

Bijli, Pani Sadak: Army, People On The Same Page In This North Kashmir Village

Nazir Ganaie

Chandaji, Bandipora- 70-year-old, Nazir Ahmad Khan, often gets a knock from the Army at his Nazirpati residence in the Chandaji area of north Kashmir's district Bandipora—nearly 90 kms away from the summer capital, Srinagar, just to get issues including sadak, bijli, pani addressed from the local administration.

Chandaji, an isolated village in Bandipora district in the Kashmir region, is surrounded by thick forests and has no

proper road access. Narrow tracks are the only way to reach the remote parts of the village, including Nazirpati, and the Dodapati. The village of some 150 families is located on the foothills of Tragbal forest range in Bandipora and is barely 12 kilometers from district headquarters. The issues of roads, cellular services, and health centres, are not only concerns for the people of the area but for the army units deployed in this frontier area also.

"It is unfortunate that sometimes I get a late-night visit



from the local Army camp as they are also suffering from the same issues here. They also need to connect to their homes and talk to their families. We are all on the same page when

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT SOMETIMES I GET A LATE-NIGHT VISIT FROM THE LOCAL ARMY CAMP as they are also suffering from the same issues here. They also need to connect to their homes and talk to their families. We are all on the same page when it comes to basic amenities of this area."

elderly Khan told Kashmir Observer.

"Our Chandaji village, located on the foothills of the famous mountain range and separated by Nallah Banzuri craves for basic facilities like

road connectivity, electricity, mobile connectivity and potable water supply," Khan said, adding "Our village is even more backward than Gurez Valley. Gurez remains cut off for 6 months and we remain cut off for **More on P10**

Intruder Killed Along IB In Jammu: BSF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu: A Pakistani intruder, trying to smuggle over four kilograms of suspected high-grade heroin worth crores of rupees, was killed along the International Border (IB) in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior BSF officer said on Tuesday.

The major narcotics smuggling bid was scuttled by the alert border guards in Ramgarh sector late Monday night, Deputy Inspector General of BSF Vijay Thapliyal said.

Talking to reporters near the scene, he said BSF troops picked up suspicious movement of a Pakistani smuggler around 10.15 pm Monday and neutralised him.

"The body of the deceased along with four packets of narcotics with a total weight of 4.340 kgs and Rs 330 in Pakistani currency was recovered during the subsequent search of the area," the officer said.

He said the BSF is fully alert all along the IB and maintaining a tight vigil to frustrate any infiltration attempt.

Officials said **More on P10**

Govt Unlikely To Allow 8th Muharram Procession In Srinagar 'Cannot Allow Peace To Be Disturbed In Srinagar And Elsewhere'

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Authorities have hinted at not allowing the traditional 8th Muharram procession in this capital city, bringing an end to uncertainty that prevailed after rounds of parleys with leaders of Shia community, who were seeking an end to 34-year-old ban.

Earlier on Tuesday Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri had said that the final call on 8th Muharram procession from Guru Bazar to Dalgate in Srinagar will be taken once the heads of Shia organisations are able to determine the exact number of mourners.

A senior police official, wishing not to be named, however told Kashmir Observer on Tuesday evening that the UT government has decided to disallow 8th Muharram procession as the leaders of Shia community could not confirm the exact number of mourners expected to take part in the procession.

"It was unanimously decided that no such procession having potential to incite sectarian clashes will be allowed," the officer said.

He said the decision was taken after thorough deliberations between the higher-ups of civil and police administrations in this direction.

"The administration will not



Thousands of mourners took out a procession on the sixth day of Muharram in the interiors of Dal Lake. KO Photo

take any chances as far as law and order in Srinagar and elsewhere in Kashmir is concerned," the officer added.

Earlier in the day, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri said that the government was serious on lifting decades old restrictions on two major Muharram processions in Srinagar. He however said that the

"ball was in the court of the Shia community", who have been asked to provide details about the number of people participating in the procession.

Talking to the media persons in Srinagar Bidhuri said that a series of meetings were held regarding lifting of restrictions on Muharram processions on two routes in Srinagar, which have

been imposed decades back as "there might have been some issues behind it".

"We are serious about lifting the restrictions and the ball at present is in the court of the Shia community, who have been asked to provide details over how many people will be participating in the procession," Bidhuri said. **More on P10**

No Infiltration Into J&K Till June-End: MoS Home



Press Trust Of India

No terrorist could infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir till June 30 this year while 14 terrorists entered the Union Territory in 2022, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Rai said the approach adopted by Government of India to tackle cross-border infiltration has ensured a perceptible decline in infiltration.

There has been zero "net infiltration" into Jammu and Kashmir till June 30, 2023, 14 in 2022, 34 in 2021, 51 in 2020 and 141 in 2019, he said replying to a written question.

The minister said the Government of India has

adopted a well-coordinated and multi-pronged strategy to tackle cross-border infiltration, which includes tactical deployment of forces at the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC), use of technology like surveillance cameras, night vision cameras, heat sensing gadgets, etc., multi-tiered deployment along IB and LoC and border fencing.

Deployment of intelligence personnel to collect advance and target-oriented inputs on infiltration, ambushes and foot-patrolling by the Army and the Border Security Force (BSF), establishment of Border Police Posts for generating local intelligence and taking pro-active action against infiltrators are among others, he said.

GOC, Police Chief Discuss Kashmir Situation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps Lt General Rajiv Ghai and the Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Tuesday discussed the prevailing security scenario of the Valley.

Ghai called on the DGP Singh at Police Headquarters here on Tuesday.

The DGP and the GOC discussed various important aspects pertaining to the prevailing security scenario of the valley, a police spokesperson said. He said that ADGP (Hqrs./Coord.), PHQ M. K. Sinha was also present on the occasion.

"During their discussion, strengthening and augmenting of security measures in order to counter the new tactics of terrorists including infiltration, pushing of drugs and arms being adopted by Pakistan were discussed," he added **More on P10**

2 Cops 'Brutally' Assaulted In Leh, Culprits On Run

Press Trust Of India

Leh: Two policemen, including a sub-inspector of Ladakh Police, suffered serious injuries after they were "violently and brutally" assaulted by a group of miscreants, a senior officer said here on Monday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Leh) PD Nitya said an FIR has been registered under relevant sections, including attempt to murder, against eight absconding accused and special teams have been set up to arrest them.

"Sub-Inspector Mohammad Jani and Head Constable Ghulam Rasool from Leh police station were violently and brutally assaulted by a group of youths at a restaurant during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday," Ms Nitya told reporters in Leh.

She said the policemen had gone to the restaurant after receiving information about some

youths fighting and creating a nuisance. However, once they reached the restaurant, they came under attack, resulting in injuries to both of them.

"They were evacuated to a hospital and Rasool was later referred to the tertiary hospital at Saura in Srinagar for specialised treatment," the senior officer said, adding that 10,000 was sanctioned for each to meet the immediate medical expenses.

Eight accused have been identified and an FIR under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including attempt to murder, was registered against them. Special teams have been constituted to arrest them, the officer said.

Ms Nitya said the accused were involved in attacking some taxi drivers from Kargil some time ago and were subsequently arrested. **More on P10**

Preventive Detention Order Unsustainable On 'Illusory' Grounds: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh Tuesday said that a preventive detention order is unsustainable on "illusory" grounds which have no real nexus with the past prejudicial activity.

"Preventive detention being a drastic State action based only upon suspicion arising from a person's past activity, can be allowed, as the settled legal position mandates, only if there is a live and proximate link between a person's past activities and the need for passing of a preventive detention order," said a bench of Justice M. A. Chowdhary while quashing detention order, dated 27-02-2020, passed by District Magistrate Baramulla against Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat of Naikpora Seeloo Sopore.

"A preventive detention order

is unsustainable on stale or illusory grounds, which have no real nexus with the past prejudicial activity," the court said, adding, "Delay in passing and execution of a preventive detention order not only defeats the very purpose of such order, but more importantly, creates a doubt as to the necessity of adopting such a harsh measure against an individual, whereby the individual's liberty is curtailed on suspicion alone."

Meanwhile the court quashed another detention order passed by District Magistrate Shopian on 9 April last year against Fahim Ahmad Check of Nowgam Shopian.

Meanwhile the court held the object of preventive

detention is not to punish a man for having done something but to intercept before he does it and to prevent him from doing so.

Referring to the Supreme Court's 2005 judgment, "Naresh Kumar Goyal v. Union of India & Ors, the bench of Justice M. A. Chowdhary said that the top court has held that an order of detention is not a curative or reformatory or punitive but a preventive action devised to afford protection to society."

"...Preventive detention is devised to afford protection to society," the court said, adding, "The object is not to punish a man for having done something but to intercept before he does it and to prevent him from doing so." The court made the observation while dismissing a petition filed by one **More on P10**

J&K Bank To Launch Another OTS Scheme To Bring Down NPAs: MD

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Bank will launch another one-time settlement scheme for defaulters to bring down its non-performing assets, MD and CEO Baldev Prakash has said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank is already following a humane approach towards loan recovery, Prakash told PTI.

"We are doing it within the law. We have already given two OTS schemes for the defaulters and a large number of them have benefited already."

"We will be launching another OTS very soon which shall remain in force for at least three months. My appeal to the people (defaulters) is to avail the scheme and settle their dues," he said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said both public and private

banks have been instructed that harsh steps should not be taken when it comes to the process of loan repayment and that they should handle such cases with sensitivity.

Prakash said the bank has almost doubled its profits at Rs 326 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal compared to Rs 166 crore in the corresponding period of the last year.

He said the bank has shown good performance on all parameters by bringing down the gross NPA below six per cent to 5.77 per cent. The gross NPA in the corresponding period last year was 9.09 per cent.

Similarly, net NPAs, or bad loans, declined to 1.39 per cent, as against 3.02 per cent in the year-ago period.

On the future strategy, Prakash said the bank is progressing steadily towards achieving the **More on P10**

SHORT TAKES

3,000 Yatis Leave For Cave Shrine

A fresh batch of over 3,000 pilgrims left here for the Amarnath cave shrine in north Kashmir Himalayas on Tuesday, officials said. While 1,160 pilgrims left in a convoy of 38 vehicles for the Baltal base camp, another convoy of 81 vehicles carrying 1,865 pilgrims left for Pahalgam. Over 3.30 lakh pilgrims have so far paid obeisance at the shrine since the commencement of the pilgrimage from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag and Baltal **More on P10**

Labourer Killed In Kishtwar Landslide

One labourer was killed and another injured when a landslide struck a road construction site in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said. Abid Hussain (25) and Musharraf (23), both residents of Kuchal village, came under the landslide at Sumbal in the Chatroo area, they said. The officials said a rescue operation was launched immediately and the trapped labourers were retrieved and shifted to a hospital **More on P10**

Two OGWs Held In Baramulla: Police

Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested two militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. The two alleged militant associates Dayem Majeed Khan and Ubair Tariq, both residents of Bandipora were arrested by a joint team of police and army's 29 RR at a checkpoint established at Bus Stop Chak Tapper Kreeri in Baramulla district, a police spokesperson said Tuesday. The motor vehicle checking point (MVCP), **More on P10**

LG Pays Homage To Kargil Bravehearts

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday paid homage to the bravehearts of Kargil War on the eve of "Kargil Vijay Diwas". "On Kargil Vijay Diwas, I pay my tributes to the valiant soldiers, officers, who displayed magnificent valour and the spirit of sacrifice to protect the sovereignty and integrity of the motherland," Sinha said. "I respectfully bow down to the families of our Kargil War heroes. We are forever indebted **More on P10**

Branded Medicines, MR Entry Banned In SKIMS

The SKIMS administration on Tuesday ordered that only generic medicine shall be prescribed at this tertiary care hospital now onwards and visits of Medical Representatives to hospital premises have been banned. "It has been conveyed by Director General Health Services, Government of India and endorsed by Director SKIMS & Ex. Officio Secretary to Government, that all the medications prescribed in Government **More on P10**

Two Dead In Doda Car Crash

Two people were killed and two others injured on Tuesday when the car they were travelling in, met with an accident in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. Bilal Ahmed and Insha, both residents of Gandoh were killed when an Alto car (JK06-6559) they were travelling in, rolled down into a deep gorge near Bamboo area of the district on Tuesday evening, reports said. Two other occupants identified as Muzaffer Ahmed and Danish sustained injuries in the road accident. **More on P10**



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Climate Change Has Likely Changed Colour Of Earth's Oceans: Study

Press Trust Of India

Climate change has likely changed the colour of the Earth's oceans significantly over the past two decades, according to a study.

The research, published recently in the journal Nature, detected changes in ocean colour over the past 20 years that cannot be explained by natural, year-to-year variability alone.

These colour shifts, though subtle to the human eye, have occurred over 56 per cent of the world's oceans -- an expanse that is larger than the total land area on Earth, the researchers said.

The team of researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US, the National Oceanography Center in the UK and others found that tropical ocean regions near the equator have, in particular, become steadily greener over time.

According to the researchers, the shift in ocean colour indicates that ecosystems within the surface ocean must also be changing, as the colour of the ocean is a literal reflection of the organisms and materials in its waters.

It is not certain how exactly marine ecosystems are changing to reflect the shifting colour, the researchers said, adding, however, human-induced climate change is likely the driver.

"I have been running simulations that have been telling me for years that these changes in ocean colour are going to happen," said study co-author Stephanie Dutkiewicz, senior research scientist in MIT.

"To actually see it happening for real is not surprising, but frightening. And these changes are consistent with man-induced changes to our climate," Dutkiewicz said.

The ocean's colour is a visual product of whatever lies within its upper layers. Generally, waters that are deep blue reflect very little life, whereas greener waters indicate the presence of ecosystems, and mainly phytoplankton -- plant-like microbes that are abundant in upper ocean and that contain the green pigment chlorophyll. The team analysed measurements of ocean colour taken by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) aboard the Aqua satellite, which has been monitoring ocean colour for 21 years. MODIS takes measurements in seven visible wavelengths, including the two colours researchers traditionally use to estimate chlorophyll.

The researchers carried out a statistical analysis using all seven ocean colours measured by the satellite from 2002 to 2022 together.

They first looked at how much the seven colours changed from region to region during a given year, which gave them an idea of their natural variations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my DOB certificate of class 10th issued by Board of School Education. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Board of School Education sub Office Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Muskana Rafiq D/O Mohamad Rafiq Rather
 R/o Goushugh
 DOB: 19-09-2004

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Provisional Cum Character Certificate of class 12th. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Girls Higher Secondary School Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Jan Javeria D/o Mohammad Yousuf Dar
 R/o Palpora Teh; Khag

BMG_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

My mother's name in my school records has been wrongly spelled as Gulshan Aara while the correct spelling is Gulshan Ara which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tyndale Biscoe & Mallinson Tangmarg within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Peerzada Lutfan Lubaib
 R/o Ogmuna Kawrhama Kunzer

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in all my documents as Fatima Begum while my correct name is Fatimah Begum which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the concerned offices within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fatimah Begum
 W/o Bashir Ahmad Jahara
 R/o Tangmarg Kulgam

fk0

PUBLIC NOTICE

My mother's name in my school records has been wrongly spelled as Fareeda Bano while the correct spelling is Farida Bano which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tyndale Biscoe & Mallinson Tangmarg within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Tawheed Iqbal Wani
 R/o Kherpora Kawrhama Kunzer

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Gh. Ali Mir S/o Gh. Ahmad Mir to Ghulam Ali Mir S/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir. I future I will be known as Ghulam Ali Mir S/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the J&K Bank Branch Manager Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Ali Mir
 S/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir
 R/o Haft Chinar Magam Budgam

bmj

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 136004082 Session: March Year 2023 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error committed by the concerned School/Board/Parent against my DOB as 18-08-2008 Instead of 08-06-2008

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Rashida Imtiaz
 F/N: Imtiaz Ahmad Mir
 M/N: Masrat Jan
 DOB: 18-08-2008
 Residence: Jan-Mohalla Shopian



mtz ko

From the office of Advocate Ahmad Javid

In the case of: Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat R/o Karanagar Srinagar

(Caveator)

VS PUBLIC AT LARGE
 In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A.
 1. That the Caveator reasonably apprehends that the Non-Caveator/s or any other person on his behalf may approach this Hon'ble court to challenge the order dated 06/05/2023 passed by the SMC/JCP/214-19 JOINT COMMISSIONER PLANNING Srinagar, copy of the aforesaid order is enclosed as Annexure-1
 2. That as a requirement of law the Caveator has dispatched a copy of this petition to the non-caveator by registered post. postal receipt whereof is enclosed as Annexure-II.

PRAYER:
 In the premises it is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to put the Caveator on Notice before any order is passed in the matter in case the non-caveator or any other person challenges the Order dated 06/05/2023 passed joint Commissioner planning Srinagar SMC/JCP/214-19. Same may be in consonance with law and justice.
 AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS, THE CAVEATOR AS IN DUTY BOUND SHALL EVER PRAY.

Sd/advocate

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

Office Of The Addl District Deve. Commissioner Budgam

NOTICE INVITING OBJECTIONS

Below is the selected list of 56 candidates who have been tentatively proposed for selection as (Sangins) Anganwadi workers in 7 Poshan Projects of District Budgam. Objections If any regarding the proposed selectees shall be received by the office of undersigned in writing or through Gmail on addcbudgam@gmail.com upto 28-7-2023 till 4:00pm:-

S/No.	Name of the Project	Name of Panchayat Ward	Name of Tentatively Selected Candidates	Marks Obtained In 12th	Points obtained	DOB
1	POSHAN PROJECT NARBAL	Panchward No. 02, Wahabpora, Rather Mohalla	Zahida Hassan D/O Ghulam Hassan Rather R/O Wahabpora Rather Mohalla	357/500	71.40	1/13/2001
2	POSHAN PROJECT NARBAL	Panchward No. 03, Sehpora	Durukshana Bashir D/O Bashir Ahmad Malik R/o Sehpora	298/500	59.60	5/15/1998
3	POSHAN PROJECT NARBAL	Panchward No. 04, Wadwan C	Saima W/o Javid Ahmad Dar R/O Wadwan	340/500	68.00	2/12/1998
4	POSHAN PROJECT NARBAL	Panchward No. 06, Wahabpora, New Colony	Fatima safdar D/O Mohd Safdar Ganie R/O Wahabpora New Colony	455/500	91.00	8/10/2004
5	POSHAN PROJECT NARBAL	Panchward No. 07, Wahabpora, Khurd Mohalla	Ruksana Akhter D/O Mohd Akbar Dar R/O Wahabpora Khurd Mohalla	310/500	62.00	12/6/1998
6	POSHAN PROJECT BEERWAH	Panchward No. 07, Checki-Dewan-A	Shalista Bano W/O Altaf Ahmad Najar R/O Checki Dewan	505/750	67.30	01-01-991
7	POSHAN PROJECT BEERWAH	Panchward No. 03, Mamgund	Farihad Bano D/O Mohd. Baqir Rather R/O Mamgund	331/500	66.20	3/4/1998
8	POSHAN PROJECT BEERWAH	Panchward No. 09, Attina-A	Farihat Altaf D/O Altaf Hussain Bhat R/O Attina	382/500	76.40	12/1/1994
9	POSHAN PROJECT BEERWAH	Municipality Ward No. 06, Beerwah-A	Ishrat Ali D/O Ali Mohd Waza R/O Beerwah	396/500	79.20	3/3/1998
10	POSHAN PROJECT BEERWAH	Panchward No. 04, Rathsun-C	Nusrat Rasheed D/O Abdul Rashid Dar R/O Rathsun	418/500	83.60	7/3/2003
11	POSHAN PROJECT BEERWAH	Panchward No. 07, Sali-A	Waziyah Jan D/O Ghulam Mohd Sheikh R/O Sali	297/500	59.40	4/4/1998
12	POSHAN PROJECT KHAG	Panch ward No. 08, Badran	Shagufta Hamid D/O Ab Hameed Hajam R/O Badran	356/500	71.20	9/5/2003
13	POSHAN PROJECT KHAG	Panch Ward No. 10, Nasserpora	Sameta Mushtaq D/O Mushtaq Ahmad Dar R/O R.D.Checkpora	438/500	87.60	8/11/2002
14	POSHAN PROJECT KHAG	Panch Ward No. 07, Iskanderpora	Zainab Turabi D/O Showkat Ali Mir R/O Iskanderpora	417/500	83.40	12/21/1999
15	POSHAN PROJECT KHAG	Panch Ward No. 08, Nasserpora	Shazia Ali D/O Ali Mohd Sheikh R/O Panziyara	462/500	92.40	10/25/2003
16	POSHAN PROJECT KHAG	Panch Ward No. 07, Sugen	Yasmeena Bano D/O Saifuddin Shah R/O Sugen	306/500	61.20	7/7/1992
17	POSHAN PROJECT KHAG	Panch Ward No. 05, Khag	Ifra Bashir D/O Bashir Ahmad Malik R/O Khag	552/750	73.60	9/25/1992
18	POSHAN PROJECT KHAG	Panch Ward No. 05, Hard suresh	Afshana D/O Lt Mohammad Assadulla Bhat R/O Hard suresh	394/500	78.80	10/9/2002
19	POSHAN PROJECT KHAG	Panch ward No. 04, Badran	Nuzhat Noor D/O Noor Mohd Lone R/O Badran	360/500	72.00	5/3/2000
20	POSHAN PROJECT KHAG	Panch Ward No. 07, Kokerbag	Masarat Imtiaz D/O Imtiaz Ahmad Lone R/O Kokerbag	244/500	48.80	11/16/1998
21	POSHAN PROJECT KHAG	Panch Ward No. 01, Kokerbag	Afroza Habib D/O Habibullah Khatana R/O Kokerbag	264/500	52.80	5/10/1999
22	POSHAN PROJECT KHAG	Panch Ward No. 05, Sugen	Waheeda Maqbool D/O Late Mohd Maqbool Bhat R/O Sugen	323/500	64.60	10/25/1997
23	POSHAN PROJECT KHANSAHIB	Municipality Ward 04, Khan Sahab B, Astan Mohalla	Syed Saba Hamid W/O Aljaz Ahmad Shah R/O Astan Mohalla Ward No. 4 Khan Sahab	411/500	82.20	4/3/1996
24	POSHAN PROJECT KHANSAHIB	Panch Ward No. 11, Nuchgam, Mir Mohalla	Heena Jan W/O Mehraj Ah Dar R/O Nuchgam, Mir Mohalla Khan Sahab	302/500	60.40	3/16/2000
25	POSHAN PROJECT KHANSAHIB	Panch Ward No. 07, Zagoo A, Khan Mohalla	Shagufta Akhter D/O Khursheed Ahmad Khan R/O Khan Mohalla, Zagoo Kharain Ward No. 7	296/500	59.20	2/25/1999

26	POSHAN PROJECT KHANSAHIB	Panch Ward No. 08, Numbalhar	Raziya Rashid D/O Ab Rashid R/O Numbalhar, Ward No. 8	600/750	80.00	9/21/1994
27	POSHAN PROJECT KHANSAHIB	Panch Ward No. 02, Parnewa, Wagay Mohalla	Shalista Rashid D/O Ab Rashid Bhat R/O Parnewa, Wagay Mohalla, Ward No. 2	439/500	87.80	6/15/2004
28	POSHAN PROJECT KHANSAHIB	Panch Ward No. 05, Check Rathan, Lone Mohalla	Dilshada Akhter D/O Ab Rashid Sheikh R/O Chak Rathan, Lone Mohalla, Ward No. 5	335/500	67.00	3/6/1999
29	POSHAN PROJECT KHANSAHIB	Panch Ward No. 01, Reyar Beerwa, Masjid Mohalla	Adlia Bano W/o Shabir Ah Sheikh R/O Reyar Beerwa, Masjid Mohalla, w. No. 1	392/700	56.00	6/16/1997
30	POSHAN PROJECT KHANSAHIB	Panch Ward No. 02, Shanipora, Dar Mohalla	Iqra Akhter D/O Gh Ahmad Ganie R/O Shanipora, Dar Mohalla, Ward No. 01	413/500	82.60	5/22/2003
31	POSHAN PROJECT KHANSAHIB	Panch Ward No. 09, Gohidragan, Jagal Mohalla	Jabeena Gul D/O Lt Gull Mohammad Jagal R/O Gohidragan, Jagal Mohalla, Ward No. 9	390/500	78.00	5/10/2001
32	POSHAN PROJECT KHANSAHIB	Panch Ward No. 01, Hawora, Parry Mohalla	Sobhya Gul D/O Gh Mohd MIR R/O Hawora, Parry Mohalla, Ward No. 01	438/500	87.60	2/24/2004
33	POSHAN PROJECT KHANSAHIB	Panch Ward No. 03, Wachoo, Check Mohalla	Ruksana Rahim D/O Ab Rahim Para R/O Wachoo, Check Mohalla, Ward No. 03	433/500	86.60	11/15/2003
34	POSHAN PROJECT B.K.PORA	Panch Ward No. 08, Machoowa	Razia Bashir W/o Shahzada Saleem Wani R/O Wani Mohalla Machoowa	528/750	70.40	3/4/1989
35	POSHAN PROJECT B.K.PORA	Panch Ward No. 02, Machoowa	Rabia Amin Sheikh D/O Mohammad Amin Sheikh R/O Alilayeh Mohalla Machoowa	377/500	75.40	7/11/2004
36	POSHAN PROJECT B.K.PORA	Panch Ward No. 08, Kralpora - C	Aliga Imtiaz D/O Imtiaz Ahmad Khan R/O Kantbagh Kralpora	325/500	65.00	12/31/2000
37	POSHAN PROJECT B.K.PORA	Panch Ward No. 09, Peer Mohalla Chattergam	Seerat Shabir D/O Syed Shabir R/O Peer Mohalla Chattergam	269/500	53.80	3/10/1999
38	POSHAN PROJECT B.K.PORA	Municipality Ward No. 16, Wavoosa - A	Jasmeena Gul D/O Ghulam Mohamad Ganalyee R/O Wavoosa	520/750	69.33	1/20/1992
39	POSHAN PROJECT B.K.PORA	Panch Ward No. 04, B.K.Pora - B	Allya Arooj W/O Himat Farooq R/O B.K.Pora - B	345/500	69.00	1/24/1995
40	POSHAN PROJECT B.K.PORA	Panch Ward No. 01, Brarigund	Mehnaz Rashid D/O Abdul Rashid Sofi R/O Brarigund	419/500	83.80	2/10/2003
41	POSHAN PROJECT B.K.PORA	Panch Ward No. 01, Dooniwara	Irtiga Jan D/O Bashir Ahmad Parry R/O Dooniwara	367/500	73.40	11/16/2000
42	POSHAN PROJECT B.K.PORA	Panch Ward No. 12, Kuthipora	Nusrat Jan D/O Bashir Ahmad Ganale R/O Suthsoo Kalan	421/500	84.20	1/14/2000
43	POSHAN PROJECT CHADOORA	Panch Ward No. 01, Gopalpora	Mehnaz Hassan D/O Gh Hassan Bhat R/O Gopalpora Panch Ward No. 01	398/500	79.60	6/30/1999
44	POSHAN PROJECT CHADOORA	Municipality Ward 07, Herpora Chadoora	Humaira Binte Mohammad D/O Gh Mohammad Ganie R/O Herpora Chadoora M.C Ward 07	444/500	88.80	4/5/1995
45	POSHAN PROJECT CHADOORA	Panch Ward No. 04, Gopalpali	Kushboo Manzoor D/O Manzoor Ahmad Wani R/O Gopalpali Panch Ward No. 04	326/500	65.20	3/3/2001
46	POSHAN PROJECT CHADOORA	Panch Ward No. 01, Dowlatpora	Aasiya Hamid D/O Abdul Hamid Rather R/O Dowlatpora Panch Ward No. 01	236/500	47.20	8/7/1998
47	POSHAN PROJECT CHADOORA	Municipality Ward No. 06, Alipora	Tabasum Khazir D/O Khazir Mohd Wani R/O Alipora M.C Ward No. 06	364/500	72.80	6/6/1996
48	POSHAN PROJECT CHADOORA	Municipality Ward No. 03, Doyan	Shabnam Khalig D/O Abdul Khalig Bhat R/O Doyan M.C Ward No. 03	401/500	80.20	2/13/2003
49	POSHAN PROJECT CHADOORA	Panch Ward No. 05, Ranger	Rehana Akhter D/O Mohammad Sultan Mochi R/O Ranger Panch Ward No. 05	262/500	52.40	3/20/1994
50	POSHAN PROJECT CHADOORA	Panch Ward No. 01, Zolwah	Seerat Farooq D/O Farooq Ahmad Sheikh R/O Zolwah Panch Ward No. 01	396/500	79.20	11/5/2000
51	POSHAN PROJECT CHADOORA	Panch Ward No. 01, Boniyar (chopan mohalla)	Shabnam Rashid D/O Abdul Rashid Wani R/O Boniyar (chopan mohalla) Ward No. 01	284/500	56.80	1/4/2001
52	POSHAN PROJECT NAGAM	Panch Ward No. 06, Dalipora	Tehmeena Gani W/O Javid Majid D/O Ab Gani Wani R/O Dalipora Proper	568/750	75.73	3/7/1993
53	POSHAN PROJECT NAGAM	Panch Ward No.08, Loolipora	Meenu Akhter D/O Mushtaq Ahmad Ahangar R/O Watakalo	386/500	77.20	12/27/2003
54	POSHAN PROJECT NAGAM	Municipality Ward 07, Chari sharief	Shalista Bashir D/O Bashir Ahmad Kumar R/O Kumar- Mohalla Chari- Sharief	407/500	81.40	4/4/2002
55	POSHAN PROJECT NAGAM	Municipality Ward 10, Chari sharief	Noor Afshan D/O Ab Gani Wani R/O Nowhar Chari- Sharief	556/750	74.13	4/3/1992
56	POSHAN PROJECT NAGAM	Municipality Ward 12, Chari sharief	Toiba Azad D/O Lt Azad Ahmad Matoo R/O Kalai Bazar Chari- Sharief	352/500	70.40	7/9/2004

Sd/- (Akramullah Tak) JKAS
 Addl. Distt. Dev. Commissioner Budgam

DIPK-5806/23

dated: 25-07-2023

Water Seeps Into Shops At Newly Renovated Polo View market

Commissioner SMC Says Old Drain May Be Source Of Leakage

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Barely two months after Srinagar's Polo View market was re-developed, water entered a couple of shops after mid-night heavy rains, leaving shopkeepers anxious about the design of the latest drainage system.

However, Srinagar Municipal Corporation Commissioner Athar Aamir Khan visited the market and claimed that water might have leaked from an old drain located at the backside of the market into the shops. He urged people not to make a mountain out of molehill.

"If this much-hyped re-developed market starts flooding in the shower, the planners must be questioned and made accountable," one of the shopkeepers said.

Shopkeepers were seen taking their products out in the open and draining the water from the shops.

"These are two to three shops. We will check and rectify the seepage issue immediately," Commissioner SMC said, adding that the new drainage system is perfect and the problem might have arisen due to

the very old drain.

"We are here to see what actually the issue is. The drainage system built under Smart City has no issue. From the back side, there used to be one old drain while two more new drains were added to it. It is possible that the old drain which is made up of bricks could have some leakage problem and as a result, water entered into the two shops.

He said some of the shops are also connected with a sewer line from the back side and it is also possible that somebody would have connected that sewer line with the drainage system as a result water has entered the two shops.

"If the leakage is because of the old drainage system, we will rectify it and if the water is emanating from the shops, the shop owners will take care of it."

"Please don't be misled, the market has not been inundated. Srinagar has a drainage issue and water logging takes place at a number of places. But at Polo View, there is no drainage issue," Aamir Athar Khan said.



A shopkeeper at newly renovated Polo View Market removes water which might have seeped into shops at the trendy market due to leakage in drain. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

'Tallest' Alm-e-Sharief Hoisted Along Foreshore Road In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a first-of-its-kind innovation in the history of Jammu & Kashmir, two tallest Alm-e-Sharief have been hoisted along Foreshore Road at Shalimar area in the city on Tuesday.

Aga Syed Abid Hussain, a prominent Shia leader, in presence of whom Alm-e-Sharief was hoisted two such Alms were hoisted on the busy foreshore road.

"The size of the first is 62 feet and the second was almost 72 feet tall," Aga said, adding that both flags have been made by locals of the area in order to show their respect and love for Imam Hussain (AS).

It took us almost a day to install the flags as the boulevard is always busy with traffic, he said, adding that the height of 'Alm' was very much tall and we installed it in almost a day.

The locals of the area have been installing the flags there for a long time, but this time, they planned to install two big flags. The Alm-e-Sharief is unglued

Young Calligrapher From Srinagar Prepares Muharram Banners

Srinagar: A calligraphy artist from Alamgari Bazar Srinagar is busy preparing banners in connection with the ongoing holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

Shujat Ali Gazi said, "This way, I contribute to the Muharram preparations. I write specifically for Muharram purposes and have painted my first flag when I was studying in Class 6"

Gazi is a self-taught artist and his family is associated with the paper machie work.

"So, it was easy for me to mix up colors. After all, it is a God-given gift," he said.

Apart from banner painting, I also write Islamic calligraphy, Shujat said. "I have been with this art for more than 30 years and have learned from the basics to the top—the alphabet, and how to write in calligraphy. I have also taken inspiration from Irani calligraphy."

Gazi said he sends banners across Kashmir, adding, "Recently, I sent flags and other calligraphy items to Uttar Pradesh."

from the site soon after the month of Muharram and some days of Sa-far, Hussain added.

Likewise, the locals and others

associated with Muharram preparations have installed many other banners and hoods on the side of the Dal Lake and foreshore road.

Food Supplies Employees Association J&K Organizes Blood Donation Camp

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Blood Donation camp organized by the Food Supplies Employees Association, J&K signifies how a community remains in unison to help each other in difficult circumstances, said Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri.

The Div Com said this while presiding over as chief guest in a Blood Donation Camp organized by the Food Supplies Employees Association, J&K in collaboration with Department of Hematology and Transfu-

sion Medicine, Govt. Lal Ded Hospital Srinagar at Directorate of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) department Kashmir.

He highlighted the importance of blood donation and said that it is the duty of mankind to help each other and donating blood voluntarily to help people in need is one such aspect. He acknowledged the remarkable dedication and humanitarian spirit displayed by the employees of FCS&CA and blood donors for their life-saving contributions.

Earlier, the camp was inaugurated by the Director, FCS&CA Kashmir.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I inform to general public that my electric bill is on the name of my Father BRIJBIHAR SINGH S/O BAJAJBAHAR SINGH R/O SINGPORA KALAN has been expired bearing Consumer ID No. 0212040001533. Now I want to change my electric bill name from BRIJBIHAR SINGH R/O SINGPORA KALAN to PARAMJEET SINGH R/O SINGPORA ...if anybody have any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name ...PARAMJEET SINGH
S/o ...LATE BRIJBIHAR SINGH
R/o SINGPORA KALAN
Block ..WAGOODRA
Distt...BARAMULLAH ashk

Appeal to LG

Judicial employees of subordinate judiciary appointed in 2013 who are working in various district courts across J&K Ladakh urge LG to bring them under Old Pension Scheme. It is noteworthy to mention that the appointment of these employees was implemented under the various Notifications issued in year 2005 to 2009 by honorable High Court of J&K and Ladakh the said selection process got delayed who applied in pursuance of all the three advertisement notification. Later in pursuance to these notifications employees were appointed in year 2013 under the new pension scheme. Employees urge that same new pension scheme was introduced in terms of SRO 400 dated 24-12-2009, was made applicable to the government employees who are appointed or brought on regular establishment on or after 01-01-2010 The notification dated 22-12-2003 issued by Govt of India was made basis for issuance of SRO 400 dated 24-12-2009 issued by Govt. of J&K However recently central Govt of India gave employees to exercise option OPS (Old Pension Scheme) Who Earlier Came Under NPS The employees of subordinate judiciary who were appointed in year 2013 in pursuance of notifications issued before 2010 demand old pension scheme on same lines and on same terms & condition laid down for central govt employees. The employees requested LG Manoj Sinha to pay personal attention to the matter & do furnish by fulfilling this long standing legitimate demand of judicial employees.

nj

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
**Office Of The Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Spl. Sub-Division Magam**
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No. 28 OF RNB/MAGAM/2023-24 /E-TENDERING/R&B/2263-77 DATED 25/07/2023

The Upper Sealing for Inviting Stage Contract Shall Be Kept as Restricted 16.83 Lac
For and on behalf of the Government of UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage Rate Basis from Eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Earnest money (In Rs.)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	M.H of Account M&R	Class of Contractor
1.	Repair and Routine Maintenance of roads pertaining to R&B Sub Division Magam Under Performance based Maintenance Stage contract for the year 2023-24	30000/-	800/-	F.Y 2023-24		All Classes

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25/07/2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27/07/2023
3	Bid submission Start Date	27/07/2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	03/08/2023 upto 4.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	04/08/2023 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Spl. Sub-Division Magam

- Bid must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **Treasury Challan** in favour of **Executive Engineer R&B Spl. Sub Division Magam** (tender inviting authority) **(The Date of Treasury Challan Should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date)** pledged to **Executive Engineer R&B Spl. Sub-Division Magam** (tender receiving authority).
- All the Bidders have to submit and uploaded the Earnest money in the shape of CDR/ FDR For an amount of Rs. 30000/- pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Spl. Sub-Division Magam**
- The 1st lowest responsive Bidder has to produce an amount of Rs. 50000/- as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 Days before fixation of contract and the same shall be released only after successful completion contractual obligation concerning the allotted work.**
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of **Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam** (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids**
- Instruction to bidders regarding tendering process.**
1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
5. **Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.**

No. R&B/2263-77
DIPK-5802/23 Dated: 25-07-2023

sd/- (Er. Tariq Ahmad Wani)
Executive Engineer, R&B Spl. Sub-Division Magam

- 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
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPOR: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
07 Muharram
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	3:59
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:33
Magrib	7:40
ISHA	9:15

This Day In History

- 657- Battle of Siffin during the first Muslim civil war between Ali ibn Abi Talib and Muawiyah I beside Euphrates River
- 920- Rout of an alliance of Christian troops from Navarre and Léon against the Muslims at Pamplona.
- 1469- Wars of the Roses: Battle of Edgecote Moor - Pitting the forces of Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick against those of King Edward IV.
- 1678- England & Netherlands signs treaty: sending ultimatum to France
- 1803- The Surrey Iron Railway, arguably the world's first public railway, opens in south London.
- 1847- The Liberian Declaration of Independence is signed making Liberia a sovereign nation, independent from the American Colonization Society
- 1891- France annexes Tahiti.
- 1936- The Axis Powers decide to intervene in the Spanish Civil War.
- 1941- US embargo on oil-export to Japan
- 1944- Japanese suicide attack on US lines in Guam
- 1944- Russian troops arrive in Weichsel
- 1944- The first German V-2 rocket hits Great Britain (nicknamed "gasometer").
- 1945- Declaration of Potsdam: US, Britain and China demand the Japanese surrender during WWII
- 1945- Japanese government disregards US ultimatum
- 1945- US cruiser Indianapolis reaches Tinian with atom bomb
- 1945- Physicist Raemer Schreiber and Lieutenant Colonel Peer de Silva depart Kirtland Army Air Field to transport the plutonium core for the Fat Man bomb (bombing of Nagasaki) to the island of Tinian where the bomb is assembled
- 1947- President Truman signs National Security Act (1947), establishing Department of Defense, CIA, National Security Council and Joint Chiefs of Staff
- 1951- Netherlands ends state of war with Germany
- 1952- King Farouk I of Egypt abdicates [Black Saturday]
- 1956- Egypt seizes the Suez Canal
- 1957- USSR launches 1st intercontinental multistage ballistic missile

From KO Archives

Police 'Captures' Militant In 'Reel' Life Drama

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The police was today accused of having staged action-packed drama, complete with heavy aerial firing in a busy market in Bandipora to convey an impression that it had arrested a dreaded militant.

Reports from the area said that the two police Gypsies screeched to a halt near the Royal Sweets Hotel in Gulshan Chowk at around 2:45 p.m., and their uniformed and armed occupants leapt out and began to shoot their weapons into the air. The gun fire created commotion in the market, with people rushing for cover.

Locals said that the policemen brought an armed youth out of one of the Gypsies, set him on the run, and began to pursue him. After a "respectable" distance had been covered, the cops pounced on the youth, and put him back in the vehicle.

A satisfactory day's work done, the policemen drove away from the scene. Locals said that the youth Bilal Ahmad Dar of Lankreshpora is a militant and the police took him away, adding that the farce about his arrest was played for the benefit of the public.

The police, however, said that a squad was passing through the Bandipora market when it came across a Hizb commander, Bilal Ahmad Dar and opened fire on him.

According to the police, several personnel chased the militant and managed to collar him. They said that a weapon had been recovered from him.

(Kashmir Observer, 26 July, 2007)

Copies Of Qur'an Burnt In Front Of Egyptian, Turkish Embassies In Denmark

Agencies

COPENHAGEN: A small group of anti-Islam activists set fire to Qur'ans in front of the Egyptian and Turkish embassies in Copenhagen on Tuesday after similar protests in Denmark and Sweden over recent weeks that have enraged Muslims.



Denmark and Sweden have said they deplore the burning of the Islam's holy book but cannot prevent it under rules protecting free speech. Last week, protesters in Iraq set the Swedish embassy in Baghdad ablaze.

Tuesday's demonstration in Copenhagen by a group called "Danish Patriots" followed Qur'an burnings the group staged on Monday and last week in front of the Iraqi embassy. Two such incidents have taken place in Sweden over the past month.

Egypt summoned Sweden's chargé d'affaires to condemn the Qur'an burning incidents, the foreign ministry's spokesperson said on Tuesday afternoon.

Cairo informed the chargé d'affaires of its "strong condemnation and complete rejection ... of the unfortunate and repeated incidents of burning and abuse of copies of the Holy Qur'an," the statement added.

Iraq's foreign ministry on Monday called on authorities of EU countries to "quickly reconsider so-called freedom of expression and the right to demonstrate" in light of the Qur'an burnings.

Turkiye on Monday said it strongly condemned what it called a "despicable attack" on the Qur'an and called on Denmark to take necessary measures to prevent this "hate crime" against Islam.

Denmark has condemned the burnings as "provocative and shameful acts" but says it does not have the power to block non-violent demonstrators.

"People benefit from an extended freedom of speech when they demonstrate," University of Copenhagen law Professor Trine Baumbach told Reuters, explaining Danish laws. "It does not just include verbal expression. People can express themselves in various ways, such as through the burning of items."

Opposition Coalition INDIA Likely To Bring No-Confidence Motion Against Govt In LS

Agencies

Amid the continuing logjam in Parliament over the Manipur issue, the coalition of opposition parties, 'INDIA', is likely to bring a no-confidence motion against the government in the Lok Sabha, according to sources. It is likely to be brought on Tuesday, July 25, itself, sources privy to the developments said.

Sources informed further that the decision was apparently taken during the meeting of the coalition leaders in the chamber of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge

in Parliament. Kharge is the leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha.

During the discussion, it was felt that as the government is unlikely to heed to the Opposition's demand of seeking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's response on the Manipur issue in the Lok Sabha and may now push for passage of Bills amid protests in the Lower House, this step was needed to put pressure on the government.

Ever since the monsoon session of Parliament began on July 20, there has been a continuous logjam in both Houses of Parliament as the

opposition has been seeking a response from the prime minister in Parliament on the situation prevailing in Manipur.

PM Modi had condemned the violence in Manipur during his customary statement to the media on the opening day of the monsoon session outside Parliament. However, he had clubbed certain incidents of crimes against women in the opposition-ruled states of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh along with those of Manipur. He had urged the chief ministers of all states to make efforts to curb such incidents in their states.



Upheaval In Israel As Knesset Approves Judicial 'Power Grab'

Agencies

JEDDAH: Israel faced a political crisis unprecedented in its history on Monday after the Knesset voted to approve the first part of a controversial judicial overhaul that critics have described as a power grab.

Trade unions threatened a general strike, police used water cannon to quell angry street protests, activists began an appeal to the Supreme Court, the White House described the vote as "unfortunate," Israeli financial markets tumbled and the shekel hit a two-week low against the US dollar.

The legislation limiting the Supreme Court's powers to overturn government decisions it deemed "unreasonable" passed by a 64-0 vote after opposition Knesset members abandoned the session in protest, some shouting: "For shame!"

Within minutes of the vote, a political watchdog group and a centrist opposition leader said they would appeal against the law at the Supreme Court. The appeal itself risks miring Israel in a legal quagmire — asking the court to overturn a law that bars the court from overturning laws.

The Histadrut labor union threatened to declare a general strike if the government pursued what it called "unilateral" measures. A walkout by Histadrut in March prompted Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to halt the legislative process, paving the way for cross-party talks that ultimately collapsed.

The judicial overhaul has sparked the biggest protests in Israel's history. As the Knesset met, demonstrators outside booed, beat drums, blew horns and chanted "shame." Police used water cannon to disperse them and officers dragged away protesters who had chained themselves to posts and blocked the road outside parliament.

The crisis has also seeped into the military. Thousands of volunteer reservists have threatened to refuse report for duty if the government continues with the plans, and former senior officers have cautioned that Israel's war-readiness could be at risk.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid described the vote as a "defeat for Israeli democracy." He said: "The government can decide a policy but not change the character of the state of Israel, and that's what happened today. This government can win the battle, but not the war."

The White House said US President Joe Biden had "expressed his views that major changes in a democracy, to be enduring, must have as broad a consensus as possible. It is unfortunate that the vote today took place with the slimmest possible majority."



Iran Air Force Kicks Off Drills With Bold Presence Of Sophisticated Drones

Agencies

The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) has launched large-scale military drills in the central province of Isfahan with the participation of a whole range of military aircraft, including drones.

The 11th edition of the drills, code-named Devotees of Velayat Sanctuary, kicked off in Anarak District of Na'een County on Sunday.

The Air Force units are to conduct a broad range of operations in the war game, such as reconnaissance and aerial imaging, striking air and ground targets as well as electronic warfare.

Brigadier General Alireza Rudbari, the speaker of the drills, said the main stage of the military exercise includes drone combat operations, reconnaissance and electronic warfare by the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) of the IRIAF. "Combat, reconnaissance and jammer drones of Kamran-12, Karrar, Mohajer 6 and

Arash — equipped with various warheads and carrying different types of electronic warfare equipment and optimized bombs — destroy mock enemy targets," Rudbari said.

Rudbari underlined that young talented Iranian personnel, who have been trained and educated inside the country by native instructors, will use 92 types of interceptor fighters, bombers and drones during the maneuvers.

The Iranian military commander said the IRIAF's drones will effectively display a bold presence in the current drills.

Iranian military forces hold routine exercises according to a detailed schedule in various parts of the country in order to test their weaponry and equipment and evaluate their combat preparedness.

Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran's defense capabilities will be never subject to negotiations.

Manipur Partially Withdraws Ban On Broadband; Mobile Internet Remains Suspended



Press Trust of India

IMPHAL: The Manipur government on Tuesday lifted the suspension on broadband internet conditionally in a "liberalised manner", nearly three months after it was banned due to the ethnic violence in the state. However, mobile internet will remain suspended, the Home Department said in a notification.

"Connection will be only

through static IP and that the subscriber concerned shall not accept any other connection other than allowed for the time being [TSP/ISP shall be held responsible for non-compliance of this condition]," it said.

"No WiFi Hotspots shall be allowed from any of the routers and systems using the connection at any cost by the subscriber concerned," it said.

The government has con-

sidered the suffering of the people as the internet ban affected offices and institutions, and people working from home, besides mobile recharge, LPG cylinder booking, payment of electricity bills, and other online services, the order said.

It said the suspension on broadband internet has been lifted in a liberalised manner, subject to fulfilment of several terms and conditions.

5-Tier, Reusable Graves At Christian Cemetary In Indore Grappling With Land Shortage

Press Trust of India

INDORE: Sixty-four multi-tier, reusable graves have been built at a Christian cemetery in Madhya Pradesh's Indore to tide over a shortage of burial land.

Four bodies can be buried in as many layers one over the other, while the lowest tier will be kept empty for bodies to be placed after five or more years, Indore Catholic Diocese's Bishop Chako Thottumarickal told news agency PTI.

"These 64 five-tier graves have been built at the Kanchan Bagh cemetery. The work was completed on July 1. After the bodies are put in the lowest compartment, we will have space for another four bodies. The idea was finalised through consensus after we sought advice from the community for solutions to tackle a shortage of burial land," he said.

The graves are 4.5 feet wide and 6.5 feet long, with a 16-foot

pit with multiple layers as well as space for headstone inscriptions, he said, adding that such an arrangement may be a first for the country.

Asked about the sprinkling of soil on the body by families and whether this tradition can be continued with the new multi-tier graves, the bishop said, "In these modern graves, flowers would be showered. Some people from our community think there is an emotional bond when we put soil over the body but with changing times, we are ready to adopt this innovation."

More such multi-tier graves will come up in three phases to allow the burial of 1,000 bodies, he said.

"The Catholic community has another cemetery in Indore's Juni area but that too has run out of space. So now burials are taking place in Kanchan Bagh. Some 100 burials take place annually here," he said.

NEWS MAKERS

China Removes 'Missing' Foreign Minister Qin Gang, Replaces Him With His Predecessor Wang Yi

Agencies

BEIJING: China on Tuesday removed outspoken Foreign Minister Qin Gang from office and replaced him with his predecessor, Wang Yi, in a move that has already fuelled rumours over the personal lives and political rivalries of China's Communist Party elite.

In its announcement on the national evening news, state broadcaster CCTV on gave no reason for Qin's removal. Qin dropped out of sight almost a month ago and the Foreign Ministry has provided no information about his status.

That is in keeping with the ruling Communist Party's standard approach to personnel matters within a highly opaque political system where the me-



dia and free speech are severely restricted.

The ministry made no comment at its daily briefing on Tuesday. The move comes amid a foreign backlash against China's increasingly aggressive foreign policy, of which Qin was a chief proponent.

Adding to the mystery around Qin's removal, it was approved at a meeting of the Standing Committee of China's rubber stamp legislature, the National People's Congress, which usually gathers at the end of the month.

Wang had previously served as China's top diplomat in his capacity as head of the party's office of foreign affairs. It wasn't immediately clear if he would retain that commission.

The shakeup in China's diplomacy follows Washington sending US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and other top serving and retired officials to Beijing in a bid to revive a relationship that's deeply riven over trade, human rights, technology, Taiwan and China's other territorial claims.

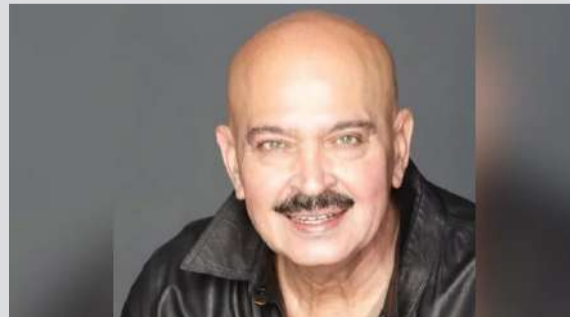
'Conmen' Get Court Notice On Filmmaker's Petition For Return Of ₹20 lakh

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court on Monday issued notice to two alleged conmen who had posed as CBI officers and duped Bollywood filmmaker Rakesh Roshan on his petition seeking the return of ₹20 lakh of the total ₹50 lakh he had paid the duo.

The duo- Ashwini Kumar Sharma and Rajesh Ranjan - were arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation in 2011 for allegedly cheating more than 200 people, including film personalities and businessmen. They had allegedly been cheating people since 2006 by posing as CBI officers.

The duo approached



Rakesh Roshan claiming they are CBI officers and offered to settle a civil matter he was allegedly embroiled in for money. Mr Roshan allegedly paid them ₹50 lakh. As per his petition, he approached the anti-corruption wing of CBI when his matter was not resolved.

The two were later re-

leased on bail.

As per a 2012 order passed by the sessions court, Mr Roshan had received ₹30 lakh (out of the total ₹50 lakh) but he is yet to receive the rest of the money, his petition stated. The trial court had permitted Mr Roshan to withdraw ₹30 lakh pending the trial against the

two accused. With the trial in the case yet to be complete, Mr Roshan, in August 2020, submitted an application before the sessions court for the remaining ₹20 lakh.

The court rejected Mr Roshan's application in December 2021 noting he was essentially seeking a review of the 2012 order which allowed the return of part of the amount (Rs 30 lakh).

The sessions court had said Roshan's application was not maintainable as the filmmaker had not challenged the 2012 order.

Mr Roshan then moved the high court seeking quashing of the orders passed by the sessions court in 2012 and 2021.

Machail Yatra Begins Amid Tight Security In Kishtwar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The annual Machail Mata pilgrimage commenced on Tuesday with hundreds of devotees paying their obeisance at the high-altitude temple in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh and Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Devansh Yadav visited the 9705 feet high shrine in the scenic Paddar valley, also famous for its Sapphire mines.

"Compared to previous years, the deputy commissioner Kishtwar has added more facilities like mobile towers to ensure better connectivity for the pilgrims besides medical facilities," Singh told reporters.

He said adequate security arrangements are in place throughout the route for the safety of the pilgrims who are expected to come in large numbers from within and outside the Union Territory during the 43-day long yatra.

Officials said the yatra started with ceremonial "Pratham Pooja" at the shrine which is dedicated to goddess Durga, also known by the name of 'Kaali or Chandi'.

"All required arrangements are in place to ensure the best experience to the pilgrims who had to foot over 22 km to reach the revered temple from the base camp set up at Gula-

bagarh," Yadav told PTI. He said the district administration has also taken in hand road construction at Chishoti and on its completion by the first week of August, the track will be reduced further by almost three kilometres.

"A private telecom service provider has set up an additional tower to provide better mobile connectivity in the areas adjacent to the shrine, while a 30 KV Solar battery was installed to provide uninterrupted power supply to the shrine and the mobile towers," he said.

He said a 'yatri bhawan' was set up at the base camp with a facility to accommodate 2,000 pilgrims at a minimum charge of Rs 10 per person.

The concerned departments have been entrusted with the work to ensure sanitation and hygiene in and around the langar sites for the convenience of the yatri, he said. He said the chopper facility has also started working with the start of the yatra from the base camp.

The deputy commissioner said the introduction of a Micro ATM facility at six key yatra points, including Atholi, Gulabgarh, Kundail, Chishoti, Hamori, and the temple would be a great relief to the devotees and the general public alike, significantly easing monetary transactions in hitherto underserved banking areas during the Yatra period.

DC Budgam Inspects Progress Of Works On PRI & Transit Accommodations For PM Package Employees

Says All Infra Projects To Be Completed Within Stipulated Time Frame

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday conducted site inspection of construction of Transit Accommodation for Kashmiri Migrant employees at Kakenmaran and PRI members' Accommodation at Sheikhpura and inspected ongoing progress of these projects.

While inspecting the ongoing process at different blocks, the DC said that work on 10 out of 12 blocks comprising 194 flats at Transit Accommodation, Kakenmaran is going on in full swing.

He instructed concerned to expedite work process on blocks to ensure the project is completed within the stipulated time frame.

Later, DC also inspected progress of ongoing PRIs Accommodation project at Sheikhpura and inspected interior works in different flats.

DC said that the project is nearing completion and soon shall be dedicated to the concerned to strengthen the democracy at the grass roots level.

The DC directed concerned to expedite pace of work and complete construction of pending boundary wall construction, lawn and pathway development and approach road.

He said that the District Administration is keen on completing all infrastructural projects within the deadline so that the same are dedicated to the general public at the earliest.

Similarly, review of Clock Tower, multi story car parking and beautification works in Budgam are also being given special focus by the district administration.

Among others, ADDC Dr Akramullah Tak, JD Planning, ACD, ACP, Executive Engineer R&B, Tehsildar, BDO and other officers also accompanied DC during inspection of projects.

3 In-Charge Executive Engineers Shifted

Sajid Mushtaq Pandit Posted As Technical Officer To Chief Engineer PHE Department Kashmir

Observer News Service

The Jammu and Kashmir government transferred three in-charge executive engineers of the Jal Shakti Department in the interest of the administration.

According an order issued by Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the government, Jal Shakti Department, Sajid Mushtaq Pandit has been transferred from Irrigation Construction Division Pampore and posted as Technical Officer

to Chief Engineer PHE department Kashmir vice Zahoor Ahmad Posh.

Zahoor Ahmad Posh Technical Officer to Chief Engineer PHE department Kashmir has been posted at CVPPPL.

Similarly, Javed Ahmad Lone has been shifted from JKPD to Irrigation Construction Division Pampore.

"The officers are deemed to have been relieved forthwith and they shall join their new place of posting without availing joining time," reads the order.

Black Bear Leaves 3 Persons Injured In Handwara

Agencies

HANDWARA: At least three persons were injured in a bear attack in Mawar area of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday.

Reports said that a black bear emerged at Yahama village of Mawar on Tuesday afternoon and attacked three persons leaving

them with injuries. The injured trio identified as Javid Ahmad Pir, Bashir Ahmad Sheikh and Mohammad Yousaf Sheikh was evacuated from the site to a nearby health facility for immediate treatment.

When contacted, a Wildlife Department official told a local news agency GNS that a team has been rushed to the area to catch the bear.



MANY ROADS AND STREETS in Srinagar remained inundated after heavy rainfall during the wee hours on Tuesday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Have Started Preparations For Panchayat Polls: BR Sharma

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir's State Election Commissioner BR Sharma on Tuesday said that they have begun preparations for conduct of Panchayat polls in the Union Territory.

Sharma said that they have begun preparations for holding Panchayat polls in Jammu & Kashmir. "We have to be ready for the polls and we are making preparations in this regard," the SEC, as per a local news agency KNO said.

Sharma said the poll process has to be completed one month before completion of the term of existing Panchayats.

The five-year term of Pan-



chayats would end on January 9, 2024 as they were constituted on January 10, 2019.

The last Panchayat polls in

Jammu & Kashmir were held in November-December 2018 when the erstwhile state was under Governor's rule.

The Panchayat polls in Jammu & Kashmir could take place in October- November 2023 if Centre and Jammu & Kashmir Government decides to conduct them.

The term of Block Development Councils in Jammu & Kashmir would also end on January 9 next year as they are co-terminus with Panchayats.

It would be interesting to see whether the district development councils in Jammu & Kashmir would complete their five-year term or would also face dissolution with Panchayats.

Principal GMC Jammu Replaced For 'Fudging' Her DOB

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Principal Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu Shashi Sudan Sharma on Tuesday was shunted out after she was booked by the crime branch for allegedly tampering with her date of birth.

Ashutosh Gupta, Head of Department of Radiotherapy, will now hold the charge as the

principal of the college.

According to an official order, Sharma was transferred and posted as secretary (Technical) in the Health and Medical Education Department, in the interest of the administration and patient care, with immediate effect.

Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Bhupinder Kumar said Gupta

will hold the charge of the post of principal, GMC, Jammu, in addition to his own duties, for a period of one year, or till further orders.

The crime branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police had booked Sharma early this month for allegedly forging her date of birth to get wrongful gains. She is presently on interim bail in the case.

NC, PDP Oppose Powers To LG To Nominate Members For Reserved Seats In J&K Assembly

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The National Conference and the PDP said they have no problem in giving representation in the legislative assembly to Kashmiri migrants and displaced people from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) but disagree with the way reservations are being made for them.

They said the power to nominate members for the reserved seats in the assembly should rest with the elected government, not the Lieutenant Governor.

The Centre is planning to introduce a Bill in Parliament to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act to reserve two seats for Kashmiri migrants and one seat for PoK displaced people in the legislative assembly of the Union Territory.

"We have no problem in giving reservations to unrepresented communities. The idea of the upper house was that all such communities will be represented and accordingly seats were reserved for Paharis, Gujjars, Kashmiri Pandits, or any other community, in the upper house. But this reorganisation act dissolved that as well," NC spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said.

He said the other issue was that the Lieutenant Governor is a nominated person and does not have the powers to nominate members to the assembly.

"The LG, nominated person from Delhi, will nominate two seats is unacceptable in a democracy. Even in the past, when there were two nominated seats

for women, it was done after the approval of the elected government," Sadiq said.

He said the BJP was trying to "hide its sins".

"They understood that their prospects in the coming elections are not good. They feel that by nominating four to five seats by

the powers have been given to the LG to nominate. It would have been better if some seats would have been reserved and the representative would have been elected from there. It would create a larger platform for return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits and fill the vacuum created over the past 35 years," Bhan said.

He said it is more a step of "disempowerment" than empowerment because no one knows who they are going to nominate.

"We have seen in other UTs how the LG works. There is a quarrel everyday in Delhi," he added.

"Mufti Mohammad Sayeed won his first election from R S Pura and leaders like P L Handoo and M L Fotedar were elected from Muslim-majority areas. It created a larger space for everyone. This nomination system will only increase the trust deficit and not reduce it," Bhan added.

Both Sadiq and Bhan said the amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act was not in the spirit of the country's Constitution.

"The other important part is that the reorganisation act is under judicial scrutiny and to bring such changes in a huff is like playing with the Constitution," Bhan said.

"All this is done in a haste while this reorganization act has been challenged in the Supreme Court. I don't see any reason to make this decision in such a hurry. I believe while this is all right and to be welcomed but the fact that the LG is nominating these seats is not acceptable," Sadiq added.

CITU, Kisan Tehrik Hold Protest In Jammu Over Manipur Situation

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU) and the J-K Kisan Tehrik on Tuesday held a protest here, demanding the restoration of peace in violence-hit Manipur.

Activists of the two bodies gathered in front of the divisional commissioner's office in the Panama Chowk area here and raised slogans against the central government's handling of the situation in the north-eastern state.

They demanded immediate action, including the dismissal of the current government and the imposition of governor's rule in the strife-torn state, as a means to address the escalating crisis.

"We demand governor's rule in Manipur. They should dismiss the government," said Kishore Kumar, president of J-K Kisan Tehrik.

Jagdish Sharma, general secretary, CITU, said the "divisive policy" of the BJP-RSS was responsible for the situation in Manipur.

The Shiv Sena Dogra Front also took out a protest rally here against incidents of violence in Manipur, including the parading naked of two women.

Scores of SSDF activists, led by chairman Ashok Gupta, gathered in the Rani Park area of the city and raised slogans, demanding that the government should put an end to atrocities against the women in Manipur.

Army's Command Hospital Undertakes First Corneal Transplant Surgery In J&K



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Setting a new milestone by opening eye-bank facilities and a corneal transplant centre, the Command Hospital of the Army has helped two elderly persons to regain vision in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, a defence spokesperson said on Tuesday.

He said the eyes donated by a deceased person in Katra were retrieved by the Eye Bank of the Command Hospital (Northern Command) and transplanted to give vision to two visually-disabled people.

The spokesperson added that one of the recipients of the organs was a 64-year-old man who had lost vision in both eyes 20 years ago. He started moving around comfortably within a few days of the surgery.

Another transplant surgery performed on a 67-year-old woman who had corneal opac-

ity in the right eye for five years has grossly benefitted the recipient, he said.

Udhampur district had no corneal transplant facilities until now, the spokesperson said, adding that the hospital under the command of Major General Avinash Das took the initiative to start the facility this year.

He said a certificate of registration for eye banking and a corneal transplantation facility under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (THOTA) Act was obtained from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in May.

A team led by Lieutenant Colonel Priya Taank, who is trained in corneal transplant surgeries, is working on promoting eye donation in Udhampur and the transplantation of cornea in cases of corneal blindness.

A number of patients have registered themselves for corneal transplants at the hospital, the spokesperson added.

After Exodus Of Top Leaders, PDP Launches Online Campaign To Strengthen Presence In J&K Politics

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Faced with large scale attrition of leaders after the fall of its coalition government with the BJP in 2018, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has taken to social media to scout for new stakeholders to begin the political journey afresh in Jammu and Kashmir.

PDP youth president Waheed Parra said besides engaging the youth in the political process, the online campaign will also open up the political space for those who want to be associated with politics, but do not have the referrals and connections to do so.

"This is the first time such a step has been taken by any political party. One of the objectives is to bring the youth into the political process. This will open the political space for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

"At the same time, there is a vacuum on the ground as there is no political conversation or political space. We want to reach out to those youth who are not politically connected and don't have the right kind of recommendations to join politics. Our aim is not only to engage the youth but empower them democratically," Parra, the brain behind PDP's online scouting for future leaders, told PTI.

Parra said with election to 47,000 grassroots level representatives due in Jammu and Kashmir, the PDP was trying to bring in more and more educated youth to these positions.

"There will be 47,000 persons who will be involved in grassroots democracy (Panchayat and Urban Local bodies) elections in the coming days. Our effort is that more and more of these should be educated, qualified and have the passion to serve. It should not be that new people only come through referrals and recommendations.

"Just like people apply for jobs or admissions in universities, through this form, the idea is to make the democratic process participatory and make people stakeholders in the grassroots democracy. We are not shifting people out of their native places. This process is about how one can bring a political change in their village and own areas," he added.

Parra said through the conventional process adopted by political parties, the same set of people are elected, which does not make any room for new people.

"This has resulted in many youngsters staying away from the political process. Our effort is to bring in more and more youth," he said.

The thought probably emerged as the PDP lost most of its leaders to other political parties after the BJP brought down Mehbooba Mufti-led coalition government in June 2018.

Parra said the response to the online campaign has been encouraging.

"The response is good. We have used social media and so far 1,000 youth have approached us. We have not yet spread our campaign, this is just the beginning," he said.

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM
Wednesday | 26-07-2023

Pre-Emptying Future Flood Disaster

The devastating floods that struck Kashmir in 2014 left behind a trail of destruction, causing loss of thousands of crores of rupees. The Valley is still reeling from its fallout. The Ministry of Home Affairs' recent call for corrective measures to prevent such disasters from recurring is a timely step towards safeguarding the Valley from a future flood, or at least minimizing its destructive fallout.

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, has released a comprehensive report titled 'Kashmir Floods 2014 - Recovery to Resilience.' The report serves as a stark reminder of the catastrophic consequences that unplanned development can bring. It highlights the need for coordinated action and well-preparedness in the face of natural calamities.

One of the major casualties of the 2014 floods was the healthcare system. With 102 institutions of the Directorate of Health Services in Kashmir affected, four of the five major hospitals in Srinagar had to be shut down, leaving thousands of people without access to medical care. The Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar and Shri Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital (SMHS) were submerged for weeks, rendering them non-functional and exacerbating the crisis.

Moreover, the education sector suffered significant damage, with thousands of primary and middle school buildings collapsing or partially damaged. The disruption in educational services persisted for up to three months, impacting the future of our children.

The housing sector in Kashmir also bore the brunt of the floods, incurring massive losses amounting to over Rs 30,000 crore. The magnitude of these damages underlines the urgency of implementing measures to prevent such devastation in the future.

The report rightly points out the need for flood forecasting and early warning systems. At present, there are three hydrological stations installed on the River Jhelum, which runs through Kashmir, but they are primarily used to monitor water flow between India and Pakistan, not as flood forecasting stations. Integrating these stations into a comprehensive flood warning system can help authorities initiate timely evacuation, deploy emergency response teams, and provide relief supplies to vulnerable communities.

Another critical aspect highlighted by the report is the deficiencies in the institutional system and the allocation of responsibilities during natural disasters. The lack of District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA) in most districts of the Union Territory and delays in damage and needs assessment highlights the need for a more robust and streamlined disaster management framework.

To address these issues comprehensively, there is an urgent need to institutionalize disaster management in the region. Allocating and utilizing funds from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) effectively will ensure preparedness and timely relief during emergencies.

As Kashmir seeks to recover from the scars of the 2014 floods and build resilience against future calamities, the lessons learned from this tragedy must be heeded. It is imperative for all stakeholders, including the central and the UT government, to work together to implement corrective measures and invest in disaster management policies, early warning systems, and well-coordinated response mechanisms.

OTHER OPINION

Still potent

Achieving success is difficult, but sustaining it is even harder. The global battle to eradicate AIDS is an example. While the infectious disease may not carry an imminent death sentence any longer owing to a plethora of medical breakthroughs in the past decades, it remains incurable, with HIV affecting nearly 1.5 million people globally every year. A reappraisal of the potency of the epidemic is thus necessary to gauge its threat. The annual update released recently by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS shows that the battle against the scourge is marred with obstacles, new and old. While mortality has decreased, a life was lost every minute due to AIDS in 2022. There are other challenges. Even though there has been a four-fold increase in the number of individuals availing of antiretroviral therapy, 9.2 million people still lacked access to treatment. There has been a decline in new infections. However, closer scrutiny reveals that this progress is also uneven. Women account for 46% of new infections, with 15 to 24-year-olds being infected disproportionately. The burden of infections is even higher among women in poorer countries and in specific constituencies. High-risk groups, such as sex workers, transgenders, drug addicts and prison inmates, are more vulnerable because of their inability to negotiate safe sex practices as well as the high rate of sexual violence. These realities, it is feared, may slow down the momentum generated in meeting the UN goal of ending HIV/AIDS by 2030 by several years.

A public health crisis, be it the AIDS epidemic or the Covid pandemic, witnesses the overlap of the medical with social, economic and cultural spheres. The biggest factors hindering the eradication of AIDS are not just the prohibitive cost of treatment but also poverty, gender discrimination and social stigma. India, despite making progress, has fallen short of achieving global targets. Notably, the HIV & AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act promulgated by the Indian government in 2017 prioritised the protection of patients; but there has not been a single prosecution under the Act yet in spite of there being reports of violations. The shortage of HIV drugs worldwide is an area of concern. Resistance to these drugs is also pushing people towards costlier second and third lines of treatment. The challenge is layered. The battle against AIDS will remain fraught without affirmative action across several realms.

Telegraph India

Can We Beat Tuberculosis in Kashmir?

The incidence of tuberculosis is decreasing at a rate of roughly 2% every year. However, in the pursuit of eliminating TB from the region, the drop has to be around 10%

Dr. Abdul Rouf

The beautiful valley of Kashmir has long grappled with the burden of tuberculosis (TB), a deadly infectious disease that affects thousands of lives each year. Although as per recent Sub National certification for progress towards TB free status verification reports, the incidence of TB cases in Kashmir remains relatively low when compared to most of the other regions in India. But elimination of TB in this region is an uphill task. 3376 notified cases have been notified in 2022 in the Kashmir division. A key concern is that, if we can end TB by 2025 under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (bringing incidence less than 44 cases per lakh population).

The incidence of tuberculosis is decreasing at a rate of roughly 2% every year. However, in the pursuit of eliminating TB from the region, the drop has to be around 10%.

Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy (TPT) has emerged as a crucial tool to curb the spread of the disease and bring the valley closer to its goal of elimination, as it can raise the decline to 10% if executed in true spirit.

Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy, also known as TB preventive treatment, is a medical intervention aimed at protecting individuals at high risk of developing active TB from becoming infected with the bacteria or progressing to the active disease if they have latent TB infection. Latent TB is when a person is infected with TB bacteria but does not have active TB disease. TPT typically involves administering a course of antibiotics to prevent the latent infection from becoming active TB. TPT plays a vital role in the global efforts to eliminate tuberculosis, especially in India where there are about 40% prevalence of latent TB infections, which can turn into active tuberculosis in 5 to 10% of cases within two years of acquiring infection. Around 71% of household contacts (HHC) of pulmonary TB patients in India had baseline TBI. The risk of TBI increases significantly (16-21 times) in cases of HIV co-infection with or without ART. So, the target population for TPT includes people living with HIV, household contacts of pulmonary TB patients, and other high-risk groups.

To identify TB infection, Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) and Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) are utilized, as there is currently no gold standard test to diagnose TBI or predict progression to TB disease. One of the key steps in TPT implementation is counselling eligible individuals and their families about TPT. Transparent information sharing regarding the treatment regimen, benefits, adherence support, and potential adverse events plays a vital role in ensuring patient compliance.

Before initiating TPT, healthcare providers conduct a pre-treatment assessment, which includes baseline investigations like liver function tests and evaluating personal history, ensuring safe administration. Two TPT dosage regimens are used based on age, weight, and medical conditions: 6 months of daily Isoniazid (6H) and 3 months of weekly Isoniazid and Rifampin (3HP). But unfortunately, Rifampin is not available in the Valley and there is apprehension from some researchers and clinicians that monotherapy may lead to drug resistance. To support adherence and monitoring, digital platforms, tele/video calls, 99DOTS/MERM, and counting empty blisters are utilized. However, the availability and affordability of Rifampin for the 3HP regimen remain a concern, requiring close monitoring and advocacy with drug manufacturers.

Moreover, to generate demand for TPT from the community, improved communication, and social mobilization activities are needed. Non-government organizations (like JEET) and community-based organizations can play a pivotal role in supporting demand generation for TPT services.

How TPT contributes to the fight against TB

Latent TB infections act as a reservoir for active TB cases. By providing TPT to individuals with latent infections, the risk of progression to active TB is significantly reduced. This approach not only benefits the individual but also reduces the potential for further transmission of the disease in the community.

Moreover, TPT is particularly valuable for individuals who are more susceptible to TB infection and disease progression. This includes close contacts of active TB patients, people living with HIV, healthcare workers, and others with compromised immune systems.

By preventing latent TB infections from becoming active, TPT also directly contributes to lowering TB incidence rates. This reduction in new cases is a crucial step towards TB elimination. Furthermore, compared to the costs asso-



Photo for representational purposes only

ciated with treating active TB cases, providing TPT is a cost-effective approach. Early intervention through TPT can save substantial medical expenses and resources.

Kashmir faces some challenges with TPT

Identifying individuals with latent TB infections can be challenging, as many may not present any symptoms. A comprehensive screening program, especially for high-risk groups, is necessary to identify latent cases. Non-availability of IGRA test which is more specific than TST in public sector is one of the key concerns in Kashmir.

Additionally, completing a full course of TPT is crucial for its effectiveness. Healthcare providers and community health workers should focus on education and support to ensure patients adhere to the prescribed regimen as per laid guidelines.

Like active TB, TPT may also face stigma and misconceptions among the population. Public awareness campaigns can help dispel myths and encourage acceptance of preventive therapy. To implement TPT successfully, the healthcare infrastructure needs strengthening. Access to diagnostics, drugs, and trained healthcare professionals is also essential.

The Road Ahead

Tuberculosis preventive therapy is a powerful tool that, if effectively deployed, can aid in eliminating TB from Kashmir. To make this a reality, collaboration between the government,

gram performance regularly. Monitor key indicators such as the number of people screened, the number initiated on preventive treatment, treatment completion rates, and adverse events.

Site Visits and Audits: Conduct regular site visits and audits by independent experts or supervisors to assess the quality of TPT services. Identify areas for improvement and provide feedback to healthcare providers.

External Review Panels: Establish external review panels comprising experts from Community Medicine Departments of Medical Colleges and Public Health experts in TB control and TPT. These panels can periodically review the program's performance, assess adherence to guidelines, and recommend improvements.

Patient Feedback and Support: Gather feedback from patients who have undergone TPT to understand their experiences and challenges. Implement mechanisms for patient support and address their concerns promptly.

Peer Review and Collaboration: Encourage peer review and collaboration among healthcare providers. Regular case conferences and discussions can improve knowledge sharing and adherence to best practices.

Data Management and Reporting: Implement a standardized data management system to ensure accurate and timely reporting of TPT outcomes. Monitor data regularly to identify trends and potential issues.

Quality Improvement Initiatives: Use the findings from audits, reviews, and data analysis to develop and implement quality improvement initiatives. Continuous quality improve-

“ A comprehensive screening program, especially for high-risk groups, is necessary to identify latent cases. Non-availability of IGRA test which is more specific than TST in public sector is one of the key concerns in Kashmir

healthcare organizations, non governmental agencies, and the community is indispensable. Investing in robust screening programs, enhancing public awareness, and ensuring access to quality healthcare services are all critical steps on the path to a TB-free Kashmir.

Although stakeholders have taken into account the majority of the factors, external quality assurance (EQA) implementation is still crucial if you want to achieve the intended results. Implementing external quality assurance in tuberculosis preventive treatment (TPT) in Kashmir, or any other region, is crucial to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and effectiveness of the program. EQA helps to identify gaps and weaknesses in the system and improves overall patient outcomes.

Measures to Achieve External Quality Assurance for TPT

Government and Stakeholder Engagement: Engage with the local government health authorities, international organizations, NGOs, and other stakeholders involved in TB control. Seek their support and collaboration to set up an EQA program.

Developing Guidelines and Protocols: Establish clear guidelines and protocols for TB preventive treatment, based on the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations and national guidelines. This ensures consistency in the delivery of care.

Training and Capacity Building: Conduct comprehensive training programs for healthcare professionals involved in TPT, including doctors, nurses, lab technicians, and community health workers. Training should cover case detection, treatment initiation and completion, monitoring, and reporting.

Laboratory Support and Accreditation: Ensure that laboratories responsible for diagnosing TB and monitoring treatment have appropriate equipment and trained staff. Work towards obtaining relevant laboratory accreditations.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System: Set up a robust M&E system to track TPT pro-

ment is essential for enhancing TPT services.

Public Awareness and Advocacy: Raise public awareness about TB and the importance of preventive treatment. Engage in advocacy efforts to garner support for TB control programs and external quality assurance.

Research and Innovation: Encourage operational research and innovation in TB preventive treatment to stay up-to-date with the latest developments and best practices.

Remember that establishing an effective EQA program requires continuous dedication, collaboration, and adaptability. Regularly reassess the program's effectiveness and make adjustments as necessary to improve TPT outcomes in Kashmir.

So, to conclude, Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment is crucial to reducing TB burden, transmission and to achieve elimination. Proper implementation, monitoring, and collaboration between healthcare sectors are essential to achieving the goal of ending TB. No one is safe until everyone is screened and treated to stop the spread of TB infection and #EndTB. Addressing challenges requires a multi-faceted approach involving strong political commitment, collaboration between different stakeholders, community engagement, innovative strategies for reaching high-risk populations, and ongoing monitoring, evaluation of program performance and external quality assurance. By overcoming these obstacles, UT of Jammu and Kashmir can enhance the impact of TPT and move closer to achieving TB elimination goals.

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

Raja Jahangir Ali

It was on the scorching plains of Karbala nearly 1400 years ago that Imam Hussain (AS) fulfilled the promise of the "great sacrifice" which had ransomed patriarch Prophet Ibrahim's (A.S) first son Ismail (A.S) in antiquity. (37-107)

The commemoration of the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) and his 72 faithful companions, kith and kin is keeping the true struggle of all righteous as well as oppressed people alive and in motion against tyrants of the time. It is also the best possible challenge and protest against different dimensions of tyranny wherever needed in the world. Imam Hussain (A.S) preferred immortal martyrdom to transient life under an oppressive system so that mankind could live with dignity. Yazid wanted Imam Hussain's hand as token of allegiance, but Imam gave his head in defiance because a compromise with a libertine like Yazid would have distorted not only his grandfather's mission but that of all prophets of the yore.

The sacrifice of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions and male members of his house particularly his 6-month-old baby son Ali Asghar was thus a most remarkable instance in history when blood triumphed over the sword. The tragedy of Karbala has since continued to interact with human conscience inspiring the seekers of the truth and justice against the satanic forces of oppression and tyranny. It has given birth to revolutions and reform movements across the four corners of the world. The message of freedom and liberty preached by Imam Hussain (AS) in Karbala where virtue and vice stood face to face in 61AH (corresponding to 680 CE), presents the greatest lesson for humanity. It was a black day of trial where only a thin line separated heaven from hell. The deciding factors were courage, sacrifice and firm conviction.

While Hur ibn Yazid al Riyahi, one of the top commanders of Yazidi army, sent to arrest Imam Hussain (A.S) succeeded in overcoming the pull and attraction of the mortal world and switched over to Hussain's side at the eleventh hour, Umar ibn Saad the commander in chief of Yazid's army and the son of

a companion of the Prophet (Pbuh), on the other hand found the fires of hell irresistible and succumbed to the false promise of the governorship of the province of Ray.

Dark pages of history tell us when it was all over by dusk, Ibn Saad in a most atrocious manner, ordered the trampling of the headless bodies of the martyrs under the hooves of the horses and hoisted their heads on lances. It was clear that Hussain (A.S) was triumphant in his mission to prove the eternal supremacy of truth over falsehood and freedom over slavery. Some 14 centuries past after Hussain's brutal martyrdom, his memory is still alive and millions of hearts beat in every nook and corner of the world with the love of Hussain (A.S) each Muharram. Muslims and non-Muslims alike still recall his supreme ideals and sacrifices which act as a torch of guidance for those who feel the need of reforming and revolutionizing their societies.

Great men of the world, be they national leaders, reformers, saints, poets, or thinkers, aside from their committed deeds, are often remembered and their status evaluated in the light of the words they have uttered on important and decisive occasions, help in measuring their high ideals and sublime thoughts. Likes of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, successful leaders and revolutionaries of the 20th century have



admitted to have drawn inspiration from the revolution of Imam Hussain (AS). How revered are the words of Imam Hussain (AS) who sacrificed his life and that of his kith and kin willingly for the sake of saving the religion of Islam from extinction.

However, Hussain's evil adversaries have been thrown in the dustbins of history and only to be cursed whenever their name pops up before the supporters of freedom and justice.

Allah has certified in Holy Quran saying "Your companion (Prophet Pbuh) has neither strayed, nor is he misguided, nor does he speak out of his own desire. It is nothing but revelation send down to him" -Al Quran (53- 2, 3, 4). Not only articles but volumes would be required to record the virtues and excellence of Hussain (AS) whom the Prophet has hailed as a "Beckon of Guidance and Arch of Salvation". Prophet's famous saying "Hussain is from me and I am from Hussain" also stands out as proof of the divinely guided Imam whose blood revived Islam. Hussain the symbol of Islamic unity and justice was virtue personified. He had the "Seal of Prophet" as his grandfather, "Commander of the Faithful" Ali (AS) as his father, the "symbol of womanhood" Syeda Zahra (SA) as his mother and shared with his brother Imam Hassan the "Leadership of the Youth of Paradise".

Ten years after the martyrdom

of Imam Hassan (AS) whose name had become a byword for patience Imam Hussain adhered to the spirit of the treaty which was reached by his brother with the Umayyads. But Hussain (AS) like his brother and father before him was no factional leader. He was the third divinely ordained Imam. For ten long years he patiently observed the treaty but when Yazid was proclaimed as Caliph forcibly and without following the norms and conditions of the treaty, the Imam felt it his duty to reproach the former by writing a scathing letter. The Umayyad Caliph Ameer Muawiyah died in 60 Hijri and he on his death bed advised Yazid not to press Imam Hussain for allegiance. Yazid however, ordered the Governor of Medina, Walid to force Imam Hussain to swear allegiance to him.

The Imam outright refused and left for Makkah. After learning that assassins had been sent to murder him in the most peaceful sanctuary of Makkah, Hussain left for Iraq after converting his Hajj into Umrah, just before the Hajj ceremonies, to avoid bloodshed in the house of God. On

the 2nd day of Muharram, Imam Hussain (AS) and his small group of faithful along with his family including womenfolk and children were intercepted at the plains of Karbala by the Umayyad troops. When pressed for allegiance, the Imam whose martyrdom had been foretold by his grandfather the Prophet (PBUH), refused saying "A person like me cannot extend his hand of allegiance to a person like Yazid." After announcing this firm and blunt decision he asked his followers and faithful to leave him because it was only his life that Yazid wanted. The faithful group however stood firm and after three days of thirst and hunger died fighting alongside their Imam. Mistaken, the enemy forces had thought that Hussain would be forced to surrender before Yazid as ruler of the Islamic state, should his camp's water supply be cut by capturing the river Euphrates. They proved wrong. The tragedy of Karbala awakened the human conscience. Karbala is the voice against tyranny and oppression. It is the high point of the struggle between truth and falsehood with the blood of martyrs triumphing over the naked sword.

Truly appreciating Imam's (as) teachings and utterances, as well as thinking and concentrating on his landmark achievement in the desert of Karbala, led his followers to revolt against the oppressors and tyrannical systems putting dearest thing at stake until truth and justice prevailed.

Imam Hussain (AS) undoubtedly became the saviour of message of Islam which was presented to the world by the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) which says not to yield to any tyrant howsoever callous and powerful, not to suppress the truth and facts which could lead to injustice, social imbalance and deprivation of the rightful and lastly not to decoy or camouflage the truth or falsehood where it becomes difficult to distinguish between the two. To shun these evils, he pronounced his conviction as "Death with honour, dignity is better than thousand-year life with disgrace and humiliation".

Author is an advocate and can be reached at: Email:kashmir151@gmail.com



TRULY APPRECIATING IMAM'S (AS) TEACHINGS AND UTTERANCES, as well as thinking and concentrating on his landmark achievement in the desert of Karbala, led his followers to revolt against the oppressors and tyrannical systems putting dearest thing at stake until truth and justice prevailed

Vladimir Putin Facing Tough Times Ahead

The Russian President's decision not to attend the BRICS Summit in August at Johannesburg has showed chinks in his armour, which has already suffered many blows during 2023

Asad Mirza

Russian President Vladimir Putin has been forced to cancel plans to attend the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, next month, due to fears over war crimes arrest. Moscow feared that Putin might be arrested in South Africa for war crimes if he attended the annual event in Johannesburg.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) earlier in 2023 had issued an arrest warrant for Putin over his alleged role in the mass abduction of Ukrainian children. As an ICC signatory nation, South Africa would have been expected to arrest Putin if he entered the country.

Putin's travel plans had put South Africa in a tough spot, as though it remains an ally of Russia, the relations between the two have gone cold since the start of the Ukraine War. Also South Africa didn't want the relations to deteriorate further.

For months, South African diplomats tried to prevent a potential diplomatic confrontation with the Kremlin over the issue. The issued weighed so much on South African politicians that to avoid any unnecessary controversy, the South African President Cyril Ramaphosa even reportedly requested permission from the ICC for an exemption in order to avoid arresting Putin during the summit. With tensions mounting ahead of the summit, South Africa Deputy President Paul Mashatile admitted in a 14th Jul interview that the best option would be for Putin to stay away. "The Russians are not happy,



though," he commented, "They want him to come."

The Russian strong man under whose rule Russia's relationship with the Western bloc has reached its lowest point since after the Cold war, wanted his attendance at the BRICS Summit to show his internal audience that still Russia carries weight at the global level, in addition to showing to the western nations that Russia can survive their indifference by engaging with emerging non-western powers.

To achieve these two objectives the Russian diplomats continued to pressurise their South African counterparts. To counter this, in a court affidavit made public earlier this week,

President Ramaphosa had claimed any attempt to detain Putin could lead to war between Russia and South Africa. "I must highlight, for the sake of transparency, that South Africa has obvious problems with executing a request to arrest and surrender President Putin," he said, as "Russia has made it clear that arresting its sitting president would be a declaration of war."

Though South Africa might have saved its relations with Russia, in reality for the Russian government this has ended in a negative perception around Putin and the Russian might. Now the common Russian is aware that Putin is a declared war criminal, and though he might justify him not being so, using

the state media machinery, the result is clear that Putin has not been able to achieve what he urgently wanted to prove to the western world. In the end, Russia was forced to end the speculation and declare that Putin would not be travelling to Johannesburg for the summit. Though salvage efforts are still on and Putin may address the summit leaders virtually.

The year 2023 has not been kind to Putin so far. First came the ICC decision in March to charge him with war crimes, resulting is severely damaging his reputation, then weeks later he was forced to announce cancellation of the traditional May Day parades in Moscow and around Russia, without giving any reason, but obviously it was done due to the shortage of troops and other military hardware being lost in the Ukraine war, as the rumour mills propounded. This also showed him faulting to maintain his authority and control of his country, in question.

Later in June, units of the Russian military-funded private paramilitary group Wagner added to his woes, as reports of a mutiny and control of the county's military control by Wagner troops emerged in the western media. Though the so-called 'mutiny' was suppressed but not before the world saw the mutinous troops controlling major Russian cities and marching within 200 kms distance of Moscow, perplexing both the western world, Russian citizens and pushing Putin to a tough spot, as various images showed Russian masses cheering-up the mutineers meaning lack of popular support for

the iron man.

At the moment Putin looks his weakest during his 23-years as the Russian strongman. But these incidents might have forced him to reconsider plans to travel to South Africa, as his gamble to restore his international prestige might have cost him his country. As history tells us, most mutinies or coups happen when the dictators leave their country's shores.

The whole episode has left Kremlin facing harsh realities and rather harsher measures needed to restore Putin and Russia's image at the global level, which has certainly waned during 2023.

The Russian disquiet is evident in the wordings of spokesman Dmitry Peskov, who commenting on Putin's decision not to travel to South Africa used very severe wording: "In this world, it is absolutely clear to everyone what an attempt to encroach on the head of the Russian state means. Therefore, there is no need to explain anything to anyone here."

Brave words indeed, but to restore his personal and his country's image as a global power, Putin might have to resort to some quick and tough measures, the only concern is that this may not result in him committing a blitzkrieg against the Ukrainians. The coming days indeed might be tough for Putin, even putting his survival at stake.

Asad Mirza is a Delhi-based senior political and international affairs commentator. Views are personal.

Could Being Close To Nature Help You Stay Young?

A recent study says your proximity to green spaces can have significant effects on your biological age

Jishnu Bandyopadhyay | Conde Nast traveller

Being close to nature has often been associated with better mental health and increased productivity. But a recently released study has found that green spaces can contribute to slowed biological ageing.

The study in the peer-reviewed journal Science Advances suggests that you may be adding years to your life if you have long-term exposure to nature. The study examined the effects of prolonged exposure to greenery on ageing in a cohort of more than 900 people over a 20-year period from 1986 to 2006.

The study determined biological age at the molecular level using blood DNA by examining minute variations in the function of genes involved in the ageing process. While chronological age is determined by the number of years a person has been alive, biological age takes into account various factors such as lifestyle, genetics, and overall health status to assess how well an individual's body functions and ages. Your chronological age and biological age might be on completely different tracks, says the study. And if your bio-age advances too much, it might just put you at risk of developing a host of health problems, from Alzheimer's disease to cancer.

We have often been told that what



we eat, how much we work out, or how we are genetically endowed are some of the major factors that determine how we age. But for the first time, a study claims that the environment we are surrounded by plays as much of a role in ageing as our individual lifestyle and genetic makeup. Using satellite imaging, the study assessed how close the participants' residential

addresses were to nature, and paired this data with blood samples taken in the 15th and 20th year of the study to determine the biological age of the person. It also found that living close to nature might add an average of 2.5 years to a person's life, keeping you biologically young for longer.

This is not the only study that is telling us that our biological age might

have something to do with the greenery that surrounds us. A study titled 'Exposure to Greenness and Mortality in a Nationwide Prospective Cohort Study of Women' published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives in 2016 investigated the relationship between exposure to green spaces and mortality rates among women in the United States. The results suggested that higher levels of vegetation around residences were associated with decreased mortality rates from a wide range of causes, including respiratory and cancer-related diseases.

Another study titled 'Effect of Forest Bathing on Sleep Quality: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis' published in 2020 explored Shinrin-yoku, a Japanese practice that involves making contact with and taking in the atmosphere of the forest. This study from the journal Environmental Research and Public Health analysed the impact of forest bathing on sleep quality. The results suggested that exposure to forest environments had a positive influence on sleep quality indicators and biological age.

Scientists and researchers agree that there needs to be much more research that needs to be conducted to solidify these claims and utilise them in urban environments. As our surrounding greenery makes space for more concrete, will we age faster? Only time will tell.

How To Make Homes Cooler Without Cranking Up The Air Conditioning?

The Conversation

Temperatures around the world are soaring. Both California's Death Valley and China's Xinjiang region have seen temperatures climb above the 50 degree Celsius mark. A blistering heatwave is also sweeping across the Mediterranean, causing temperatures in parts of Italy, Spain, France and Greece to exceed 40 degree Celsius.

In the future, the impact of scorching temperatures will extend beyond traditionally warm regions. In fact, our new research indicates that, if global temperature rise increases from 1.5 degree Celsius to 2 degree Celsius, countries at northern latitudes like the UK, Norway, Finland and Switzerland will face the greatest relative increase in uncomfortably hot days.

During uncomfortably hot weather, people seek ways to cool down their homes. Air conditioners often become the default solution when temperatures rise as they provide fast and effective relief from scorching heat.

But air conditioners consume a lot of energy. Many also use refrigerants called fluorinated gases that have high global warming potential when they leak.

Unrestrained usage of

air conditioners in the future will result in increased emissions and further global warming. So it's important to know the recommended steps to keep your home cool in the face of rising temperatures, without causing the climate more harm.

Block the sun

Buildings can be protected from too much heat by creating a barrier between them and the sun's rays. There are different ways to achieve this, ranging from reflective and ventilated roofs to external window shutters and awnings. Research one of us worked on in Spain found that using external window shutters can reduce cooling needs (the thermal energy required to keep people comfortable) by up to 14%.

Even something as simple as painting your roof a light colour can reduce indoor temperatures. Research in very hot cities in Pakistan found that, by reflecting the sun's energy, this approach can reduce cooling needs by more than 7%.

Another effective technique is to make use of the shade provided by tree canopies. Research in Melbourne, Australia, has shown that trees covering buildings in shade can lower the surface temperature of walls by up to 9 degree Celsius.

'Microwaving Food Containers Can Expose You To Toxic Nanoplastics'

Press Trust Of India

Microwaving plastic food containers can release billions of small toxic plastic particles, according to a study.

The researchers found that microwaving plastic baby food containers released over two billion nanoplastics and four million microplastics for every square centimeter of container in some cases.

The study, published recently in the journal Environmental Science & Technology, also found that three-quarters of cultured embryonic kidney cells had died after two days of being introduced to those same particles.

"It is really important to know how many micro- and nanoplastics we are taking in," said Kazi Albab Hussain, the study's lead author and a doctoral student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, US.

"Many studies, including ours, are demonstrating that the toxicity of micro- and nanoplastics is highly linked to the level of exposure," Hussain added.

The team conducted experiments with two baby food containers made from polypropylene and a reusable pouch made of polyethylene, both plastics approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

In one experiment, the re-

searchers filled the containers with either deionised water or 3 per cent acetic acid — the latter intended to simulate dairy products, fruits, vegetables and other relatively acidic consumables — then heated them at full power for three minutes in a 1,000-watt microwave.

Afterward, they analysed the liquids for evidence of micro- and nanoplastics: the micro being particles at least 1/1,000th of a millimetre in diameter, the nano any



particles smaller.

The actual number of each particle released by the microwaving depended on multiple factors, including the plastic container and the liquid within it.

However, based on a model that factored in particle release, body weight, and per-capita ingestion of various food and drink, the team estimated that infants drinking products with microwaved water and toddlers consuming microwaved dairy products are taking

in the greatest relative concentrations of plastic.

Experiments designed to simulate the refrigeration and room-temperature storage of food or drink over a six-month span also suggested that both could lead to the release of micro- and nanoplastics, the researchers said.

The team, including Svetlana Romanova from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, cultured and exposed embryonic kidney cells to the actual plastic particles released from the containers.

Rather than introduce just the number of particles released by one container, the researchers instead exposed the cells to particle concentrations that infants and toddlers might accumulate over days or from multiple sources.

After two days, just 23 per cent of kidney cells exposed to the highest concentrations had managed to survive — a much higher mortality rate than that observed in earlier studies of micro- and nanoplastic toxicity. The team suspects that kidney cells might be more susceptible to the particles than are other cell types examined in prior research.

Regardless of its experimental conditions, the team found that polypropylene containers and polyethylene pouches generally release about 1,000 times more nanoplastics than microplastics.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Office Of The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar

NEAR J&K BANK, (Zaldagar)

Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e.mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

Gist of Short-Term e-NIT No. 16 OF 2023-24, Dated: 25-07-2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar, invites e-tenders on item rate basis by e-tendering mode for:-

S No	Particulars of the work	Tender fee (In Rs.)	Estimated Cost "Rs" in Lacs	EMD Amount	50 % Exemption Allowed for SSI/MSE	Completion Period	Class/ Registration Type (Qualification criteria)
1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7
1	Electrical repair works at Lift Irrigation Scheme Zazna - B of MISD Ganderbal.	100.00	0.31	2% of Estimated cost	Yes	05 days	Electrical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ other firms having relevant experience
2	Repairs to arrest leakages in Rising Main at Lift Irrigation Scheme Beigh Mohalla Watlar of MISD Ganderbal.	100.00	0.29	2% of Estimated cost	Yes	03 days	Mechanical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ other firms having relevant experience
3	Shifting and installation of 05 cusec pumping unit coupled with 3 cylinder diesel engine and Mechanical / Electrical Repair Works thereof.	100.00	0.59	2% of Estimated cost	Yes	03 days	Mechanical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ other firms having relevant experience
4	Mechanical repair Works at lift Irrigation Scheme Chunthan Gulabpora unit 2nd of MISD Ganderbal.	100.00	0.35	2% of Estimated cost	Yes	05 days	Mechanical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ other firms having relevant experience

The bidding process shall be completed online in single cover containing -Tender Document fee, EMD in the form of CDR/FDR, Pre-qualification & Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

The critical dates are as tabulated below:-

i	Publish Date	25-07-2023 at 1600 hrs
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	25-07-2023 from 1600 hrs
iii	Clarification start date	N.A
iv	Bid submission start date	25-07-2023 from 1600 hrs
v	Clarification end date	N.A
vi	Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date	01-08-2023 upto 1400 hrs
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	02-08-2023 at 1230 hrs

The bid uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on scheduled date /time or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Zaldagar Srinagar.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD Form No. 25 & 33.

Position of funds	Budgetary Provisions
Position of AAA	Accorded under order No. 76-MCOF OF 2022-23, Dated :- 24-03-2023
Position of Technical sanction	Sanctioned vide No.'s 38, 40, 42 and 44 of 2023-24 respectively

No. MIDS/TS/ 1664-69
DIPK-5778/23 DATED: 25-07-2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division,
Srinagar

Office Of The Chief Medical Officer Budgam

Sub;- 3rd and final Combined Seniority list of Matriculate Class-Ivth Employees (All categories).

Ref:- DHSK Letter No, Est/lst/NG/7606-30, Dated:-24-05-2023.

CIRCULAR

Whereas, as per directions of Directorate of Health services, Kashmir in reference to above quoted No. and date, the 2nd tentative combined seniority list of Matriculate Class Ivth employees of District Budgam was circulated under this office No. CMOB/EST/NG/3763-75, Dated:-10-07-2023 .

Whereas, after circulating the same some representations were received by this office which were examined by this office and some of them were found genuine and has been considered, some were devoid of merits and rejected accordingly.

Now, therefore the final Combined seniority list of Matriculate class Ivth employees of District Budgam is hereby framed and circulated among all concerned through their DDO's.

Chief Medical Officer Budgam

No:- CMOB/Est/NG/6013-25
DIPK-5741/23 dated: 25-07-2023

Office Of The Principal Government College Of Education Institute of Advanced Studies in Education

CLUSTER UNIVERSITY, SRINAGAR

Maulana Azad Road Srinagar (J&K)

(NAAC RE-ACCREDITED GRADE "A" (CGPA 3.24)

Tele- Fax: 0194 2479807/ Email:gcoe.sgr@gmail.com/ http:// www.gcoekmr.org

No: - GCOE/IASE/23/ 1855

Dated:- 25.07.2023

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

For supply of Refreshment Food for Two Day National workshop on 2nd and 3rd August, 2023.

Expression of Interest (EOI) in the form of sealed quotations are invited from the reputed suppliers/caterers for supply of refreshment food items/lunch to this institution for Two day National workshop on 2nd and 3rd August, 2023. The quotation in specified format shall be available in the office of the undersigned from 26th July, 2023.

Date of Issue of Documents	From 26 th July to 31 st July, 2023; 12:00 PM.
Submission of Documents	By or before 31 st July, 2:00 PM
Date & Time of Opening of Bids:	31 st July, 2023; 03: 00 PM.
EMD Amount:	Rs. 1000.00 /- in the form of Cheque /DD favouring Principal, Govt. College of Education, M.A. Road, Srinagar.

DIPK-5785/23
DATED: 25-07-2023

Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz
Principa



JKTPO Showcases Rich Heritage At India GI Fair 2023

Sealed big ticket deals with international buyers

Observer News Service

NOIDA- The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) under the aegis of Industries & Commerce Department, J&K proudly participated in the prestigious India GI Fair 2023 organized by Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts (EPCH) for showcasing the exquisite and diverse Geographical Indications (GI) products from the enchanting region of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event took place at India Export Mart Greater Noida which attracted domestic & international buyers, visitors, traders, and enthusiasts from across India and abroad.

In tune with the overarching vision of Government of Jammu & Kashmir led by Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha to enhance access to markets and to boost exports of niche products of J&K, JKTPO is participating in Global and domestic exhibition, buyer-seller meets, trade fairs and other prominent platforms.

The India GI Fair is a flagship event that aims to celebrate and promote the unique cultural heritage, craftsmanship, and traditional expertise that

different regions in India have to offer. With Jammu and Kashmir being a treasure trove of ancient traditions and indigenous practices, the participation of traders from J&K in this event played a crucial role in highlighting the UT's exceptional GI products.

The event witnessed an impressive display of a wide range of GI-registered products like Hand-knotted Silk Carpets, Kani Shawls, Pashmina Shawls, Sozni, Saffron, Basohli Painting and Basmati.

With national and international buyers in attendance, the fair facilitated fruitful business interactions and paved the way for expanding market opportunities. The platform resulted in generation of more than 500 business leads and on spot retail sales of INR 25 lakh by J&K exhibitors.

The highlight of the fair was a prominent deal in Pashmina, where our exhibitors Ajaz Ahmad Malik & Irfan Amin both hailing from Srinagar closed deals worth INR 70 lakh with buyers from Kuwait and Oman. The deal pertains to Pashmina Rumaal, a traditional headscarf highly regarded in GCC countries.

Govt Says Closely Monitoring Prices, Demand-Supply Situation Of Food Items



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government is closely monitoring the prices as well as the demand-supply situation of all essential food items, Union Minister of State for Agriculture Kailash Choudhary on Tuesday said while asserting that it is committed to balancing the interest of both consumers and farmers.

The government has formed a panel to regularly monitor the prices and availability situation, he added.

"The government is monitoring the prices and availability of food items. It takes measures to boost domestic availability and keep prices under check," Choudhary said as he was replying to a question about food inflation and the recent export ban on non-basmati white rice.

He was speaking at an event to launch ITC's postal stamp on millets in collaboration with India Post.

Based on the demand-supply situation and retail price, he said the government decides on imposing export duty or putting restrictions on exports.

The minister said there is no problem on the supply front of food items in the country.

"The government looks at the interest of both consumers as well as farmers and tries to strike a balance," Choudhary said.

According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the inflation in the food basket was at 4.49 per cent in June, higher than 2.96 per cent in May. The food basket accounts for nearly half of the CPI (Consumer Price Index).

The data revealed that the annual rate of price rise was 19.19 per cent in case of spices, 12.71 per cent in 'cereals and products', 10.53 per cent in 'pulses and products', and 7 per cent in eggs. Fruits too were marginally costlier in June year-on-year.

However, there was a decline in inflation in 'oil and fats' (-18.12 per cent) and vegetables (-0.93 per cent).

Addressing the event, the minister emphasised on the need to promote production and consumption of millets.

He said the demand for millets is growing globally and this will help India being the

largest producer.

The increase in demand for millets both domestically as well as overseas would help farmers, especially small ones, in increasing their income, Choudhary said.

Already, he noted that the prices of bajra have more than doubled in the last three years and farmers are fetching better rates.

Choudhary highlighted many health benefits of millets and stressed on promoting the consumption of this superfood for better health.

He said the government is making efforts to create awareness about millets and appreciated the initiative taken by ITC to boost the production and consumption of millets.

The minister also highlighted various steps taken by the Modi-led government in the last nine years for boosting the growth of the agriculture sector such as the PM-KISAN scheme and around a 5-6-fold jump in agriculture budget.

He said the government's initiatives in the last nine years have helped in enhancing farmers' income.



Aviation Regulator DGCA Removes Spicejet From Its Enhanced Surveillance Regime

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Aviation watchdog DGCA has taken off SpiceJet from its enhanced surveillance regime, a senior official said on Tuesday.

The airline, which has been facing multiple headwinds, was placed under enhanced surveillance recently.

The senior DGCA official said that in view of the observations made in the past concerning inadequate maintenance and in view of the incidents during the monsoon season last year, SpiceJet was placed under enhanced surveillance.

"Accordingly 51 spot checks were conducted across 11 locations pan India, on the Boeing 737 and Bombardier DHC Q-400 fleet of aircraft, where in a total 23 aircraft were inspected and 95 observations were made by the DGCA teams," the official said.

The findings were of routine nature and were not considered significant by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

"Suitable maintenance action was taken by the airline to address the findings in accordance with DGCA guidelines. As a consequence, SpiceJet has been taken off the enhanced surveillance regime by DGCA," the official said.

On July 11, PTI had reported about DGCA placing SpiceJet under the enhanced surveillance regime and on that day, the airline refuted any such development.

When contacted, a SpiceJet spokesperson had said, "the information is absolutely incorrect and is strongly denied".

No such communication has been received by the airline from the DGCA, the spokesperson had said in a statement on July 11.

Aviation Sector Fleet Size Has Expanded 75 Pc Since 2013: Scindia

Press Trust Of India

KHAJURAHO (MP): Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiradiya Scindia on Tuesday said the aviation sector has seen an exponential growth in the last few years with the fleet size expanding from 400 aircraft in 2013 to 700 now and this number is likely to rise up to 1,500 in five years.

Attending a summit here, Scindia launched UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) 5.2 programme for small aircraft, aimed at enhancing air connectivity to remote areas of the country, and a mobile application for chopper operators to seek approvals from government authorities.

The UDAN 5.2 programme and the HeliSewa app were launched by the minister in Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh while inaugurating the 5th Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit (Heli Summit 2023) and three Flight Training Organizations (FTOs).

"We today started UDAN 5.2 programme for small aircraft. We have awarded 22 routes, which underlines the fact that air travel facilities are being made available to citizens living in remote areas under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Scindia said at the event.

Speaking about HeliSewa, the minister said it is a single window service platform for helicopter operators who will be able to get all approvals from ATC (air traffic control) on mobile phone.

HeliSewa is an initiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation under Digital India to create an ecosystem between heli-



copter operators and district authorities.

The mobile application will make it more convenient to use in terms of user experience, loading content, and usability of functions, said officials.

The Heli Summit 2023 was jointly organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, in association with the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Pawan Hans Ltd and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The theme of the event was "Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft".

On the occasion, Scindia also inaugurated three FTOs in Khajuraho, a popular tourist town. With this, the number of FTOs in Madhya Pradesh has gone up to six -- three in Khajuraho and one each in Indore, Sagar, and Guna.

Scindia, on the occasion, announced that a flight between Khajuraho and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh using a wide body aircraft will be launched soon.

"Khajuraho has a rich cultural heritage and it is our resolve to expand its air connectivity," he said.

The minister said in the last nine years of the Modi government, the aviation sector has seen an exponential growth and it has also been democratised.

Twitter Turning Into X Is Set To Kill Billions In Brand Value

Bloomberg

NEW DELHI: It's rare for corporate brands to become so intertwined with everyday conversation that they become verbs. It's rarer still for the owner of such a brand to announce plans to intentionally destroy it.

On Sunday, in the middle of a quiet summer weekend, Elon Musk decreed that Twitter's product name would be changed to "X," and that he is getting rid of the bird logo and all the associated words, including "tweet." Musk's move wiped out anywhere between \$4 billion and \$20 billion in value, according to analysts and brand agencies.

"It took 15-plus years to earn that much equity worldwide, so losing Twitter as a brand name is a significant financial hit," said Steve Susi, director of brand communication at Siegel & Gale.

Musk, whose company has already declined significantly in value since he purchased it for \$44 billion in October, announced the change on Saturday night. By Monday morning a new black "X" logo, designed by a fan over the weekend, began to appear across the site. New Chief Executive Officer Linda Yaccarino outlined the company's vision for X to become a



site for audio, video, messaging, payments and banking.

Analysts and brand agencies call the product's renaming a mistake. Twitter is one of the most recognizable social media brands, said Todd Irwin, founder of brand agency Fazer. Bird decals adorn small businesses and websites worldwide, alongside Instagram and Facebook logos.

Twitter's popularity has also made verbs like "tweet" and "retweet" part of modern culture, used regularly to explain how celebrities, politicians and others communicated with the public, said Joshua White, assistant professor of finance at Vanderbilt University.

X will require the company to rebuild that cultural pull and linguistic consensus from scratch. But that may be part of the motivation, so users stop comparing Twitter post-takeover to what it was before. "It's an exceptionally rare thing — in life or in business — that you get a second chance to make another big impression," Yaccarino tweeted.

Maruti Recalls 87,599 Units Of S-Presso, Eeco To Replace Faulty Steering Tie Rod

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on Monday said it is recalling 87,599 units of S-Presso and Eeco models to check and replace faulty steering tie rod.

The recalled units were manufactured between July 5, 2021, and February 15, 2023, the auto major said in a statement.

"It is suspected that there is a possible defect in a part of steering tie rod, used in such vehicles, which in a rare case, may break and affect vehicle steerability and handling," it noted.

Affected vehicle owners will be receiving communication from the company-authorized dealer workshops for inspection and



replacement of the faulty part, free of cost, Maruti Suzuki stated.

The recall is effective from July 24, 2023, 06:30 pm onwards, it said.

It is one of the largest

recalls being undertaken by the company in recent times.

Maruti Suzuki shares on Monday ended 0.75 per cent down at Rs 9,694.70 apiece on the BSE.

Sensex, Nifty End Almost Flat Amid Volatile Trade

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended almost flat in a see-saw trade on Tuesday as investors traded cautiously, awaiting cues from the US Federal Reserve's policy stance.

Foreign fund outflows and elevated levels of crude oil prices also weighed on investor sentiment, traders said.

In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex slipped 29.07 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 66,355.71. During the day, it touched an intraday peak of 66,559.29 and hit the lowest level of 66,177.62.

The NSE Nifty inched up by 8.25 points or 0.04 per cent to end at 19,680.60. The broader index moved between the range of 19,729.35 and 19,615.95.

"Indian indices hovered along the flat line, waiting ahead for the crucial decision of Fed policy. Metal stocks rose due to China's commitment to provide policy support to its realty sector, while utilities were up in anticipation of demand & im-

provement in operating margin," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the previous two sessions, the indices have seen correction after reaching their lifetime peaks on Thursday. Nair attributed the correction in the market to the lower-than-expected quarterly performance of some bellwether companies, the outflow of foreign funds and a stronger dollar.

"The recent correction of the domestic market can be attributed to several factors, including muted start to Q1 results, a reversal in FII activity, a rising dollar index, and an increase in crude oil prices," he added. From the Sensex pack, JSW Steel, Tata Steel, NTPC and UltraTech Cement emerged as major winners, closing the day with a gain of up to 3.33 per cent.

On the other hand, Asian Paints, ITC, L&T and SBI were the laggards, ending the session up to 3.95 per cent lower.

BSE Midcap went up by 115.44 points or 0.39 per cent to 29,750.29, while Smallcap index inched up by 107.05 points or 0.31 per cent to

34,279.08 points.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Utilities gained the maximum by 3.36 per cent, followed by Metal (2.88 per cent), Power (2.69 per cent) and Commodities (1.55 per cent).

In contrast, FMCG fell 0.75 per cent, followed by Capital Goods 0.64 per cent, realty 40 per cent and Bankex 0.37 per cent.

"Nifty witnessed pressure for the third consecutive day and traded sideways throughout the session to close with minuscule gains at 19,681 levels. Sectorially it was a mixed bag with buying seen in metals, auto, and consumer Durables.

"We expect cautiousness in the market, ahead of the Federal Reserve's policy meeting on Wednesday where a 25 bps hike is expected," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets ended mixed on Tuesday with Hang Seng gaining 4.10 per cent, Shanghai Composite rising 2.13 per cent and the Nikkei 225 closing 0.06 per cent down.

'Over 750,000 HUFs Claimed Rs 3,803 Cr Tax Deductions In 2022-23'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Over 8.75 lakh Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) have filed income tax returns (ITRs) and claimed deductions worth Rs 3,803 crore during 2022-23, the Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in a reply to the Rajya Sabha provided details of the number of Hindu Undivided Families (HUF) availing tax benefits (in the form of deduction under Chapter VIA of the Income-tax Act) during the last five years.

To a question on whether the government has assessed the impact of the Uniform Civil Code on tax benefits to HUFs in the country, the minister said: "No such assessment has been made as there is no such Code at present".

Currently, a debate is going on about the status of the HUFs, following the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code on which

the Law Commission has invited comments from the public.

Under Hindu Law, a HUF is a family comprising all lineally descendants of a common ancestor, including wives and unmarried daughters. This provision also covers Jain and Sikh families.

The Income Tax Act accords 'legal person' status to HUF and entitles them to all tax deductions under Chapter VI-A. HUFs are taxed at the same rate as individuals, and they can claim applicable deductions.

According to the minister, in fiscal 2022-23 fiscal, 8,75,948 HUFs claimed deductions of Rs 3,802.86 crore. As many as 8,77,303 HUFs claimed deductions worth Rs 3,745.51 crore in 2021-22.

In 2020-21 and 2019-20, over 9.25 lakh and 9.02 lakh HUFs claimed deductions of Rs 4,173 crore and Rs 4,161 crore, respectively. In 2018-19, over 8.84 crore HUFs claimed deductions worth Rs 4,044 crore.

Govt Ratifies 8.15% Interest Rate On Employees Provident Fund For 2022-23

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government has ratified the rate of interest at 8.15 per cent rate on deposits under the Employees Provident Fund scheme for the financial year 2022-23.

Retirement fund body EPFO on March 28, 2023, had marginally raised the interest rate on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits to 8.15 per cent for 2022-23 for its over six crore subscribers. As per an official order issued on Monday, the EPFO has asked the field offices for crediting the interest at 8.15 per cent on EPF for 2022-23 into the accounts of members.

The order came after the finance ministry's concurrence to the EPF rate of interest approved by EPFO trustees earlier in March this year. Now the EPFO field offices will start the process of crediting the interest into subscribers' accounts.

In March 2022, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had reduced the interest rate on EPF deposits for 2021-22 to a four-decade low of 8.10 per cent from 8.5 per cent in 2020-21.

This was the lowest since 1977-78, when the EPF interest rate stood at 8 per cent.

JKNHM Releases JK e-Sahaj June 2023 Rankings Of Public Health Facilities

Observer News Service

Srinagar: J&K National Health Mission (JKNHM) on Tuesday released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (JK e-Sahaj) for the month of June 2023.

In first phase of implementation, 578 facilities have been covered under this initiative and will be further extended to other facilities in phased manner.

In the category of Associated Hospitals of Govt. Medical Colleges, the first rank has been clinched by Chest Disease Hospital Jammu followed by Jammu Psychiatric Disease Hospital, Kashmir Nursing Home Srinagar, GMC Baramulla and Govt. Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar. Bottom five in this category include SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, Children Hospital, Bemina, Govt. Dental College, Jammu, GMC Handwara and GMC Kathua.

In the category of District Hospitals first rank has been clinched by DH Budgam followed by DH Shopian, DH Samba, Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu and DH Bandipora. Bottom five in this category include DH Kulgam, MCCB Anantnag, JLNH Hospital, Srinagar, DH Reasi and DH Ramban.

In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), first rank has been clinched by CHC Banihal followed by CHC Seer, CHC Sohanjana, CHC Rajpora and CHC Marh. Bottom five in this category include CHC Kalakote, CHC Bhaderwah, CHC Taryath, CHC Kralpora and CHC Rohama.

In the category of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) & UPHCs, first rank has been clinched by PHC Mattan followed by PHC Sallar, PHC Boniyar, PHC Kakapora and PHC Changa. Bottom five in this category include PHC Thakrakote, PHC Teetwal, PHC Massu, PHC Machil and PHC Keran.

Hospital Ranking has been assigned for different categories of facilities i.e. Associated Hospitals, Medical Colleges, District Hospitals, CHCs and PHCs. The ranking has been done on the basis of registration, conversion of EMR (Electronic Medical Record), registration of IPD patients and Patient feedback uploaded on the portal of JK e-Sahaj for the month of June 2023, on real time basis. The detailed list of facilities is shared on NHM website.

J&K Electronic System for Automation of Hospital Administration (JK e-Sahaj) initiative was formally launched on 4th November 2022 as part of Jashn-e-Sehat, by the Lieutenant Governor for different types of facilities like Tertiary care, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and some New type PHCs. JK E-Sahaj has been integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS), 104 Centralised Health Helpline for outbond calling and RCH portal of MoHFW, Govt. of India.

Chief Secretary Chairs UIDIC Meeting For 100% Aadhar Enrollment

Urges for activation of all the centres and optimum utilization of gadgets

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday impressed upon all the concerned Departments to ensure 100 percent Aadhaar registration of individuals by activating all the enrollment centres run by them and optimum utilization of available gadgets.

He made the directions while chairing a meeting of the Unique Identification Implementation Committee (UIDIC) here at Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretaries, officials from UIDAI, Divisional Commissioners Kashmir/Jammu and representatives from various government departments.

Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri, commenced the proceedings by presenting an overview of the Aadhaar situation in Jammu and Kashmir. It was reported that till date, 121,96,367 Aadhaar numbers have been generated, resulting in a saturation of over 90 percent population in the UT.

A breakdown of Aadhaar

saturation for different age groups was also given out which include 0-5 years: 60.70%, 5-18 years: 89.2% and above 18 years: 92.4%.

Despite the positive progress, concerns were raised about lagging behind the national average in the 0-5 years age group.

The meeting focused on the urgent need for document updation by residents who have not updated their Aadhaar details in the last 10 years. In this context, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has disseminated pamphlets and posters across all blocks of Jammu and Kashmir to raise awareness regarding document updates.

An action plan was devised during the meeting to address the challenges and expedite the Aadhaar registration process which includes preparation of School-wise and class-wise lists of children requiring Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBUs); roster for the movement of MBU kits in the schools, besides roping in Health and ICDS for the enrollment of children in the age group of 0-5 years.

Dr Mehta called upon Deputy Director General UIDAI, Regional Office Chandigarh, that awareness campaigns be conducted by the School Education Department at all locations, besides efforts to increase the turnout in schools.

Regarding the availability of functional Aadhaar centers, it was reported that 780 permanent centers and 450 mobile tablets are operational throughout the UT. The Chief Secretary urged for activation of all these centres and optimum utilization of their resources in order to bridge the gap between the actual population and registrations made so far.

In an effort to cover all school students under Aadhaar registration, Dr Mehta directed concerned officers to ensure that 100 percent of students in schools, including those not yet registered under Aadhaar, are included within the next six months. He also emphasized on the importance of registering for Aadhaar during births, whether in government-run or private hospitals in order to saturate it on real time basis.

Furthermore, the Chief Secretary urged all officers involved to raise awareness about the Aadhaar updation process by ensuring 100 percent functionality of all Aadhaar centers.

The meeting also highlighted the approval of proposals under the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules, 2020. Some of the approved proposals include the eKYC registration of Yatris by Shri Amarnath ji Shrine Board at all counters across J&K, authentication of applicants for property-related documents by the Department of Registration, DBT linked beneficiary oriented schemes and authentication of applicants for Domicile Certificates by the Revenue Department.

Dr Mehta reaffirmed that with the comprehensive plan in place and the commitment of all stakeholders, Jammu and Kashmir aims to achieve full Aadhaar registration, ensuring seamless services and enhancement in quality governance for its citizens.

UCC can jeopardise principles of religious diversity, minority rights, justice, says Jamiat chief



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind chief Maulana Mahmood Madani has claimed that implementation of the Uniform Civil Code could jeopardise the principles of religious diversity, minority rights and justice.

The organisation held a conclave on Monday evening to deliberate on UCC which saw the presence of several MPs, including Karti Chidambaram, Muhammad Javed and Imran Pratapgarhi from the Congress, Hasnain Masoodi from the National Conference, Mehboob Ali Qaiser from the IJP, Kunwar Danish Ali from the BSP, ET Muhammad Bashir and Abdussamad Samadani from the IUML.

"The meeting focused on addressing concerns related to UCC, particularly its potential impact on the cultural and religious rights of the Muslim minority and tribal communities," the Jamiat said in a statement.

In his opening address, Mahmood Madani emphasised that the implementation of UCC might jeopardise the principles of religious diversity, minority rights, equality and justice.

He stressed the importance of preserving India's rich cultural and religious diversity while safeguarding the religious rights and interests of the Muslim community.

During the meeting, Advocate M R Shamsad made a comprehensive analysis on the "possible pitfalls of the Uniform Civil Code" and highlighted the potential "adverse effects on Muslim women", the Jamiat said.

Uniform Civil Code refers to a common set of laws that are applicable to all citizens of India that is not based on religion and deals with marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption among other matters.

The 22nd Law Commission had on June 14 initiated a fresh consultation process on UCC by seeking views from stakeholders, including public and recognised religious organisations, on the politically sensitive issue.

Jan Bhagidari Portal Empowering Citizens: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jan Bhagidari Portal of Jammu and Kashmir represents a significant milestone in empowering citizens and fostering transparency in the developmental process, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

This exclusive online platform serves as a medium for citizens to oversight and overview all developmental works being executed in the region, ushering a new era of meaningful transparency and accountability with citizen participation.

The primary objective of Jan Bhagidari Portal is to enable citizens to actively participate in monitoring progress of various ongoing developmental projects and initiatives. Unlike traditional approaches, this portal does not require any username or password, ensuring that the information is accessible to all without any barriers. This



democratization of information empowers citizens to be informed as engaged stakeholders in the development of their region.

One of the notable features of the Jan Bhagidari Portal is its comprehensive coverage of all Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) works being undertaken across Jammu and Kashmir. With this portal, not only major projects but also grassroots-level developments are brought under the public's scrutiny, leaving no room for unchecked utilization of resources.

The portal also introduces a

unique scheme called "Janta ki Bhagidari" (People's Participation) which encourages active involvement of the public in decision-making process. By promoting collaboration between government and citizens, this initiative fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among people towards their community's development.

By making all the information available on portal accessible to every citizen, the government has demonstrated a commitment to transparency in public service delivery. This open approach has led to a significant improvement in public trust and confidence in the administration, as citizens can now verify progress and effectiveness of various projects firsthand.

With the Jan Bhagidari Portal, the government of Jammu and Kashmir has set an exemplary standard for other regions to follow. It showcases the power of

technology and people-centric governance in bringing about positive change and inclusive development. By empowering citizens with information, enabling public oversight, and encouraging collaboration, the portal has proven to be an effective tool for fostering a more accountable and transparent governance system.

In conclusion, the Jan Bhagidari Portal for Jammu and Kashmir stands as a shining example of how technology and citizen participation can be harnessed to build a more accountable and transparent governance framework. It embodies the spirit of "Janta ki Bhagidari" and serves as a model for fostering greater trust and partnership between the government and its people. As this initiative continues to evolve and grow, it holds the potential to transform the developmental landscape of Jammu and Kashmir for the better.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Bijli, Pani Sadak

4 months despite being at a stone's-throw from district headquarters."

The Kashmir Observer team visited the area to understand the issues pertaining to the inhabitants and also have an interaction with them as gathering information on the phone wasn't easy because of the network issues. On entering the village, the KO's editorial team was asked to take proper permission from the Army as it was an established SOP in the area. On enquiring, it was learnt that even the Army wanted the area to get proper road and electricity connectivity besides better cellular services.

"Even in the 21st century we don't have proper road connectivity and the irony is that we have to walk through thick forests to reach the village either by foot or on horses," Riyaz Ahmad Janjva of Nazirpatti hamlet in Chandaji told Kashmir Observer. "We have been deprived of even basic facilities by the successive regimes as no one has even bothered to visit the village in the last 70 years. We don't have any facilities in the village. All we have is hope in the Almighty."

NO HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

Villagers also raised the issue of the healthcare centre which is operating from the rented building in the area and where one NHM doctor is posted. "I have to book a Sumo cab for an entire day at Rs 1500 in order to attend my duty here as I can't get return transport", the doctor said, adding she pays for travel from her pocket. The newly constructed Health Centre remains locked as there is a dispute over it with the local administration for which locals of the area alleged that the XEN PMGSY concerned was involved in stopping the work—a claim rubbished by the administration.

The villagers of the Chandaji area claim that during winters, they often carry a critical patient on a cot and walk miles on foot to reach the nearest hospital due to the lack of road connectivity for this far-flung village. The villagers recalled the story of a pregnant woman who they had to carry on a cot to Bandipora, some 10 kilometers away.

The villagers said that at around 6 am in the morning, they left the village carrying the patient on their shoulders and reached Puzalpura at around 11 AM but.

NO SOCIAL MEDIA

At a time when the world is witnessing a social media boom, the youngsters of this area only crave for having a connection.

"We also want to remain connected to the world around us. But how come? We aren't getting any signals here," said Aatif Khan, who is in

his 20's. "Government must be notifying many pro-people-welfare schemes but we all remain uneducated about it."

"How do you expect us to compete and excel in our studies when you have such issues lingering on in your area."

EDUCATION

Chandaji has only one middle school and the high school is some 8 kilometers away. According to Gulzar Ahmad Khan the village children were facing many hardships and the result is that hardly anybody wants to pursue education beyond 8th standard.

"We have a middle school in the area which has never been upgraded. Our daughters have to foot a distance of 8 kilometers one way to Puzalpura to reach high school and the same distance back through forest area and as a result they drop out," Khan said.

"We had requested authorities many times about its upgradation but nothing happened. Every regime made a fool out of us."

"In order to enhance infrastructure capacity of the areas where the army's presence is vital, the Army by itself is implementing a wide range of measures, which boosts operational capabilities of forces deployed in the high-altitude hostile terrain. However, here the local administration could easily address these issues on priority and without letting the people and soldiers suffer further," a local army officer, wishing not to be named, said. "I don't think people of this area are demanding any major projects. Basic amenities are their right. Sadak, Bijli, Pani and ration should be easily available at least."

"We have seen politicians in our village but only on the eve of elections. They would come and make tall promises of resolving all our issues, but only to renege on their promises," said another local, Kabir Ahmad.

Sarpanch of the area, Mubarak Ahmad Khan, said that the successive governments have failed to address issues on the ground. He said that despite reminders to the government and the concerned authorities, nothing was done on the ground.

"This is the fate of Sarpanch. I am getting discredited among my own people. Nothing, no developmental concerns are addressed by the district administration," Khan said.

"I am planning to go to the Raj Bhavan and lodge a protest there so that our concerns are heard. I don't understand what happened to the meetings held during Block Diwas and Back to Village," he added.

Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmed Rana, told Kashmir Observer, that many of their issues have been addressed. He said that regarding the health centre, the issue

would be addressed within one month as the ADC was looking into the matter closely.

"There is some dispute going on. We are on it and it will be addressed within one month," he said.

He said that efforts are on to ensure that the area comes under the tourism map of the district. "A local eco-park is also coming up in the area and the road project is being taken up under the PMGSY. We are trying to provide the basic amenities to the village on priority," he added.

Govt Unlikely

"Those making hue and cry now have been part of successive governments and were unable to bring it out for 34 years. How do you expect us now to ensure fool proof arrangements without knowing the size of the procession," Bidhuri told reporters.

He said that a total of 89 Muharram processions are taken out in Srinagar during 40 days of mourning period and it will be totally meaningless to claim that restrictions are still in place.

According to several Shia representatives who attended a series of meetings including the one chaired by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday, authorities were initially willing to allow the 8th Muharram procession but wanted only several hundred participants in it.

"First they said the number of mourners should be limited to 150 and then set the maximum limit at four thousand", Showkat Ali Wani, who represented Anjuman-e-Sharie led by Agha Syed Hadi, told Kashmir Observer.

Another condition placed before the Shia representatives was that the procession should start at 7 AM and conclude by 11 AM. Both these conditions had put organisers in a quandary, sources said.

The 8th Muharram procession used to come out from Guru Bazar quarter of the city and culminate at Imambargah Dalgate in the evening before it was banned in 1989.

Lakhs of people would participate in the procession which would pass through major thoroughfares of the capital including Budshah Bridge and Maulana Azad Road.

Intruder Killed

the seized heroin is high-grade and is believed to be worth Rs 28 crore in the international market.

The intruder was trying to sneak in with the contraband near S M Pura post when his movement was detected, they said, adding he was shot dead when he ignored repeated warnings and tried to flee.

The body of the deceased was recovered five

metres from the border fence and 90 metres from the IB, the officials said.

They said the identity of the deceased could not be ascertained immediately as the search of the area is still continuing.

The body is being handed over to police after completion of necessary formalities, the officials said.

GOC, Police

The DGP, the spokesperson said, lauded the synergy between different forces which he said has contributed immensely in foiling the ill intentions of Pakistan and the terrorists sent by it.

The officers, he said, emphasized on sharing of intelligence between the forces on a regular basis, and also stressed on conduct of joint operations to comb out the remnants of hidden terrorists.

2 Cops 'Brutally'

"All checkpoints have been alerted to ensure they are arrested soon," she said, requesting people to share information about their presence with the police.

The police are not taking the incident lightly and appropriate action in accordance with the law will be taken against anyone who tries to provide shelter to them, she added.

The incident sparked strong condemnation from Kargil, the hometown of the injured policemen, with leaders of political parties demanding stern action against the culprits.

Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Kargil) Feroz Khan said he has written to Lt Governor Brigadier (Retd) BD Mishra and also spoke to Additional Director General of Police (Ladakh) DS Jamwal, seeking their personal intervention in bringing the culprits to book.

"This is a heinous crime that has been committed and the culprits needs to be dealt with sternly," Khan said.

Social and political activist from Kargil, Sajjad Hussain, condemned the incident and said on Twitter, "...Let us unite as a community to condemn violence against those who serve and protect us and work together to uphold the values of peace and safety in our region."

Preventive Detention

Fayaz Ahmad Kumar of Khanpora Baramulla, seeking quashing of an order under PSA on 18-10-2021 by District Magistrate Jammu against him.

J&K Bank To Launch

target of Rs 2.5 lakh crore business this fiscal. According to the Bank's regulatory filings,

the total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose to Rs 2,885 crore, from Rs 2,306 crore in the same period a year ago.

Interest earned by the bank improved to Rs 2,657 crore, as against Rs 2,103 crore in June 2022.

As a result, provision for bad loans came down to Rs 56 crore, as against Rs 135 crore allocated in the same quarter a year ago.

Capital adequacy ratio of the bank increased to 14.83 per cent, as against 13.02 per cent at the end of June 2022.

3,000 Yatris Leave

in Ganderbal districts on July 1.

Labourer Killed

where Hussain was declared brought dead.

Two OGWs Held In

he said, was established after receiving specific information about the movement of militants in the village.

Giving more details of the arrest, the spokesperson said that during checking, the joint party intercepted and arrested two suspects when they noticed the checkpoint and tried to flee.

"During their personal search, arms and ammunition including 2 Chinese Pistols, 2 Pistol Magazines, 14 live Pistol rounds and other incriminating materials have been recovered from their possession," he said.

During preliminary questioning, the spokesperson said that the duo revealed that they were working as terrorist associates of LeT and had acquired arms & ammunition for target killing in district Baramulla.

"Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Kreeri and further investigation has been initiated," he added.

LG Pays Homage

to them for their sacrifices and service to the nation," he added.

Branded Medicines

Hospitals should be Generic Medicines only and not in any case branded medicines," reads the circular issued by SKIMS.

"In this regard, it is also reiterated that visits of Medical Representatives to Government Hospitals premises are completely curtailed. Any information about the new launch may be communicated by email only," it reads further.

Two Dead In

The injured have been shifted to the hospital for treatment.

According to reports, the car was on its way from Thathri towards Gandoh when the car plunged into the gorge.



AFC 'C' Diploma Module-2 Concludes At Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The AFC 'C' Diploma Module-2 Coaching Course concluded at the University of Kashmir grounds on Tuesday. The module was held under the expert guidance of Coach Educator AIFF Sajid Yousuf Dar.

The JKFA released a statement thanking Musavir Ahmad (Director of Physical Education & Sports) and the Registrar of the University of Kashmir for their unwavering support and encouragement.

"We express our heartfelt grati-

tude to Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad Wani, JKAS (Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir JKSC), Mr. Mohammad Hanief, JKAS (Divisional Sports Officer Jammu JKSC), Mr. Nazir Ahmad Andrabi (Chairman JKFA), Mr. Wasim Aslam (Ex-Chairman JKFA), and Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Teli (Treasurer DFA Srinagar) for gracing the occasion and making it truly memorable," the statement added.

The FA also sent out special thanks to Professor Nilofar Khan, Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir, and Nuzhat Gul, Secretary of J&K Sports Council.



Inter-School Sports Events Held In Baramulla

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS) Baramulla organized various inter-school sports competitions at the zonal level on Tuesday.

These sports events took place in Zone Sopore, Zone Dangerpora, Zone Nehalpora, Zone Dangi-wacha, and Zone Chandoosa, where various sports events were conducted including Volleyball, Kabaddi and Kho-Kho. The competitions were held for both boys and girls under the age group of 14 and 17.

The aim of these sports events is to encourage physical activity and also to promote teamwork, discipline, and healthy competition among the youth. The department is committed to providing a platform for young talents to shine and excel in their chosen sports.

The zonal-level competitions are an essential part of the larger sporting calendar, and the winners and top performers from these events will move forward to represent their zones at the district level.

Speaking with regard to the event, the District Youth Services and Sports Officer Baramulla, Jatinder Singh extended his gratitude to all the participating schools, teachers and students who contributed to the success of these inter-school sports competitions. The enthusiasm and support from the community have been instrumental in making these events a grand success, he added.

Moreover, Jatinder Singh further elaborated that the Department is looking forward to the upcoming district-level competitions, where the best athletes from each zone will compete for glory and recognition.

Jammu's Jiya Bags 1st At Moscow Wushu C'ship



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu, Suram Chand Sharma on Tuesday felicitated young Wushu star Jiya Manhas for securing First Position in the recently concluded International Wushu Championship in Moscow, Russia.

Jiya has earlier played in a few National level competitions and National women's league in the U-14 thirty six Kg category.

The Wushu player was honored on the occasion of Inter-Dist Division Level tournament

for selection of Divisional Level Team (Girls) U-14 & U-17 for Subroto Cup where Girls from Poonch district entered the UT level competitions to be held shortly.

Speaking on the occasion, Suram Sharma congratulated Jiya Manhas for her achievement in Wushu and appreciated her hard work in acquiring perfection in the event. He also lauded the role of her parents who motivated and encouraged her to participate in games. He also urged for a vigorous campaign against drug addiction.

2023-24: India To Play 3 ODIs, 8 T20s & 5 Tests



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India will get to fine tune their World Cup preparations with a three-match ODI series against Australia besides playing eight T20 Internationals and five Tests against England during the 2023-2024 home season.

The first ODI against Australia will be in Mohali on September 22 with Indore and Rajkot hosting the remaining two on September 24 and 27 respectively. The BCCI announced the home season schedule on Tuesday.

As BCCI secretary Jay Shah had indicated, venues like Mohali, Nagpur, Rajkot, Indore, Thiruvananthapuram, all of which have missed out on hosting World Cup games, have been compensated during the home season with minimum two games each.

With the BCCI set to announce the media rights tender during the course of this week, it was a necessary to announce the calendar and one of the striking feature is absence of any ODI game af-

ter the World Cup at home in October-November.

With India playing the T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies next year, the Har-dik Pandya led team will get eight T20 games at home including five against Australian a week after the ODI show-piece and three more against Afghanistan in January 2024.

Afghanistan had played a Test match in India in 2018 but the white ball team will play its maiden series in India.

Visakhapatnam (November 23), Thiruvananthapuram (November 26), Guwahati (November 28), Nagpur (December 1) and Hyderabad (December 3) will host the T20s against Australia, while Mohali (January 11), Indore (January 14) and Bengaluru (January 17) will stage matches against Afghanistan.

The big-ticket event during the home series is the Anthony De Mello Trophy between India and England.

Hyderabad (January 25-29), Visakhapatnam (February 2-6), Rajkot (February 15-19), Ranchi (February 23-27) and

Dharamsala (March 7-11) will get to host the games in the five Test series.

Dharamsala got a game because it missed out during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy earlier this year as the ground couldn't be prepared on time. After England series, there will be a three-week gap before the start of Indian Premier League.

FIXTURES

Australia series

1st ODI: Sep 22 (Mohali)

2nd ODI: Sep 24 (Indore)

3rd ODI: Sep 27 (Rajkot)

1st T20: Nov 23 (Visakhapatnam)

2nd T20: Nov 26

(Thiruvananthapuram)

3rd T20: Nov 28 (Guwahati)

4th T20: Dec 1 (Nagpur)

5th T20: Dec 3 (Hyderabad)

Afghanistan series

1st T20: Jan 11 (Mohali)

2nd T20: Jan 14 (Indore)

3rd T20: Jan 17 (Bengaluru)

England series

1st Test: Jan 25-29 (Hyderabad)

2nd Test: Feb 2-6

(Visakhapatnam)

3rd Test: Feb 15-19 (Rajkot)

4th Test: Feb 23-27 (Ranchi)

5th Test: Mar 3-7 (Dharamsala)



ICC Hands Harmanpreet Kaur Two-Match Suspension

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday handed a two-match suspension to India women's team skipper Harmanpreet Kaur for her boorish behaviour during the third ODI against Bangladesh.

Harmanpreet was penalised for her outburst in Dhaka last week when she shattered the stumps after being adjudged leg before and publicly criticised the match officials.

"Harmanpreet Kaur has been suspended for the next two international matches following two separate breaches of the ICC Code of Conduct," said the ICC in a statement.

The suspension could see Harmanpreet missing two crucial games of India's campaign at the Asian Games in September-October in Hangzhou, China. Harmanpreet was adjudged leg before off a Nahida Akter delivery while trying to sweep but she claimed that she got a bottom edge and in a fit of rage shattered the stumps before walking back to the pavilion.

Later at the post match presentation ceremony, she termed

the level of umpiring as "pathetic" and also sarcastically mentioned the umpires too should be called to join the teams for the trophy handing-over ceremony. Her rude behaviour had prompted Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana to walk away with her team and urge her Indian counterpart to learn some "manners". Kaur was also fined 50 percent of her match fee for expressing dissent at an umpire's decision, a level 2 offence, and 25 percent match fee, which is a level 1 offence, for openly criticising the umpires. "Kaur was fined 50 percent of her match fee for the Level 2 offence and received three demerit points on her disciplinary record."

"She was found guilty of breaching article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, relating to 'showing dissent at an umpire's decision,'" the statement read.

The Indian captain admitted the offences and agreed to the sanctions proposed by Akhtar Ahmed of the ICC International Panel of Match Referees. Hence, there was no need for a formal hearing, and the penalties were implemented promptly.

Pakistan's Bismah Mahroof Pulls Out Of Asian Games



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: If the premature retirement of Ayesha Naseem was not enough, the Pakistan women's team was dealt another blow on Tuesday, as former skipper Bismah Mahroof pulled out of the Asian Games because of the event's "no travelling with children" policy.

Pakistan, thus, lost two of their leading performers before the upcoming Games.

Bismah declined to be part of the Asian Games squad after the organisers refused permission to participating nations to have athletes bring their babies for the Games.

The head of the Pakistan Cricket Board's women's cricket wing, Tania Mallick said that it was unfortunate the team would not have the services of Bismah at the Asian Games.

Tania confirmed that Bismah was not named in the squad as she would not have been able to travel with her daughter to the Games village due to the regulations in place. Talking about the shock retirement of 18-year old all-rounder Ayesha, Tania said she had informed the board that she had left cricket due to personal reasons.

"The PCB respects and understands her decision to quit the game for personal reasons. We wish her the best in future endeavours." It has been reported that Ayesha has decided to give up cricket to strictly follow her religion but there are also speculations she might have retired after getting a marriage proposal where her in-laws were not in favour of her playing cricket.

The youngster was considered a budding talent having already represented Pakistan in the white-ball formats.

Before the Asian Games, the Pakistan women's team will feature in the home series against South Africa comprising three T20Is and three ODIs (part of ICC Women's Championship 2022-25) in Karachi from September 1 to 14. The squad for the bilateral series will be announced in due course.

Pakistan have won gold medals in the last two editions of the Asian Games in Guangzhou, China in 2010 and Incheon, South Korea 2014, and will be aiming for a hat-trick when they feature in this year's event, scheduled to take place from September 19 to 26.

The event will be played in the T20 format.

Australian Indigenous Players Hit Out At 'Empty Symbolism' At World Cup

Agencies

MELBOURNE: Current and former international soccer players from Australia's Indigenous community have criticised the lack of legacy funding targeting First Nations football as the country hosts the Women's World Cup.

Australia is co-hosting the tournament with New Zealand, but the signatories said on Tuesday that they saw little evidence of funding to increase Indigenous participation in the A\$291 million (\$196.98 million) 'Legacy '23' plan to grow the game in the country. The letter, addressed to Football Australia and FIFA, said the "ubiquitous Indigenous culture, symbolism, traditional ceremonies and installations" used at the tournament indicated the "central value" of Indigenous culture to football.

"(But) not a single dollar from the legacy program has been committed to organisations that are Indigenous-led, managed and have long carried the burden for First Nations in the Australian game," it continued. "Without support for the Indigenous community and their programs, we consider this symbolism empty."

In response, Football Australia pointed to a string of programmes targeting the Indigenous community, including the A\$10 million New South Wales legacy programme that had a



specific First Nations element.

"The claim that there has been a lack of funding for grassroots indigenous football programs within the 'Legacy '23' initiative is not accurate," it said.

"We want to make it clear that the support and advancement of Indigenous football programs are integral parts of our commitment."

FIFA said they were committed to "meaningful and authentic engagement with First Nations and Maori communities" and their women's football officer Sarai Baremen, New Zealand-born and of Samoan/Dutch heritage, highlighted a series of initiatives through the tournament.

These included binational signage at all FIFA events, branded traditional place names for host cities and training sites, use of First Nations flags in stadiums,

a tournament-specific First Nations and Maori cultural panel of cultural protocol into the opening, closing, and pre-match ceremonies and VIP welcomes."

In a more practical measure, FIFA also highlighted the membership of First Nations and Maori business supplier networks to expand and diversify sustainable procurement models including gifting, catering, furniture, creative, biodiversity projects.

Australia's Indigenous peoples have inhabited the continent for tens of thousands of years, but have faced centuries of discrimination and neglect since colonisation by Britain in 1788. Indigenous rights are in focus in Australia, with the country set to vote this year in a referendum to decide whether to recognise them in its constitution for the first time.

FIFA Wins At CAS In Latest Ruling Of Lengthy, Multi-Nation Legal Battle With Soccer Player Agents

Agencies

GENEVA: FIFA won the latest ruling Monday of an international, multi-case fight by soccer player agents to block rules that would regulate their industry and cap their fees.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said it "dismissed in their entirety" arguments put forth by the Zurich-based Professional Football Agents Association (PROFAA), which brought the case.

FIFA said the ruling "fully confirms the legality, validity and proportionality of the FIFA Football Agent Regulations."

However, it was unclear how the Swiss-based sports court's verdict will weigh on national-level cases in process brought by agents in different countries, including Switzerland, plus a complaint filed with the Euro-

pean Commission in Brussels.

FIFA approved the agent rules last year that are due to take effect on Oct. 1 after thousands of agents worldwide have had the chance to take a \$600 examination in either April or September organized by national soccer federations.

The most controversial aspect of the rules limit an agent's earnings at 10% of a transfer fee when they act for the selling club.

Elite agencies have earned tens of millions of dollars from transfers for players like Erling Haaland and Paul Pogba, and FIFA has said agents earned \$622 million from international cross-border transfer deals in 2022.

FIFA also wants to limit agents to taking 3% of a player's salary when those earnings are more than \$200,000 per year, or



5% when the player earns up to \$200,000. Those limits would be 6% and 10%, respectively, when the agent acted for both

the player and the club signing them.

FIFA also wants to prohibit player agents from represent-

ing both the buying and selling clubs in a transfer.

PROFAA said it was "extremely disappointed" by the

CAS ruling and the effect it would have on thousands of agents' livelihood.

The group "will continue to support any and all litigation against these regulations, specifically the introduction of a commission cap," its president Paddy Dominguez said in a statement. Dominguez is a member of a FIFA-appointed working group announced in February to consult with the agent industry.

That FIFA group does not include some of the industry's highest profile agencies which have said over several years they were not properly consulted about shaping the rules.

FIFA also wants agent fees to be paid through the soccer body's Paris-based financial clearing house, which aims to bring more transparency to a global transfer market that has

traditionally been murky.

In the CAS hearing, the agent group's argument about privacy and data protection was among those dismissed in a series of "interim conclusions."

FIFA also persuaded the CAS judges that the rules do not contravene European Union laws on competition and free movement and that it was not a cartel under Swiss competition law. The court also agreed the FIFA rules are not incompatible with laws in France and Italy and nor do they contravene the Major League Soccer collective bargaining agreement.

"The award confirms FIFA's position that the (agent rules) are a reasonable and proportionate regulatory measure that help to resolve systemic failures in the player transfer system," soccer's governing body said in a statement. (AP)



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