indian government to better protect them.

India was mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict since 2010 along with other countries of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Lake Chad basin, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the Philippines for alleged recruitment and use of boys by armed groups in Jammu and Kashmir; detention of boys by Indian security forces in J&K for their alleged association with armed groups, or on national security grounds.

Guterres said in his report last year, he had welcomed the engagement of the Indian government with his special representative and noted that it might lead to the removal of India as a situation of concern. In his 2023 report on Children and Armed Conflict, the UN chief said, "In view of the measures taken by the government to better protect children, India has been removed from the report in 2023."

Guterres highlighted the technical mission of the office of his special representative

in July 2022 to identify areas of cooperation for child protection, and the workshop on strengthening child protection held in Jammu and Kashmir last November by the government, with the participation of the United Nations.

In his latest report, he also called upon India to implement the remaining measures identified in consultation with his special representative and the United Nations.

These include the training of armed and security forces on child protection, prohibition of the use of lethal and non-lethal force on children, including ending the use of pellet guns, ensuring that children are detained as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, Guterres said.

He also stressed the implementation of measures to prevent all forms of ill-treatment in detention and the full implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Briefing reporters on Tuesday, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Virginia Gamba said that for the last two years, "we have been working very closely with India".



IN VIEW OF THE MEASURES TAKEN by the government to better protect children, India has been removed from the report in 2023."

"India decided to start a prevention engagement," she said, adding the country indicated that it was ready to start engagement to see if it could put in place measures that could be sustained through time and would allow for it to be removed from the report.

In last year's report, Guterres had said he was concerned by the "increased number of

and Kashmir, and progress in the creation of a Jammu and Kashmir Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

The Government of India had been consistently engaged in efforts to exclude the country's name from this ignoble list, the Ministry of Women and Child Development said in New Delhi.

It led to an agreement to appoint a national focal point to identify priority national interventions to enhance the protection of children, a joint technical mission to hold inter-ministerial, technical-level meetings with the UN to identify areas of enhanced cooperation for child protection, it said in a press release.

Under the guidance and leadership of Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Women And Child Development, a road map for cooperation and collaboration on child protection issues was developed by the Ministry.

New Delhi had expressed concerns that the 2022 report included situations that are "not situations of armed conflict" or threats to the maintenance of international peace and security.

In his annual report on children and armed conflict released here Tuesday, Guterres said that globally in 2022, children continued to be

disproportionately affected by armed conflict, and the number of children verified as affected by grave violations increased compared with 2021.

The United Nations verified 27,180 grave violations, of which 24,300 were committed in 2022 and 2,880 were committed earlier but verified only in 2022.

Violations affected 18,890 children (13,469 boys, 4,638 girls, 783 sex unknown) in 24 situations and one regional monitoring arrangement, it said.

The highest numbers of violations were the killing (2,985) and maiming (5,655) of 8,631 children, followed by the recruitment and use of 7,622 children and the abduction of 3,985 children. Children were detained for actual or alleged association with armed groups (2,496), including those designated as terrorist groups by the United Nations, or for national security reasons, Guterres said in his report.

The United Nations verified the killing (253) and maiming (656) of 909 children (732 boys, 177 girls), attributed to unidentified perpetrators (694), Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-KP) (112), the Taliban (98) and cross-border shelling from Pakistan (five).

Searing Heat Takes Toll On Hajj Pilgrims

Agencies

Riyadh: Hundreds of pilgrims have suffered heat stroke since the start of the Hajj season the Saudi Ministry of Health reported on Thursday.

There were 1098 cases, the ministry said in a statement, adding it had witnessed an increase in the number of cases of people suffering from the effect of extreme heat.

The statement went on to warn pilgrims that they needed to take extra care by following the instructions issued.

This year Hajj season is taking place in the summer months which is witnessing a significant rise in temperatures.

The ministry advised people to use umbrellas, drink plenty of fluids, avoid physical exertion, and follow health guidelines to avoid heatstroke. It went on to add that its hospitals in Makkah were ready to provide all kinds of medical care to pilgrims.

PM Modi Says Eid Mubarak

Agencies

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted people on the occasion of Eid ul-Adha.

"Greetings on Eid ul-Azha. May this day bring happiness and prosperity to everyone. May it also uphold the spirit of togetherness and harmony **More on P6**

Think, Rethink Consequences Of UCC: Farooq To Centre

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said the Centre should not push through with the Uniform Civil Code and rethink the consequences of implementing it.

"They should rethink about it. This is a diverse nation, people of different races and religions live here and Muslims have their own shariah law," Abdullah told reporters at Hazratbal after offering Eid-ul Azha prayers.

The Lok Sabha member from Srinagar said the government should think and rethink about the consequences of implementing the UCC. They should keep all this under consideration and instead of pushing it through, they should think of the consequences. Lest, there might be a storm," he added.

His remarks come two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong pitch for UCC and wondered how a country can function with dual laws that govern personal matters.

Abdullah also welcomed the pilgrims **More on P6**



Around 50,000 devotees offered Eid-ul-Azha prayers at the revered Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar on Thursday, making it the largest congregation in the Valley.

Complaint Filed Against Mehbooba Over 'Anti-Army' Tweet

Agencies

Jammu: A social and political activist has lodged a complaint against PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti in Nawab police station in Jammu for "spreading misinformation" and levelling "fake and irresponsible" allegations against Army.

Both Raj Sharma in his police complaint said that the People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief shared a message on her Twitter account which may be described as "provocative" and requested the police to lodge an FIR against her under relevant sections of the law.

Sharma in his complaint said that it was "irresponsible" on the part of Mehbooba Mufti to post a message against the army "without any proof," and that too just before the Amarnath Yatra.

He warned that if no action is taken against the PDP chief he will be forced to approach the court.

Notably, Mehbooba Mufti



had on Saturday tweeted that she was "shocked to hear about army troops storming into a mosque at Pulwama" and "forcing" people to chant a religious slogan.

However, later she cited a media report and thanked the army for launching a probe into the incident. "Thankful to @ChinarcopsIA for taking swift action in the Zadoora incident. Only genuine accountability will restore trust between civilians & armed forces. Kashmir is the only state where a pilgrimage like Amarnath Yatra **More on P6**

Sweetener in Diet Coke A Possible Carcinogen

Aspartame Sweetener, Used In Diet Sodas And Chewing Gum, Likely To Be Named A Carcinogen By WHO's Cancer Research Agency

Agencies

London: One of the world's most common artificial sweeteners is set to be declared a possible carcinogen next month by a leading global health body, according to two sources with knowledge of the process, pitting it against the food industry and regulators.

Aspartame, used in products from Coca-Cola diet sodas to Mars' Extra chewing gum and some Snapple drinks, will be listed in July as "possibly carcinogenic to humans" for the first time by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the World Health Organization's (WHO) cancer research arm, the sources said.

The IARC ruling, finalised earlier this month after a meeting of the group's external experts, is intended to assess whether something is a potential hazard or not, based on all the published evidence.



It does not take into account how much of a product a person can safely consume. This advice for individuals comes from a separate WHO expert committee on food additives, known as JECFA (the Joint WHO and Food and Agriculture Organization's Expert Committee on Food Additives), alongside determinations from national regulators.

However, similar IARC rulings in the past for different

substances have raised concerns among consumers about their use, led to lawsuits, and pressured manufacturers to recreate recipes and swap to alternatives. That has led to criticism that the IARC's assessments can be confusing to the public.

JECFA, the WHO committee on additives, is also reviewing aspartame use this year. Its meeting began at the end of June and it is due to announce its findings on the **More on P6**

AMARNATH YATRA

First Batch Of Pilgrims To Leave From Jammu Today

LG Welcomes Amarnath Pilgrims At Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar



Observer News Service

Jammu: Amid stringent security cover, the first batch of Amarnath yatriis will be flagged-off from here on Friday, heralding the 62-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in South Kashmir.

The first batch of pilgrims in convoy of buses and cars carrying the pilgrims to the Kashmir valley for the Amarnath yatra will leave from base camp here early Friday morning.

So far, over 3 lakh devotees have already got themselves registered for the pilgrimage.

LG Sinha is reportedly to flag-off the first batch of pilgrims tomorrow.

The 62-day-long pilgrimage will commence on July 1 from the twin tracks the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

Over 1,500 pilgrims, including sadhus, have arrived in Jammu city for the yatra to the 3,880-metre shrine starting on July 1.

Meanwhile, the Union

Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday welcomed pilgrims from across the country on their arrival at Yatri Niwas here for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage.

The LG, who is also the Chairman of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, visited Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar and reviewed arrangements put in place for the pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said, took stock of food and lodging of the pilgrims, security, functioning of Joint Control Room, langer stalls, registration counters, power and water supply, health facilities, sanitation, transportation, deployment of health and sanitation staff, installation of mobile toilets, fire tenders and emergency services.

"The LG directed the officials to increase the manpower for health, sanitation and other essential services. He welcomed pilgrims from across the country who have arrived at Yatri Niwas for Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage. During the interaction, the **More on P6**

THE LG DIRECTED THE OFFICIALS TO INCREASE THE MANPOWER FOR HEALTH, sanitation and other essential services. He welcomed pilgrims from across the country who have arrived at Yatri Niwas for Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage. During the interaction, the Lt Governor also enquired about the facilities."

Muslim Leaders Say Qur'an Burning In Sweden Fuels Extremism

Agencies

DUBAI: Muslims around the world have joined Saudi Arabia in condemning the burning of a copy of the Qur'an by an Iraqi national outside Stockholm's largest mosque on Wednesday.

Under a heavy police presence, Salwan Momika, a 37-year-old who fled to Sweden several years ago, on Wednesday stomped on the Qur'an before setting several pages alight in front of the mosque in the Swedish capital.

Police had granted him a permit for the protest in line with free-speech protections, but said later it had opened an investigation into the Qur'an burning which sparked anger across the Muslim world.

It is not the first time such an act has happened in Sweden.

In January, a Swedish-Danish right-wing extremist burned a copy of the Qur'an near the Turkish embassy in Stockholm, also triggering outrage in the Muslim world.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Momika's protest was "legal but not appropriate," and it was up to the police to permit it or not.

The incident occurred as Muslims around the world marked the Eid al-Adha holiday.

The Iraqi government in a statement issued late Wednesday strongly condemned "the repeated acts of burning copies of the holy Qur'an by individuals with extremist and disturbed minds."

"These acts demonstrate a hateful and aggressive spirit that goes against the principles of freedom of expression," it said.

"They are not only racist but also promote violence and hatred." "These irresponsible actions, in direct conflict with the values of respect for diversity and the beliefs of others, are unequivocally condemned."

The United Arab Emirates summoned the Swedish ambassador on Thursday to protest against the burning of the holy book, the UAE foreign ministry said in a statement.

Jordan summoned Sweden's ambassador in Amman on Thursday, said it considered the act as an "incitement and racism."

The Foreign Ministry said burning the Holy Qur'an was an act of "dangerous hate and a manifestation of Islamophobia" that incites violence.

The Ministry's statement said burning the Quran "cannot" be considered a form of freedom of expression, adding there is a "need to stop irresponsible behavior and actions."

The Ministry said hate speech and action must be countered and there must be promotion for a culture of peace and acceptance.

And Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the burning of the Quran offended Muslims around the globe, adding that people needed to promote the values of tolerance and coexistence. "This serious provocative move offends Muslims around the world," the ministry said in a statement.

"The state of Kuwait reminds the international community and all countries concerned of their responsibility for acting against hate and religious extremism, and stopping the hostile acts that target the Muslim's sanctities."



'Internet Shutdowns Cost Indian Economy \$1.9 Billion So Far In 2023'

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: Internet shutdowns by law enforcement agencies like the one in Manipur and Punjab cost USD 1.9 billion to the Indian economy in the first half of 2023, a report said on Thursday.

The shutdowns also led to a loss of nearly USD 118 million in foreign investment and triggered over 21,000 job losses, the global non-profit Internet Society said in its report 'Netloss', according to Press Trust of India.

The non-profit arrived at the financial impact of the shutdown going beyond the loss of output and included factors like change in the unemployment rate, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) lost, risks of future shutdowns, population in the working age etc.

"Governments often mistakenly believe that internet

shutdowns will quell unrest, stop the spread of misinformation, or reduce harm from cybersecurity threats. But shutdowns are extremely disruptive to economic activity," the report said.

India's regular use of shutdowns as a tool to maintain public order gives India a shutdown risk of 16 per cent so far this year, one of the highest in the world as of 2023, it said.

Shutdowns halt e-com-

merce, generate losses in time-sensitive transactions, increase unemployment, interrupt business-customer communications, and create

financial and reputational risks for companies, it said. The non-profit started in 1992 made it clear that it is opposed to shutdowns and urged governments to refrain from implementing them due to the damage they inflict on a nation's economy, civil society, and internet infrastructure.

"The global rise in internet shutdowns shows that governments continue to ignore the negative consequences of undermining the

India's regular use of shutdowns as a tool to maintain public order gives India a shutdown risk of 16 per cent so far this year, one of the highest in the world as of 2023

open, accessible, and secure nature of the global internet," Internet Society president and chief executive Andrew Sullivan said.

"Mere Opposition To Sharia...": Team Thackeray On Uniform Civil Code

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: The Shiv Sena (UBT) today said that "mere opposition to Sharia" cannot be the basis for the Uniform Civil Code,



asserting that Uniform Civil Code also means having equality in law and justice for all.

Sharia is an Islamic religious law based on the teachings of the Quran and the traditional sayings of Muhammad.

In an editorial in its mouthpiece 'Saamana', the Uddhav Thackeray-led party said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should first respect uniform law by disqualifying 40 MLAs including Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, whose Urban Development depart-

ment has taken action against 18 ex-corporators from the Bhiwandi Nizampur City Municipal Corporation (BNCMC).

Earlier this week, 18 former Congress corporators of BNCMC were disqualified from contesting any elections for the next six years for voting against their party's official mayoral candidate in 2019 and defying party whip.

"Only opposing the Sharia law of Muslims is not the basis for Uniform Civil Code. Having equality in law and justice is also Uniform Civil Code," the editorial said.

What law is it if "corrupt people, ministers, businessmen of the ruling party" are protected and leaders from opposition parties are implicated under anti-corruption statutes, it asked.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) also questioned the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) inquiry initiated by the Centre into alleged irregularities in the reconstruction expenses of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence.

US Supreme Court Bans Use Of Race, Ethnicity In University Admissions

Agencies

Washington: The US Supreme Court on Thursday banned the use of race and ethnicity in university admissions, dealing a major blow to a decades-old practice that boosted educational opportunities for African-Americans and other minorities.

One year after overturning the guarantee of a woman's right to have an abortion, the court's conservative majority again demonstrated its readiness to scrap liberal policies set in law since the 1960s.

The justices broke six to three along conservative-liberal lines in the decision, which came after years of ring-wing antipathy to "affirmative action" programs that have sought diversity in school admissions and business and government hiring.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the majority opinion that while affirma-



tive action was "well-intentioned and implemented in good faith," it cannot last forever, and amounted to unconstitutional discrimination against others.

"The student must be treated based on his or her experiences as an individual -- not on the basis of race," Roberts wrote.

The court said that universities were free to consider an applicant's background -- whether, for example, they grew up experiencing racism -- in weighing their application over more academically qualified students.

But deciding primarily

based on whether the applicant is white, Black or other is itself racial discrimination, Roberts wrote.

"Our constitutional history does not tolerate that choice," he said.

In a scathing rebuttal, Justice Sonia Sotomayor accused the majority of being colorblind to the reality of "an endemically segregated society."

"Ignoring race will not equalize a society that is racially unequal. What was true in the 1860s, and again in 1954, is true today: Equality requires acknowledgment of inequality," she wrote.

- Elite universities - The court sided with an activist group, Students for Fair Admissions, that sued the oldest private and public institutions of higher education in the country -- elite Harvard University and the University of North Carolina (UNC) -- over their admissions policies.

New Law In France Requires Parental Consent For Social Media Platforms

Agencies

Paris: France approved a new law Thursday requiring social media platforms like TikTok to verify users' ages and obtain parental consent for those under 15 years in an effort to protect children online.

The legislation is part of a string of recent moves by the government to reduce children's screen time and protect them from cyberbullying and other crimes.

The "landmark" law would be "applied as soon as possible", Digital Transition Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told lawmakers.

But the exact date the age verification bill will come into force remains unclear following Thursday's Senate approval, as no specific date was set and the European Commission has yet to check that it conforms with EU law.

Sites will then have a year to comply with the policy for new subscribers, and another two years to apply the requirements to existing users.

Lawmakers' concerns ranged from pornography to cyberstalking, unattainable beauty standards and the attention-grabbing addictive nature of the platforms, which pose a particular risk for youth.

Existing regulations mainly focused on collection of personal data have failed to have an impact on children's access to social media. Sites are in theory closed to those under the age of 13 in France.

But with some users signing up from just eight years of

age, according to the French National Commission for Technology and Freedoms (CNIL), more than half of children aged 10-14 use social media sites like Snapchat and Instagram.

The new law will explicitly require sites to obtain approval of a user's parent or guardian if they are under 15, using technical solutions that comply with guidelines set out by the French Arcom regulator.

Social media firms who breach the law will face a fine of up to 1 percent of their global revenues.

The law will also allow parents to request suspension



of accounts belonging to their children under 15, and will require sites to offer tools to limit the time children spend on the platform.

It will not be enough to put an end to concerns of children's safety online, admitted the lawmaker who spearheaded the act, Laurent Marcangeli, on Wednesday.

He further called for "advancements in age verification technology online and heavily investing into digital education for parents, children and teachers."

'72 Hoorain' Trailer Hasn't Been Denied Certification, Says Censor Board

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) today dismissed reports that

tar Hoorain (72 Hoorain) has been refused certification by Central Board of Film Certification. Contrary to the reports, CBFC states that the



the trailer of '72 Hoorain' was denied certification, saying the matter is "under due process".

On Tuesday, the film's co-producer, Ashoke Pandit, claimed the censor board refused to give a certificate to the trailer of the movie, set to be released on July 7.

"Misleading reports are being circulated in certain sections of media that a film and its trailer titled 'Bahat-

tar Hoorain (72 Hoorain) was granted 'A' certification and the certificate was issued on 4-10-2019," the board said in a press note.

Starring Pavan Malhotra and Aamir Bashir in the lead, the Sanjay Puri Singh Chauhan directorial focuses on the consequences of violent extremism. The filmmaker won the National Film Award for best direction for the film in 2021.

NEWS MAKERS

'NatGeo magazine lays off last 19 staff writers'

New Delhi: Finding it hard to sustain in the digital era, the 135-year old Walt Disney-owned National Geographic magazine has laid off the last 19 staff writers, the media reported.

The staffers were notified in April of their terminations. The layoffs are the second over the past nine months, and the fourth since a series of ownership changes began in 2015, the Washington Post reported. As part of the cost-cutting measures, the company had removed six top editors in September last year.

The latest cuts also eliminated the magazine's small audio department, the report said.



"My new National Geographic just arrived, which includes my latest feature -- my 16th, and my last as a senior writer," Craig Welch, senior writer at NatGeo, wrote on Twitter.

"NatGeo is laying off all of its staff writers. I've been so lucky. I got to work w/incredible journalists and tell important, global stories. It's been an honour," he added.

The company said its fu-

ture editorial work will be done by freelance writers and the few editors remaining on staff, the Post reported.

The famous bright-yellow-bordered print publication, which had more than 1.7 million subscribers at the end of 2022, will continue to publish monthly issues, a magazine spokesperson told CNN in a statement.

"Staffing changes will not change our ability to do this work, but rather give us more flexibility to tell different stories and meet our audiences where they are across our many platforms," the spokesperson said. "Any insinuation that the recent changes will negatively impact the magazine, or the quality of our storytelling, is simply incorrect."

"Godfather Of AI" Asks Governments To Stop Takeover Of Society By Machines

Toronto: Geoffrey Hinton, one of the so-called godfathers of artificial intelligence, urged governments on Wednesday to step in and make sure that machines do not take control of society.

Hinton made headlines in May when he announced that he quit Google after a decade of work to speak more freely on the dangers of AI, shortly after the release of ChatGPT captured the imagination of the world.

The highly respected AI scientist, who is based at the University of Toronto, was speaking to a packed audience at the Collision tech conference in the Canadian city.

The conference brought



together more than 30,000 startup founders, investors and tech workers, most looking to learn how to ride the AI wave and not hear a lesson on its dangers.

"Before AI is smarter than us, I think the people developing it should be encouraged to put a lot of work into understanding how it

might try and take control away," Hinton said.

"Right now there are 99 very smart people trying to make AI better and one very smart person trying to figure out how to stop it taking over and maybe you want to be more balanced," he said.

Hinton warned that the risks of AI should be taken seriously despite his critics who believe he is overplaying the risks.

"I think it's important that people understand that this is not science fiction, this is not just fear mongering," he insisted. "It is a real risk that we must think about, and we need to figure out in advance how to deal with it."

Char Chinari: The Jewel Crowns of Dal Lake

Mohammad Hanief

“
The Char Chinar
Island gardens came into limelight in 1970 with the movie song of Achha To Hum Chalthe Hain of Aan Milo Sajna movie of 1970 filmed on Rajesh Khanna and Asha Parekh. It used to be a haunt of tourists for its serenity and aesthetics owing to four gigantic chinars which stood on the four corners of the small island amid the vastness of the pristine lake

Farooq Ahmad, a resident of downtown Srinagar is fond of old Bollywood songs with legendary Bollywood stars like Shammi Kapoor, Asha Parik, Shashi Kapoor, Rajindra Kumar, Rishi Kapoor, Dimple Kapadia, Rajesh Khanna and Amitabh Bachan.

For Farooq, the main aim of watching old songs is to see the past beauty of Kashmir valley especially locations like the Dal Lake, Char Chinari, Gulmarg and Pahalgam.

However, the main attraction of the Bollywood stars in 1970s, 80s and 90s was the Dal Lake and quite a few Hindi film songs were recorded at the two Char Chinari (small lake islands) located on two different sides of Dal Lake.

Dal is a lake in Srinagar (Dal Lake is a misnomer as Dal in Kashmiri means lake), the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. The urban lake is integral to tourism and recreation in Kashmir. It is called the “Jewel in the crown of Kashmir” or “Srinagar’s Jewel” for this reason. The lake is also an important source for commercial operations in fishing and water plant harvesting.

The shore line of the lake is about 15.5 kilometers (9.6 mi), and is encompassed by a boulevard lined with Mughal era gardens, parks, houseboats and hotels. Scenic views of the lake can be witnessed from the shore line Mughal gardens, such as Shalimar Bagh and Nishat Bagh built during the reign of Mughal Emperor Jahangir and from houseboats cruising along the lake in the colourful shikaras. During the winter season, the temperature sometimes reaches 11 °C (12 °F), freezing the lake and migratory birds float in the lake making it a magnificent scene. The Dal Lake offers splendid colours and moods with every change in the weather that mesmerises the visitors and offers the ultimate shot to a photographer.

The lake covers an area of 18 square kilometres (6.9 sq mi) and is part of a natural wetland which covers 21.1 square kilometres (8.1 sq mi), including its floating gardens. The floating gardens, known as “Raad” in Kashmiri, blossom with lotus flowers during July and August. The wetland is divided by causeways into four basins; Gagribal, Lokut Dal, Bod Dal and Nagin (although Nagin is also considered as an independent lake). Lokut-dal and Bod-dal each have an island in the centre,



known as Rup Lank (or Char Chinari) and Sona Lank respectively.

Murad Baksh, brother of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, constructed the Rupa Lank. The second Chinar Island, known as Sona Lanka (Gold Island), is located on the Lokut Dal, and overlooks the holy shrine of Hazratbal.

Sona Lank “golden isle”, at the south end in the third portion of the lake was raised by Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin in 1421 AD for the shelter of the boatmen in Bod Dal (Big Dal). He built a three-storeyed house on the island which was destroyed by an earthquake.

Emperor Jahangir also built a cottage there, which also vanished. It was rebuilt by Afghan governor Amir Khan Jawansher (1770-76). Nehru Park is an island just a few yards away from the roadside near Shankar Acharya hill.

The famous Dal Lake of Srinagar city includes three islands, two of which are marked with beautiful Chinar trees located at Bod Dal and Lokut Dal and known as Rupa Lank (Silver Island) and Sona Lanka (Gold Island) respectively. These are marked with the presence of majestic Chinar trees at all four corners, thus giving it the name Char-Chinari (Four Chinars).

The garden in between the four chinars used to be the favourite place for visitors during peak summers to get some time away from the noise of the city. All

the visiting tourists and locals would enjoy their trips through Shikaras to reach both islands of Dal Lake.

The Char Chinar Island gardens came into limelight in 1970 with the movie song of Achha To Hum Chalthe Hain of Aan Milo Sajna movie of 1970 filmed on Rajesh Khanna and Asha Parekh. It used to be a haunt of tourists for its serenity and aesthetics owing to four gigantic chinars which stood on the four corners of the small island amid the vastness of the pristine lake.

Chinar trees can be found almost in every corner of valley, hills, planes, cities, villages and parks. Due to these reasons, they are widely preferred in gardens. They have many medicinal properties.

Chinar trees characteristically grow in the Eastern Himalayas. They have been an important part of Kashmiri tradition, in that, a Chinar tree is found in almost every village in Kashmir. These trees have survived for ages because Chinar is basically a long-living tree. The tree has several properties — leaves and bark are used as medicine, the wood, known as lace wood, has been used for delicate furniture and the twigs and roots are used for making dyes.

Chinar Leaf is a symbol of Kashmir which is green in summer season and in Autumn the color changes to blood red, amber, and yellow.

Over the years the size of the lake has shrunk to a large extent. Due to environmental changes and population growth. Protection measures to save the Dal lake from further hazards have been the prime concern of the authorities and people connected with the tourism industry in particular.

Earlier, the 2014 floods left two mighty chinars damaged, denting its iconic view from the boulevard around the lake.

On the directions of Lt. governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the J&K Forest Department formulated a strategy in October 2021 in consultation with technical experts of Floriculture Department, LCMA and Scientists of SKUAST and JKPRI for the restoration of ‘Ropa Lank’.

The unique operation was executed on February 19, 2022 and completed on the unique date 22-02-2022 when the two Chinars were finally planted, braving rain and snow on the day.

In February, 2022, Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department successfully completed transplantation operation of two tall Chinars at the Char Chinari in Dal Lake to restore its erstwhile glory and it was marked as a big achievement; a first-of-its-kind achievement in the country.

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AS I strolled homeward bound, the iridescent hues of dusk slowly melting into the melancholy of evening, a sudden cry from behind broke the serenity. My little cousin, with his impish grin and sparkling eyes, beckoned me towards him. His words burst forth like a delightful symphony, “Look what I’ve got for Eid, new clothes to adorn my personage! And pray tell, dear cousin, have you also graced your wardrobe with the finest attire, or do the years deem you exempt from such revelry?” In an instant, my heart was aflutter, caught off guard by his innocent query. With a gentle smile, I replied in earnest, confessing that I had not indulged in the customary pursuit of acquiring new garments for Eid. Yet, his inquiry lingered in my mind, igniting a poignant reflection on my past adolescent years. In that moment, I was transported to a bygone era, reminiscing on how ardently we craved the arrival of Eid, eagerly anticipating the new clothes that would adorn our youthful frames.

Once upon a time, the Eid of yore was a glorious celebration of pure delight. How vividly I recall those endless nights of wakefulness when the dawn finally broke! And yet, as my mother’s gentle voice roused us from our slumber, our weary eyes were stirred by the sweetest scent and aroma of joy. Truly, those were the moments that made life worth living, and we reveled in their glory as if they were the very essence of our existence. Oh, how our souls were lifted by the bountiful array of bakery and confectionery that graced our lips with each delectable bite. We knew that the delights of the day were only just beginning. For there was a world of wonder waiting to be explored, and we would savor every moment of it with the same joy and delight that had fueled us through the night. People would traverse across the town, bearing gifts of warm embraces and jovial laughter, spreading love and joy as they went. The air was rich with the sweet aroma of fresh fruit, exchanged as a gesture of love between relatives. And oh, the children! They were bestowed with the coveted eidi, a cherished token of appreciation and love on this blessed occasion. Alas, those days are gone, but the memories of that joyous time remain etched in our hearts forever.

In this age of technological marvels and superficial connections, the once cherished sentiments of

Echoes Of Eid

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

love and compassion have been callously replaced by the treacherous vices of jealousy, covetousness and envy. The advent of mobile phones has only exacerbated this malady, as we now barely make the effort to visit our loved ones, preferring instead to send a cursory text as a mere formality. The pure and noble emotion of love has been relegated to the annals of history, replaced by the cold and sterile world of virtual communication. Oh, how the heart aches for those simpler times when love was the cornerstone of our existence! In the bygone era, I fondly recollect the joyous occasion of Eid, where

with the intricate patterns of mehndi, a cherished art that only a few masters could command. The sheer beauty of the designs was such that young girls and children alike would flock to these artists, patiently waiting in long and winding queues for their turn to have their hands embellished with the rich and radiant colors of mehndi. Oh, how those memories were treasured, etched in the hearts and minds of those fortunate enough to have experienced such simple yet profound joys. During my tender years, the festivities of Eid were often marred by the presence of firecrackers, a bane that

“**The Girls would gather to adorn their hands with the intricate patterns of mehndi, a cherished art that only a few masters could command. The sheer beauty of the designs was such that young girls and children alike would flock to these artists, patiently waiting in long and winding queues for their turn to have their hands embellished with the rich and radiant colors of mehndi**

the pious and devout would gather to offer their prayers with fervor and devotion. The air would be thick with the sweet fragrance of love and blessings, as friends and family would embrace each other with genuine and candid hearts, their faces aglow with the radiance of love. Ah, those were the days when children would flock to the nearby parks, their laughter and playful screams echoing through the surroundings as they indulged in various recreational activities. But alas, those treasured memories now lie forgotten in the pages of time, a distant and fading echo of a simpler time, when the world was innocent and pure.

The Girls would gather to adorn their hands

I abhorred with every fiber of my being. The ignoble deeds of the mischievous young scamps who hurled these incendiary fireworks towards their innocent peers, particularly the gentle maidens who pleaded for mercy, were a source of great distress. Alas, their supplications fell upon deaf ears, and they were left to writhe in agony as the explosive blasts rent the air, while the perpetrators cackled with glee at their tormented cries.

As I weave the tapestry of my recollections, a vivid memory springs forth from the depths of my mind – a memory steeped in tradition and festivity. It is the memory of elders engaging in a rousing game of toss ring during the joyous occasion of Eid,

vying for coveted prizes with every skillful toss. And yet, amidst the excitement and merriment, there existed a playful subterfuge – the children’s crafty fibs about receiving the highest eidi, adding a delightful touch of whimsy to the festive air. In my youthful days, I indulged in the purchase of trinkets and eyewear priced at a humble sum of rupees ten. I vividly recall basking in the glory of my imagination, envisioning myself as a Bollywood protagonist, wielding a toy gun in one hand and donning a pair of spectacles in the other. It wasn’t long ago when I was chided for my ineptitude in mealtime etiquette, with a perplexed inquiry as to why I adorned glasses if I couldn’t even dine correctly. Albeit in our nascent years, we may have been oblivious to certain concepts, but somehow, we retain them in our memory, and eventually, the veil is lifted, and we gain a deeper understanding of the message being conveyed to us. Oh, how the past beckons with its cherished tales, begging to be revisited and relived! As the day draws to a close, and the sun surrenders to the embrace of the night, we trudge back to our humble abodes, laden with the weariness of the day. Our minds racing with anticipation, we implore our parents, “Is tomorrow Eid as well?” The affirmative response from them evokes a sensation of unparalleled elation and euphoria within us. Our countenances illuminated with joy, our parents proceed to inquire about the manner in which we’ve expended our Eidi. They advise us to invest in something useful, instead of squandering it on firecrackers. They also urge us to opt for healthier alternatives like fruits instead of junk food. Nostalgia consumes me as I reminisce about the Eid festivities of yesteryear, now a distant memory.

The weight of our current responsibilities has rendered us unable to relive those cherished moments. Now I comprehend why some individuals professed that Eid was solely for us as Indeed, really we were the undisputed monarchs of that era.

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Drama in Manipur: Rahul Gandhi visits Churachandpur camps by chopper as police halt convoy midway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal: Ethnic strife-torn Manipur witnessed high drama on Thursday over the visit of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to relief camps in Churachandpur after his convoy was stopped by the police midway and he had to take a helicopter to reach his destination. Gandhi who interacted with those sheltering in relief camps in Churachandpur, 63 kms from Manipur's capital Imphal, said "Manipur needs healing. Peace has to be our only priority." The blocking of his convoy triggered a political slugfest as the Congress alleged that the BJP-led government is trying to thwart the leader's visit, while the saffron party accused him of being "stubborn" and choosing to take the road trip even though he was advised to take a chopper as his trip was opposed by various quarters.

"People of all communities are very welcoming and loving. It's very unfortunate that the government is stopping me," Gandhi tweeted.

"I came to listen to all my brothers and sisters of Manipur. Manipur needs healing. Peace has to be our only priority," he said in the Twitter post.

During his visit to Churachandpur, he interacted with the inmates in relief camps set up at a school and a college there, where around 200 people are camped. The Congress leader, who had earlier flown into Imphal in the morning was stopped by the local police at Bishnupur, around 20 kilometres from Imphal, citing demonstrations on the way.

"There is a security threat. We cannot take the risk of allowing Rahul Gandhi to proceed," a senior police official said.

A large number of people, mostly women, gathered near the spot and demonstrated both for and against the visit.

Gandhi's supporters demanded that he be allowed to go to Churachandpur, referring to the visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah there late last month.

One of the demonstrating women said, "If Amit Shah could go to Churachandpur, why not Rahul Gandhi?" The police used tear gas shells to disperse the mob.

After remaining stuck for a few hours in Bishnupur, Gandhi returned to Imphal airport and took a helicopter to go to Churachandpur, one of the worst affected towns in the ethnic rioting which broke out in the state nearly two months back.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

PM Modi

in our society. Eid Mubarak!" he tweeted.

The festival is observed to commemorate the spirit of sacrifice and devotion to the Almighty.

Think, Rethink

visiting Jammu and Kashmir for the annual Amarnath yatra.

"I welcome the yatra. I pray to Allah that it is successful and the yatra's return with blessings," he said.

First Batch Of

Lt Governor also enquired about the facilities," he added.

According to the spokesperson, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, informed the LG that the holding capacity of pilgrims at Samba and Kathua has been increased from the last year and additional buses have been stationed at the key locations of pilgrimage.

The 62-day long Shri Amarnath ji Yatra will commence on 1st July and it will culminate on 31st August 2023. The Yatra will be flagged off on June 30 from Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar.

Complaint Filed Against

coincides with Eid. This is the spirit of Kashmiriyat," she said in a tweet on Wednesday evening.

Sweetener in Diet

same day that the IARC makes public its decision - on July 14.

Since 1981, JECFA has said aspartame is safe to consume within accepted daily

limits. For example, an adult weighing 60 kg (132 pounds) would have to drink between 12 and 36 cans of diet soda - depending on the amount of aspartame in the beverage - every day to be at risk. Its view has been widely shared by national regulators, including in the United States and Europe.

An IARC spokesperson said both the IARC and JECFA committees' findings were confidential until July, but added they were "complementary", with IARC's conclusion representing "the first fundamental step to understand carcinogenicity". The additives committee "conducts risk assessment, which determines the probability of a specific type of harm (e.g., cancer) to occur under certain conditions and levels of exposure." However, industry and regulators fear that holding both processes at around the same time could be confusing, according to letters from US and Japanese regulators seen by Reuters.

"We kindly ask both bodies to coordinate their efforts in reviewing aspartame to avoid any confusion or concerns among the public," Nozomi Tomita, an official from Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, wrote in a letter dated March 27 to WHO's deputy director general, Zsuzsanna Jakab.

The letter also called for the conclusions of both bodies to be released on the same day, as is now happening. The Japanese mission in Geneva, where the WHO is based, did not respond to a request for comment.

DEBATE

The IARC's rulings can have a huge impact. In 2015, its committee concluded that glyphosate is "probably

carcinogenic".

Years later, even as other bodies like the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) contested this, companies were still feeling the effects of the decision. Germany's Bayer in 2021 lost its third appeal against US court verdicts that awarded damages to customers blaming their cancers on use of its glyphosate-based weedkillers.

The IARC's decisions have also faced criticism for sparking needless alarm over hard to avoid substances or situations. It has previously put working overnight and consuming red meat into its "probably cancer-causing" class, and using mobile phones as "possibly cancer-causing", similar to aspartame.

"IARC is not a food safety body and their review of aspartame is not scientifically comprehensive and is based heavily on widely discredited research," Frances Hunt-Wood, the secretary general of the International Sweeteners Association (ISA), said. The body, whose members include Mars Wrigley, a Coca-Cola unit and Cargill, said it had "serious concerns with the IARC review, which may mislead consumers".

The International Council of Beverages Associations' executive director Kate Loatman said public health authorities should be "deeply concerned" by the "leaked opinion", and also warned it "could needlessly mislead consumers into consuming more sugar rather than choosing safe no-and low-sugar options." Aspartame has been extensively studied for years. Last year, an observational study in France among 100,000 adults showed that people who consumed larger amounts of artificial sweeteners

- including aspartame - had a slightly higher cancer risk.

It followed a study from the Ramazzini Institute in Italy in the early 2000s, which reported that some cancers in mice and rats were linked to aspartame.

However, the first study could not prove that aspartame caused the increased cancer risk, and questions have been raised about the methodology of the second study, including by EFSA, which assessed it.

Aspartame is authorised for use globally by regulators who have reviewed all the available evidence, and major food and beverage makers have for decades defended their use of the ingredient. The IARC said it had assessed 1,300 studies in its June review.

Recent recipe tweaks by soft drinks giant PepsiCo demonstrate the struggle the industry has when it comes to balancing taste preferences with health concerns. PepsiCo removed aspartame from sodas in 2015, bringing it back a year later, only to remove it again in 2020.

Listing aspartame as a possible carcinogen is intended to motivate more research, said the sources close to the IARC, which will help agencies, consumers and manufacturers draw firmer conclusions.

But it will also likely ignite debate once again over the IARC's role, as well as the safety of sweeteners more generally.

Last month, the WHO published guidelines advising consumers not to use non-sugar sweeteners for weight control. The guidelines caused a furore in the food industry, which argues they can be helpful for consumers wanting to reduce the amount of sugar in their diet.

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AMARNATH YATRA

CEO Inspects Arrangements At Neelgrath Helipad, Holy Cave; Sheshnag Camp

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), Dr Man-deep K Bhandari on Thursday visited Neelgrath Helipad, Holy Cave and Sheshnag Camp to assess arrangements being put in place for ensuing 62 day long Shri Amarnathji Yatra scheduled to commence on July 1 with culmination on August 31.

CEO, while seeking information on all requisite facilities for the devotees visiting the revered Cave, exhorted upon the officers to ensure that all arrangements are in place for successful and peaceful conduct of this prestigious annual pilgrimage of Lord Shiva, Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2023.

Bhandari was accompanied by senior officers of the UT administration and other stakeholders. During the tour, the CEO inspected and evaluated the preparations being undertaken by the concerned departments to ensure a smooth and successful pilgrimage for the devotees. He emphasized the significance of timely completion of all necessary arrangements

to facilitate a safe and comfortable yatra experience for the pilgrims.

Bhandari had a detailed review of infrastructure, status of the track, setting up of tentage facilities, toilet complexes, sanitation activities, restoration of water and electricity connections, telecom facilities, other logistical facilities during his visit to Sheshnag camp, holy Cave and the Neelgrath helipad.

CEO asked the concerned departments to ensure that all necessary services are made easily accessible to the pilgrims at railway station, airports, on travel routes and Yatra base camps.

He impressed upon the officials to create a strong health-care and health emergency infrastructure with additional teams of doctors and nursing staff. He also directed for proper arrangements of regular ambulance, Heli-ambulance service and oxygen cylinders.

He also took stock of the arrangements and facilities being made available for the concerned staff and sanitation workers deployed at the Base Camps.

Chief Secy Calls For Incorporating AI To Improve Govt Efficiency

Says Addition Of 107 More Services To Auto Appeal System A Step Towards 'Bhrashtachar Mukh J&K'



Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a move to further improve online citizen centric services, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday launched Task Scheduler, designed to help officers manage and organise their tasks and addition of Auto Appeal System for 107 more services, further streamlining government-to-citizen services in addition to over 103 services integrated with the auto appeal system last month.

On the occasion the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri informed the Chief Secretary that out of 480 online services provided to citizens at present, 210 are onboarded the Auto Appeal System, that ensures timely delivery of services with auto-escalation of applications in case of breach of timelines set under the J&K Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA).

While speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary directed for onboarding rest of the services as early as possible for making 'Bhrashtachar Mukh Jammu and Kashmir' a reality.

Dr. Mehta appreciated the proactive role played by the IT department and its concerted efforts for improving accessibility and ease of use of online government services under the PSGA.

He placed a strong emphasis on the need to generate awareness among the general public about the online services offered by the Jammu and Kashmir government. He instructed for creation of online tutorials to help citizens learn about it and take advantage of the various citizen-friendly services available online.

In addition, the Chief Secretary discussed potential ways to increase both the accessibility and availability of these services, with the goal of ensuring that they are available round the clock with minimal downtime.

As part of the broader Digital J&K initiative, which aims at improving the lives of citizens in J&K through the use of digital technology, the Chief Secretary discussed several measures to publicise the government's service delivery and performance. These measures include the use of digital billboards throughout the districts to promote aware-

ness of the government's efforts and achievements.

Chief Secretary also discussed various other initiatives and online services that can be launched in the upcoming days for various citizen-friendly services and ensuring transparent governance. He took strong note of building violations and instructed officers to devise digital surveillance measures to curb the menace within three months.

Dr. Mehta discussed opportunities in the digital arena for implementing artificial intelligence-based technologies for further improvement in governance and increasing accountability of departments and their respective officers while ensuring transparency and efficiency in departments. He said that AI technologies can help identify poor-performing human resources and rationalise government resources in a scientific manner.

During the launch, the Chief Secretary called upon the IT Department to further improve online systems to facilitate accountability of officers and track inaction and failure on part of respective officers/officials. He also called for a campaign to sensitize all government officials about the online 'Government to Citizen Services' and their associated timelines.

The Chief Secretary asked the department to ensure that the Auto Appeal System is publicised and a definite timeline is fixed for each of the 210 online citizen services for general awareness and understanding of all the stakeholders.

The departments whose services have been given the auto appeal feature today include Agriculture, Labour & Employment, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Revenue and Finance. The measures taken by the Jammu and Kashmir administration have ensured accountability and transparency to a great extent, thereby making Jammu and Kashmir a leader in the country, as remarked by the Chief Secretary.

Those who were present during this event includes Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner JMC; CEO, JaKeGA; Scientists from NIC and other concerned officers.



THE BIGGEST CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS on Eid-ul-Azha were held at the Hazratbal Shrine, where more than 50,000 devotees, including women gathered. KO PHOTO

Jammu Sees Joyous Celebrations Of Eid-ul-Azha

Indo-Pak Troops Exchange Sweets On LoC

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu delved in joyous celebrations of Eid-ul-Azha on Thursday with a large number of people gathering at mosques to offer prayers for the peace and prosperity of the country.

In Poonch, Indian and Pakistani troops came together at Rahe Milan to celebrate the Eid by exchanging sweets and gifts.

Eid-ul-Adha, also known as the festival of sacrifice, holds significant religious and cultural importance among Muslims worldwide.

The main congregation took place at the Eidgah and Mecca Masjid in Jammu, where hundreds of people performed Namaz-e-Eid.

"In Jammu, the biggest congregation takes place at here at Eidgah. The spirit of brotherhood sets a remarkable example. Apart from commemorating the Prophet's sacrifice, we prayed for the peace and prosperity of our nation," Gulam Mohammad, a local resident, said.

Sonaullah Malik, who also offered prayers at Mecca Masjid in Bhatindi area, said that on the day, people of different



faiths come together to support and celebrate with Muslims, plying each other with sweets and warm greetings.

Congress working president Raman Bhall, who along with his workers greeted the Muslims at Mecca Masjid, sent the message of brotherhood and community harmony. "I have come here to greet them and participate in Eid with them," he said.

Eid prayers were conducted across mosques in Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, and Kathua of Jammu region.

The district administrations

made elaborate arrangements, including stepping up security measures, to ensure a safe and smooth celebration of the festival.

The district deputy commissioners also conveyed their greetings on the day, calling for acts of charity.

In a gesture of goodwill, the Sarla Battalion of the Indian Army presented a packet of sweets to the Pakistan Army (20 POK) on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha.

The Pakistani Army reciprocated by extending its warm wishes of Eid Mubarak to their Indian counterparts and presenting them with a packet of sweets at Rahe Milan.

CJI To Inaugurate 19th All India Legal Services Authorities Meet At SKICC Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Justice of India & Patron-in-Chief, NALSA, Dr. Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, will inaugurate the 19th All India Legal Services Authorities Meet scheduled to be held Friday at SKICC, Srinagar.

The inaugural ceremony would be attended by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA; Justice Sanjay Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee; Judges, Supreme Court of India; Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir; Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Law and Justice; Brigadier B D Mishra, Lieutenant Governor, UT of Ladakh; N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Ladakh Legal Services Authority, Judges of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will also be present in the inaugural session of the Meet.

The All India Legal Services Authorities Meet, scheduled to be held on 30th June and 01st July, is being hosted by the Government of J&K and Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority and is being attended by Chief Justices of High Courts, Executive Chairpersons, State Legal Services Authorities, Chairpersons, High Court Legal Services

Pays Obeisance At Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud visited the holy cave Shrine of Mata Vaishnodevi and paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum in Jammu and Kashmir's Katra belt.

This is the first visit of Justice Chandrachud to the holy shrine after taking over as the CJI.

On his arrival at Katra, the Chief Justice of India was received by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, the official spokesman of the board, said.

The CJI was accompanied by the Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

The CEO briefed the dignitaries about the continuing initiatives being taken by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board under the chairmanship of J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for upgrading and expanding the infrastructure for facilitating the progressively increasing number of pilgrims to the holy Shrine.

The CJI complemented the efforts being initiated by the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for welfare and providing facilities to the visiting pilgrims to make their pilgrimage hassle-free.

After paying obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine, the CJI visited Bhairon Ghati to pay obeisance at the Bhairon Baba Temple.

Committees, Member Secretary, NALSA, Member Secretary SCLSC, Member Secretaries SLSAs, Member Secretaries HCLSCs, members of LADCS, panel lawyers, law students, faculty and students of various law universities, members of prominent NGOs amongst

others. The Meet will deliberate on the future course of action for Legal Services Authorities, targets and various challenges present before it and the steps to be undertaken to strengthen and streamline legal aid programmes in the country.

Prices Of Tomato, Ginger Soar In Jammu Amid Heavy Rainfall, Landslides

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Poor crop yield due to heavy rainfall and landslides over the past few days here has hiked the prices of vegetables such as ginger and tomato, with consumers demanding government intervention to address the issue.

The recent price surge due to a demand-supply gap has posed significant challenges for low-income individuals who struggle to afford essential commodities.

With tomatoes priced at around Rs 120 per kg and ginger at Rs 400 per kg, people are being compelled to forgo these items, Bharat Bhushan, a customer, said.

Bhushan emphasised the urgent need for government intervention to alleviate the burden of price hikes on poor families. Local vegetable vendors have attributed the low crop yield of ginger and tomatoes to the heavy rainfall owing to the ongoing monsoon.

"We have witnessed a price hike in ginger and tomatoes as the heavy rainfall has adversely affected crop production. Every monsoon, there is a price hike in vegetables, especially mountain-grown vegetables because of landslides and increased transportation time", Chamail Singh, a vegetable vendor told PTI.

Singh said it is anticipated that vegetable prices may rise more if there is no improvement in the inclement weather.

Balbir Bakshi, a vegetable vendor, said that over the past 3-4 days, tomatoes have been priced exorbitantly high, ranging from Rs 80 to Rs 120 per kg.

The limited supply caused by the rainfall has increased the prices right at the source -- the farms, Bakshi added.

The vendors said although the current weather conditions indicate that prices will remain high for a few more days, the rates might lower once the monsoon recedes.

Official data points towards an average price trend of Rs 30 to 35 for per kg of tomato and Rs 120 to 150 for per kg ginger.

As retail prices of the kitchen staple shot up to Rs 100 per kg in major cities of the country on Tuesday, a top government official said the spurt in prices of tomatoes is a temporary seasonal phenomenon, and rates will cool down soon.

Most parts of Jammu and Kashmir received heavy rains on Monday, triggering landslides at multiple locations that blocked the key Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and other roads, officials said.

Fake Registration For Amarnath Yatra Busted By Samba Admin



Observer News Service

SAMBA: The district administration here on Thursday busted fake registration racket of Amarnath yatra pilgrims by an agent from Uttar Pradesh state.

Today two buses carrying 68 Shri Amarnath Ji Pilgrims originating from Muzaffarnagar reported at Shri Chichi Mata mandir for e-KYC verification and issuance of RFID Cards, an official spokesperson said.

On verification by the vigilant e-KYC Team of District Samba led by District Informatics Officer, he said, it was found that yatra permits of most of the pilgrims were tampered.

"On further enquiry from the pilgrims and drivers, it revealed that these passengers got permits from one Mr. Rahul Bhardwaj R/o Muzaffarnagar, an agent of Vikas Bus Services operating from Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh in exchange of 7000 rupees per head," he added.

The spokesperson said that

the District Administration Samba under supervision of Abhishek Sharma, District Magistrate Samba and the District SSP, Benam Tosh, immediately swung into action and the district Police took cognizance of the incident. Consequently, an FIR under section 420/468 of IPC has been registered in Police Station Samba. The District Magistrate Muzaffarnagar has also been requested to initiate legal action against the culprits namely Rahul Bhardwaj and others responsible for cheating these gullible pilgrims, so that no innocent pilgrims further fall prey to such kind of frauds.

The pilgrims shall be assisted in getting RFID cards which will be issued after fresh registration.

All Yatris are requested to keep their authentic Yatra Permits along with Aadhaar Card for proper e-KYC verification at the RFID counters and all Yatris are also requested to keep the RFID cards with them during the Yatra.

WAR AGAINST DRUGS

Police Attaches Under Construction House, Car Of Peddlers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing its crackdown against drug peddlers, the Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday attached properties worth lakhs of drug smugglers in North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

An under construction house belonging to drug smuggler Barakat Ali of Mian Mohalla Pattan was attached by a police team after obtaining legal sanction from competent authorities, a police spokesperson said Thursday. The house, he said, was being constructed over 10 marla land.

"The said house was linked to case FIR No. 84/2023 under section 8/22 NDPS Act of Police Station Pattan. The investigation proved that the said immovable property was raised/used for illicit trafficking by the drug smuggler," he added.

Similarly, the spokesperson said, a Hyundai i10 car

(DL2AE-2820) belonging to Abdul Rehman Malik of Kalantra Payeen was attached after obtaining legal sanction from the



competent authorities. "The said vehicle was linked to case FIR No 33/2023 under section 8/20, 29 NDPS Act of Police Station Kreeeri. The investigation proved that the said movable property was used for illicit trafficking by the drug Smuggler" he said.

"People showed their willingness to support police to eradicate menace of drugs from the society which is the real sign of Police Public relationship," he added.



JK first UT/ State to onboard on Auto Appeal System of Serviceplus

NEW ERA IN DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

TRANSPARENCY-ACCESSIBILITY-ACCOUNTABILITY

Time bound delivery of services

210 services on Auto Appeal System

Auto escalation on breach of service delivery timeline

| Service/ Scheme Name | Service Delivery Timeline | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|---------|
| REVENUE | | HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT | |
| Application for Issuance of Certificate for Being a Member of Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe by Tehsildar - SC / ST Certificate | 15 Days | Application for Correction in the Existing Birth Record and Issuance of Certificate | 30 Days |
| Application for Issuance of Certificate of Belonging to Socially And Educationally Backward Class by Tehsildar - OSC / RBA / ALC / IB Certificate | 15 Days | Application for Correction in the Existing Death Record and Issuance of Certificate | 30 Days |
| Application for Issuance of Certificate of Unemployment | 30 Days | Application for Grant of License for Pet Shop/Pet Trade/Bird Trade/Pet Clinic | 30 Days |
| Application for Issuance of Character Certificate | 20 Days | Application for Issuance of Birth Certificate and Inclusion of Child Name in the Existing Record | 30 Days |
| Application for Issuance of Dependent Certificate | 30 Days | Application for Issuance of Death Certificate | 30 Days |
| Application for Issuance of Income and Assets Certificate for Economically Weaker Section | 45 Days | Application for Issuance of Non-Availability Certificate of Birth Record | 30 Days |
| Application for Issuance of Income Certificate by Tehsildar | 30 Days | Application for Issuance of Non-Availability Certificate of Death Record | 30 Days |
| Application for Issuance of Income Dependency Certificate | 30 Days | Application for Issuance Street Vending / Rehri License | 30 Days |
| Application for Issuance of Legal Heir Certificate by Tehsildar | 15 Days | Application for No Objection Certificate for Commercial Establishments for Municipal Corporation Only | 20 Days |
| Application for Issuance of Marriage Certificate by Registrar of Marriages | 30 Days | Application for No Objection Certificate for Commercial Establishments for Municipal Councils/Municipal Committees Only | 20 Days |
| Application for Issuance of Other Backward Classes (OBC) Certificate by Tehsildar | 30 Days | Application for Registration of Pet Dog | 30 Days |
| Application for Issuance of Pahari Ethnic People Category Certificate | 21 Days | Application for Road Cutting Permission for Municipal Corporation Only | 7 Days |
| Application for Issuance of Property Certificate | 30 Days | Application for Road Cutting Permission for Municipal Councils / Municipal Committees Only | 7 Days |
| Attestation of Mutations | 30 Days | Application for Sewerage Connection for Municipal Corporation Only | 15 Days |
| Change Of Land Use | 30 Days | Application for Sewerage Connection for Municipal Council/Municipal Committee Only | 15 Days |
| Copy of Mutation | 30 Days | | |
| Encumbrance Certificate | 45 Days | FINANCE | |
| Extract of Aks Masavi / Latha | 30 Days | Transport Permit cum Pass for Packaged Liquor (wholesaler to trade) | 4 Days |
| Extract of Chulah/Chowkidara | 10 Days | Transport Permit cum Pass for Packaged Liquor (Manufacturer to Trade) | 4 Days |
| Extract of Girdawari | 30 Days | Transport Permit cum Pass for Packaged Liquor (Trade to Retailer) | 4 Days |
| Extract of Jamabandi | 30 Days | Transport Permit cum Pass for Packaged Liquor (Manufacture to Reatailer[Bar]) | 4 Days |
| Fard | 30 Days | Transport Permit cum Pass for Packaged Liquor (Manufacture to CSD/PMF-JKELS) | 4 Days |
| Land Pass Book | 30 Days | Permission to Serve Liquor | 10 Days |
| Measurement / Demarcation of Land | 30 Days | Permission for IP Based Bulk Spirit | 4 Days |
| Property Certificates | 30 Days | Import Permit Based Bulk Spirit | 4 Days |
| Domicile Certificate | 15 Days | Import permit for Packaged Liquor | 15 Days |
| | | Brand Registration | 15 Days |
| AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION DEPTT. | | Brand Registration Supplier mode- (CSD/PMF) | 15 Days |
| Application For License Of Fertilizers (Retail) | 15 Days | Label Registration | 15 Days |
| Application For License Of Fertilizers (Wholesale) | 15 Days | Label Registration Supplier mode (GSF/PMF) | 15 Days |
| Registration for Seed Retailer | 15 Days | Revalidation of IP based permits-IPBS | 10 Days |
| Registration for Seed Whole Seller | 15 Days | Cancellation of IP based permits-IPBS | 10 Days |
| Registration for Micro Nutrients/Bio-Fertilizers | 15 Days | Excise Verification certificate(EVC) for IPBS | 15 Days |
| Renewal for Fertilizer Retailer | 15 Days | Excise Verification certificate(EVC) for IPFL | 7 Days |
| Renewal for Fertilizer Whole Seller | 15 Days | Preventive Raid Control system | 4 Days |
| Renewal for Seed Retailer | 15 Days | Export permit based export of packaged liquor | 4 Days |
| Renewal for Seed Whole Seller | 15 Days | Import permit based import of packaged liquor (CSD) | 4 Days |
| Renewal for Micro Nutrients/Bio-Fertilizers | 15 Days | Import permit based import of packaged liquor (Paramilitary forces-PMF) | 4 Days |
| E-Auctioning of Saffron | 45 Days | Renewal of various types of Excise Licenses (except JKEL-2) | 25 Days |
| | | IP based import of Molasses | 7 Days |
| FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS | | IP based import of Denatured spirit | 7 Days |
| Application for Certificate of Re-verification of Weights and Measures | 30 Days | e-Grievance mobile app | 10 Days |
| Application for Certificate of Verification of Weights and Measures | 30 Days | GPS Mappig of State Excise Establishments/locations | 4 Days |
| Application for Certificate of Verification of weights & measurement | 30 days | Supplier Registration | 5 Days |
| Application for Certificate of Re-verification of weights & measurement | 30 days | Stock Inventory Management System | 4 Days |
| Application for fresh manufacturer license | 30 days | Revalidation of IP based permits-IPFL | 10 Days |
| Application for fresh Repairer license | 30 days | Cancellation of IP based permits-IPFL | 10 Days |
| Application for fresh packer/ importer license | 30 days | Revalidation of IP based permits- CSD/PMF | 10 Days |
| Application for Fresh Dealership license | 30 days | Cancellation of IP based permits- CSD/PMF | 10 Days |
| Application for Renew Manufacturer License | 30 days | Transport of Bulk Spirit within state | 7 Days |
| Application for renew Repairer license | 30 days | Bar stock management system | 4 Days |
| Application for renew Dealership license | 30 days | Cancellation of Export pass based permits | 10 Days |
| | | | |
| FOREST | | HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION | |
| Application for license for wood-based industry | 120 Days | Age Certificate | 15 Days |
| Application for registration of Furniture unit | 30 Days | Fitness Certificate | 1 Day |
| Certificate of Non-Forest Land | 30 Days | Registration as Pharmacist | 30 Days |
| Letter for distance from Forest | 30 Days | Registration of Doctors in J&K Medical Council | 30 Days |
| Registration of Timber Sale Depot | 30 Days | | |
| Renewal Application for license for wood-based industry | 30 Days | LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT | |
| Certificate of Non forest land | 30 Days | Filing of Annual Returns under Trade Union Act | 30 Days |
| | | No Objection Certificate for Registration of Unemployed Youth | 5 Days |
| HOME | | Registration of Boiler Manufacturer under Boiler Act 1923 | 30 Days |
| Final/ Renewal NOC from Fire Dept | 30 Days | Registration of Unemployed Youth (Job Seekers Registration) | 2 Days |
| Provisional NOC from Fire Dept | 30 Days | Registration under Motor Transport Workers Act 1961 | 15 Days |
| | | Registration under Trade Union Act, 1926 | 30 Days |
| HORTICULTURE | | Renewal of Boiler Manufacturer under Boiler Act 1923 | 30 Days |
| Application for Assistance on construction of Handling units, Bore wells, tube wells, water storage tanks, and Purchase of Horticulture Machinery | 30 Days | Renewal under Motor Transport Workers Act 1961 | 15 Days |
| Application for assistance on establishment of CA stores FPU's refer vans canning units etc | 30 Days | Approval of Plan | 30 Days |
| Application for Purchase of Plant Material from Departmental Nursery | 30 Days | Factory Registration | 30 Days |
| Application form for Area Expansion Normal and Medium Density Plantation | 30 Days | Renewal of Factories | 30 Days |
| Booking for development of high density orchard | 30 Days | Registration of Boilers | 45 Days |
| | | Renewal of Boilers | 45 Days |
| INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE | | Registration of Boiler Manufacturer under Boilers Act, 1923 | 30 Days |
| Artisan Registration Card | 30 Days | Renewal of Boiler Manufacturer under Boilers Act, 1923 | 30 Days |
| Credit Card Scheme for Artisans | 30 Days | Registration of Shops & Establishment | 15 Days |
| Credit Card Scheme for Weavers | 30 Days | Renewal of Shops & Establishment | 15 Days |
| Enrolment in Department Training Centers - Handloom | 30 Days | Registration of Principal Employer | 15 Days |
| Enrolment in Department Training Centers - Massive Scheme | 30 Days | Registration of License for contractors | 15 Days |
| Registration of Industrial Cooperative | 30 Days | Registration of Contractor under ISMW | 30 Days |
| Support on Participation in UT Level and national level exhibition | 30 Days | Registration of Motor Transport Workers | 15 Days |
| Unit Registration Card | 30 Days | Renewal of Motor Transport Workers | 15 Days |
| Weaver Registration Card | 30 Days | Registration of Trade Union | 30 Days |
| Enrolment in Department Training Centers - Handicraft | 30 Days | Registration of Establishment/Contractor under BOCW | 15 Days |
| Export Subsidy under J&K Wool Processing, Handloom Policy | 30 Days | | |
| Advanced/ EM-2 Registration | 15 Days | PANCHAYTI RAJ | |
| Assessment of raw material & finished goods | 30 Days | Application for Issuance of Job Card under MGNREGA | 30 Days |
| Change in Location | 30 Days | | |
| Change in Name and Style | 30 Days | SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY | |
| Change of Constitution | 30 Days | NOC for Renewal Energy Establishment from Fisheries | 30 Days |
| De-Registration of Units | 21 Days | Science Talent Promotion Scholarship | 30 Days |
| Initial/ EM-1 Registration | 1 Day | Sponsored Research and Extension Programme | 30 Days |
| Issuance of NOC | 30 Days | Support for Innovation & Patent Filing | 30 Days |
| Land Allotment Application | 30 Days | | |
| Merger of Units | 30 Days | SOCIAL WELFARE | |
| Prior Permission for Additional Products | 30 Days | Application for obtaining Financial Assistance under Ladli Beti Scheme | 30 Days |
| Prior Permission for substantial - Expansion Additional Line Activity | 30 Days | Application for obtaining financial Assistance under Marriage Assistance Scheme | 30 Days |
| Registration of Partnership Firm | 30 Days | Application for Sanction of Pension under JK-ISSS / GOI-NSAP | 30 Days |
| Registration of Societies | 30 Days | Direct Financing Scheme for JKSCSTBC | 30 Days |
| Transfer of Lease Hold Rights of Units | 30 Days | | |
| | | JAL SHAKTI | |
| | | Apply for Obtaining Water Connection (Commercial - Outside Industrial Estate) | 30 Days |
| | | Apply for Obtaining Water Connection (Domestic) | 15 Days |
| | | NOC for water Abstraction from CGWA/ Relevant Authority | 90 Days |